



# CORONAVIRUS COVID 19

## INFORMATION ABOUT BUSINESS SUPPORT FROM THE FARMER NETWORK

*This briefing provides information about the Government support available to businesses during the Coronavirus outbreak. For more details, click [Coronavirus business support](#) and with any questions contact the Farmer Network on 01768 868615, or E mail: [Veronica@thefarmernetwork.co.uk](mailto:Veronica@thefarmernetwork.co.uk).*

### **NEW HARDSHIP FUND FOR DAIRY FARMERS**

The Government has announced a new hardship fund that may help dairy farmers access a grant of up to £10,000. We await further details, but the announcement suggests that eligible dairy farmers will be those who have lost more than 25% of their income over April and May due to coronavirus disruption, with the grant covering 70% of lost income. See: [New funding to support dairy farmers through coronavirus](#).

### **SELF EMPLOYMENT INCOME SUPPORT SCHEME**

If you're self-employed or a member of a partnership, you may be able to claim a taxable grant of 80% of your average monthly trading profits, paid for the equivalent of 3 months up to a maximum of £7,500. HMRC will work out if you're eligible, but you can check whether you are likely to qualify on the following webpage: [Self Employment Income Support Scheme](#). The online claim service will be available from 13<sup>th</sup> May and, if your claim is approved, HMRC states you'll receive your payment within 6 working days.

### **SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

Grants of £10,000 are available to businesses with a rateable value of up to £15,000 that receive Small Business Rate Relief, Rural Rate Relief or tapered relief.

Farm businesses are not registered for business rates and some farm diversification businesses may also not be registered so have not qualified for this grant. However, Local Authorities are to be provided with additional funds to help some small businesses that don't qualify and have been asked to prioritise small Bed and Breakfast businesses that pay council tax rather than business rates. The allocation of funding will be at the discretion of local authorities and businesses must be able to demonstrate that they have seen a significant drop of income due to Coronavirus restriction measures.

See: [Local Business Grant Fund - Top Up announcement](#) and contact your Local Authority on the following links: [Allerdale](#), [Barrow](#), [Carlisle](#), [Copeland](#), [Eden](#), [South Lakeland](#), [Craven](#), [Harrogate](#), [Richmondshire](#).

### **"BOUNCE BACK" LOAN SCHEME FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

Small businesses can apply for new "Bounce Back" Loans from £2,000 up to a maximum of 25% of turnover, or £50,000. These loans are 100% backed by the tax payer (rather than 80%) with the government paying the interest for the first 12 months and with no capital or interest repayments due for one year. The loans are at 2.5% interest to be paid back over 6 years with no early repayment charge.

You apply through your business' bank and more information is at: [Bounce Back Loan announcement](#)..

## **CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS INTERRUPTION LOAN SCHEME**

This scheme helps SME businesses access finance of up to £5 million and is 80% underwritten by the Government. You apply via your lender's website or through one of 40 accredited finance providers offering the scheme. For more details: [click here](#)

## **GRANTS FOR RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE BUSINESSES**

Grants of £25,000 are available to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with a rateable value of more than £15,000 but less than £51,000 – to apply, contact your Local Authority on the links above.

## **BUSINESS RATES HOLIDAY FOR RETAIL/HOSPITALITY/LEISURE BUSINESSES**

Businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in England will not have to pay business rates for the 2020-21 tax year. Local authorities will apply the business rates holiday to your bills automatically.

## **DEFERRAL OF TAX PAYMENTS**

If you have a VAT payment due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020, you have the option to defer the payment until a later date or pay the VAT due as normal. Taxpayers will be given until the end of the 2020/2021 tax year to pay any liabilities that have accumulated during the deferral period. You will still need to submit VAT returns and VAT refunds and reclaims will be paid as normal.

If you are self-employed, Income Tax payments due in July 2020 under the Self-Assessment system will be deferred to January 2021.

**If you're in temporary financial distress because of COVID-19, help is available from HMRC's [Time to Pay scheme](#).**

## **CORONAVIRUS JOB RETENTION SCHEME**

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme allows employers to apply to HMRC for a grant to cover 80% of the salary of retained workers who are not working but who are "furloughed" and kept on payroll, rather than being laid off. You need to designate affected employees as 'furloughed workers' and officially notify your employees of this change in writing. There is a cap of £2,500 a month for each worker and employers can top up the salary to 100% of wages. Applications opened on 20<sup>th</sup> April and the scheme has been extended until the end of June.

## **STATUTORY SICK PAY REBATE FOR SMES**

If you employ staff and they are off sick or need to self-isolate, they will most likely be entitled to Statutory Sick Pay - currently £94.25 per week. The Government will provide a refund to cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of coronavirus.

## **UNIVERSAL CREDIT AND SELF EMPLOYMENT**

Universal Credit is a monthly payment to help with living costs and you may qualify if you are on a low income. See: [self-employment & universal credit](#)

## **HELP FROM THE FARMER NETWORK**

Do you need help developing a contingency plan, accessing supplies or with finding emergency labour? Please give us a call on 01768 868615 or e mail: [Admin@thefarmernetwork.co.uk](mailto:Admin@thefarmernetwork.co.uk).

**We send out an E News update every Friday afternoon to Farmer Network members. It is very important that you provide us with an e mail address for your business and talk to our office on 01768 868615 if you are not receiving E News. We also post information and updates on our social media pages: Facebook "@thecumbriafarmernetwork" or "@theyorkshirefarmernetwork"**

**Please visit our Facebook pages to join our new Coronavirus Group.**