



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.

LOCAL AUTHORITY DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUND

The [Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund](#) is aimed at small and micro businesses with fixed property costs that are not eligible for the Small Business Grant or the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund. Businesses will need to demonstrate relatively high ongoing property-related costs and that they have suffered a significant fall in income due to the COVID-19 crisis. Note, those eligible for Self-Employed Income Support will be eligible to apply. Contact your Local Authority on the links below as they each have their own criteria - note in Cumbria the application deadlines are in mid-June.

SMALL BUSINESS GRANT FUND

Grants of £10,000 are available to businesses with a rateable value of up to £15,000 that receive Small Business Rate Relief Rate, Rural Rate Relief or tapered relief. Note farm businesses and some diversified enterprises such as B&Bs do not pay business rates so have not been eligible for this grant.

RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE GRANT FUND

Grants of £25,000 are available to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with a rateable value greater than £15,000 but less than £51,000. There will also be a business rate holiday for the 2020-21 tax year.

For more information and to apply for the Small Business Grant, the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant and the Discretionary Grant Fund, please contact your Local Authority on the following links:

[Allerdale](#), [Barrow](#), [Carlisle](#), [Copeland](#), [Eden](#), [South Lakeland](#), [Craven](#), [Harrogate](#), [Richmondshire](#).

SELF EMPLOYMENT INCOME SUPPORT SCHEME

If you are self-employed, or a member of a partnership, you may be able to claim a taxable grant based on your average monthly trading profits. The deadline for claiming the first round of funding is 13th July and click [here](#) for details. The Government has announced that a second and final grant can be claimed in August 2020. [Find out more about the extension to the scheme](#).

“BOUNCE BACK” LOAN SCHEME

Bounce Back 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 from £2,000 up to a maximum of 25% of turnover, or £50,000. The interest rate is fixed at 2.5% with the capital to be repaid over 6 years with no early repayment charge. Eleven lenders are participating in the scheme including most of the main banks. You should approach your own bank in the first instance, or a list of lenders is on the following website: [Bounce Back Loan providers](#).

CORONAVIRUS FUTURE FUND SCHEME

The Government launched its Future Fund Scheme on 20th May. This offers convertible loans of between £125,000 and £5 million to companies which can obtain match funding from the private sector.

CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS INTERRUPTION LOAN SCHEME

This scheme helps SME businesses access finance of up to £200 million (increased from £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](#)

DAIRY RESPONSE FUND

The Dairy Response Fund will open for applications from 18th June. This is for dairy farmers who experienced 25% price losses in April and May due to COVID-19 reducing demand for milk products. Qualifying farmers can apply for support to cover up to 70% of their losses up to £10,000. The criteria is stricter than hoped and many dairy farmers may not qualify but, for more details, click: [Dairy Response Fund set to open for applications](#).

CORONAVIRUS JOB RETENTION SCHEME

The Job Retention Scheme provides a grant to help cover the costs of retained workers who are "furloughed". Recent changes announced to the scheme include:

- The scheme effectively closing to newly furloughed staff from 10th June.
- From 1st July (rather than 1st August), a "flexible" furlough will allow staff back part-time.
- From August, employers will be asked to pay National Insurance and Pension contributions but with the Government still covering the full 80% of furloughed staff's salary. In September, the Government's contribution will reduce to 70% with the employer expected to pay a contribution of 10%; in October, the employer's contribution increases to 20%.

The furlough wage cap will decrease each month and the scheme will close on 31st October. Further guidance is to be published on 12th June.

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. See HMRC's [Time to Pay scheme](#).

STATUTORY SICK PAY REBATE FOR SMEs

The [Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate scheme](#) provides a refund to cover up to 2 weeks' Statutory Sick Pay 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](#).

We send out an E News update every Friday afternoon to Farmer Network members and call us 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 Coronavirus Group.