



## **CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 INFORMATION ABOUT BUSINESS SUPPORT 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

### **1. GRANTS**

#### **a) SMALL GRANTS TO HELP BUSINESSES RECOVER FROM COVID-19**

Businesses can apply for grants from £1,000 to £3,000 if they can demonstrate a 40% loss of income between March and June, compared with the same period in 2019. The grants can be used for specialist advice and visitor economy businesses can also apply for grants to boost productivity, to continue to deliver business activity or diversify in response to Covid-19.

[Cumbria Growth Hub](#) opened its scheme on 19<sup>th</sup> August for 2 weeks and we understand the scheme has been heavily oversubscribed – e mail [info@cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk](mailto:info@cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk). The scheme is opening in Yorkshire in mid-September and we recommend you register an interest on the following website: [Yorkshire Growth Hub Small Business Grant](#)

#### **b) 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 has now passed, but a second and final round of funding opened on 17<sup>th</sup> August. For the second claim you will need to confirm your business has been adversely affected on or after 14 July 2020. You can claim for the second grant even if you did not make a claim for the first grant.

#### **c) PRINCE'S TRUST AND NATWEST ENTERPRISE RELIEF FUND FOR 18-30 YEAR OLDS**

The [Prince's Trust Enterprise Relief Fund](#) offers grants to 18 to 30-year olds who are self-employed and/or running their own business. You must have set up your business in the last four years without any other source of income during the crisis. The initiative is also offering one-to-one support.

### **2. LOANS**

#### **a) "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](#).

#### **b) CORONAVIRUS BUSINESS INTERRUPTION LOAN SCHEME – CLOSING 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER**

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. The scheme closed to new applications on 30<sup>th</sup> September and for more details: [click here](#).

#### **c) CORONAVIRUS FUTURE FUND SCHEME**

The Government's [Future Fund](#) Scheme offers convertible loans of between £125,000 and £5 million to companies which can obtain match funding from the private sector.

### **3. SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES WITH EMPLOYEES**

#### **a) KICKSTART SCHEME**

The Government's £2 billion Kickstart Scheme provides fully-funded six-month placements for 16-24 year olds claiming Universal Credit and at risk of long term unemployment. Employers receive funding for 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week, plus associated employer NI and pension costs. Employers can only apply if they have a minimum of 30 job placements available which rules out possibly every individual farm business!

However, businesses might be able to join together to reach the target of 30 job placements and if you are interested please give us a call on 01768 868615 and we can assess whether it is possible for the Farmer Network or another body to act as an umbrella organisation. The employer guidance is [HERE](#) and learn more about the scheme [HERE](#).

#### **b) CORONAVIRUS JOB RETENTION SCHEME**

The Job Retention Scheme provides a grant to help cover the costs of retained workers who are "furloughed". From 1 August 2020, employers pay National Insurance (NI) and pension contributions for their furloughed employees. From 1<sup>st</sup> September, they will also have to contribute 10% towards the furlough payment, rising to 20% in October. The scheme ends on 31<sup>st</sup> October. For more information see: [Furlough scheme guidance](#).

##### **Job Retention Bonus.**

Employers should be able to claim a one-off payment of £1,000 for every employee they have furloughed who remains continuously employed until the end of January 2021. The employee must have been paid an average of at least £520 per month, and at least £1,560 across the three months from November-January. More information will be available by the end of September.

#### **c) 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.

### **4. OTHER SUPPORT**

#### **a) VAT reduction**

From 15 July until 12 January 2021, the UK government will cut VAT from 20% to 5% on any eat-in or hot takeaway food and drinks from restaurants, cafes and pubs, excluding alcohol. This VAT reduction also applies to all holiday accommodation in hotels, B&Bs, campsites and caravan sites, as well as attractions like cinemas, theme parks and zoos. Click [HERE](#) for information on hospitality and accommodation businesses.

## **b) Increase in the Stamp Duty Threshold**

With immediate effect and until 31 March 2021, the threshold under which no Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) is paid on the purchase of a main home has been increased from £125,000 to £500,000.

## **5. HELP FROM THE FARMER NETWORK**

If you need help during the Covid-19 crisis, please call the Farmer Network to get information about business support schemes, sourcing supplies, preparing contingency plans and finding emergency labour for your business in case of illness or if workers have to isolate.

The Farmer Network has created a register of potential emergency farm workers and want to hear from farmers who might need this support - this may be skilled staff able to work full time on a paid basis, or unskilled volunteers willing to help with basic tasks under supervision, or with collecting or delivering supplies. We can also help with preparing contingency plans.

Our grants adviser, Veronica Waller, is available for one to one advice about the support schemes and how relevant they might be to your business. Call 01768 868615 for help.

**We send out an E News update every Friday afternoon to Farmer Network members and please call us on 01768 868615 if you are not receiving E News (also check your “junk” folder).**

**We post information and updates on our social media pages:  
Facebook “@thecumbriafarmernetwork” or “@theyorkshirefarmernetwork”**

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

**The Farmer Network Ltd is being supported by the Cumbria COVID-19 Response Fund administered by Cumbria Community Foundation and by the Prince’s Countryside Fund.**

