

Funding Update

Grant for retail, hospitality and leisure sectors

Following the latest lockdown imposed on businesses on 5 January 21 in response to rising COVID-19 cases, **Chancellor Rishi Sunak has announced a one-off grant worth up to £9,000 for selected businesses.**

The funding is for businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors who are forced to close as a result of the new restrictions and is to be allocated based on property rateable value.

The Government will provide -

- £4,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under
- £6,000 for businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- £9,000 for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000

It is estimated that over 600,000 businesses could benefit from the cash injection, available via applications to local authorities.

Strategic Framework Business Fund – Level 4 entitlement

Following the move into Level 4 for the majority of Scotland on Boxing Day, here is the latest information on the Coronavirus (COVID-19): [Strategic Framework Business Fund](#).

If you are a business that is only eligible for support at Level 4, you can apply to the Strategic Framework Business Fund (SFBF) from 26th December. If you have previously applied to the fund you do not need to reapply as all previous rejected applications will be reviewed for eligibility at Level 4.

Grant support will be available for businesses that are required to close by law every four weeks for as long as the restrictions last. If your business is specifically required by law to significantly modify their operations due to restrictions but can remain open, support will also be available.

The Strategic Framework support for business provides:

- **A Temporary Closure grant of £2,000 or £3,000** (depending on rateable value) for business required to close by law, payable every four weeks for the duration protective measures are in place.
 - £2,000 if their premises have a rateable value of up to and including £51,000; or
 - £3,000 if their premises have a rateable value of £51,001 or above.
 - An upper limit of £15,000 in total in any four-week period will apply to any eligible business operating multiple premises.
- **A Business Restrictions grant of £1,400 or £2,100** (depending on rateable value) for businesses that remain open but are specifically required to modify their operations by law, payable every four weeks for the duration measures are in place. This means that you are required to close earlier than normal, for example, not that you have to adopt physical distancing or that the demand for your products or services has been reduced because of the pandemic.



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Premises specifically required to modify their operations as specified by the [schedules of The Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(Restrictions and Requirements\) \(Local Levels\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2020](#) will be entitled to a Business Restrictions grant every four week, of:

- £1,400 if their premises have a rateable value of up to and including £51,000; or
- £2,100 if their premises have a rateable value of £51,001 or above.
- An upper limit of £10,500 in total in any four-week period will apply to any eligible business operating multiple premises.

These grants will be **paid every four weeks in arrears to eligible businesses.** [Check eligibility here.](#)

Furlough Extended to April 2021

The government will continue to pay 80% of the salary of employees for hours not worked up to £2,500 a month until the end of April 2021. Employers will be required to pay wages, National Insurance Contributions (NICS) and pensions for hours worked; and NICS and pensions for hours not worked. The eligibility criteria is unchanged. [Click here to check eligibility.](#)

Level 4 Furlough Claims – 26 December 2020 onwards

As mainland Scotland entered Level 4 restrictions on Boxing Day this will result in further furloughing of employees.

Claims from 1 November 2020 must be submitted by 11.59pm 14 calendar days after the month you are claiming for. If this time falls on the weekend then claims should be submitted on the next working day.

Claims for the period 1 December 2020 to 31 December 2020 (the period in which the Level 4 restrictions commence) must be submitted by 14 January 2021.

This could potentially impact on those who have already processed their payroll for the month of December 2020. You can adjust your January 2021 payroll to reflect a furlough claim in December 2020, **however no claim for CJRS can be submitted after 14 January 2021 to HMRC.**

Deadlines

Claim for furlough	Submission deadline
December 2020	14 January 2021
January 2021	15 February 2021
February 2021	15 March 2021
March 2021	14 April 2021
April 2021	14 May 2021





Extension of the Business Loan Schemes to March 2021

Businesses will be given until the end of March 2021 to access the Bounce Back Loan Scheme, Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, and the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme. These had been due to close at the end of January.

The government has announced that more support will be available beyond March 2021, through a **successor loan scheme**. More details are expected soon and a further update on wider Covid-19 economic support will be announced at the UK Budget on 3 March 2021.

If you require any further information on the areas covered here, please email info@thomsoncooper.com or call 01383 628800.