



Lee Waters
Aelod Cynulliad dros Llanelli
Assembly Member for Llanelli

COVID-19

Support for Businesses in Llanelli

The Welsh Government will be updating guidance for businesses regularly on the Business Wales website at: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice>

The UK and Devolved Government's Coronavirus Action Plan can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

Advice for employers and employees from ACAS can be found here: <https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

Coronavirus advice - Business Wales

Any business affected should as a first port of call, contact the **Business Wales telephone helpline on 0300 060 3000**. They can help with practical advice on coronavirus related support, whether provided by the Welsh Government, the UK Government or elsewhere.

If you have any difficulties getting the support and signposting you need, please get back in touch with my office via **lee.waters@Assembly.wales** or on 01554 774 902.

SUMMARY TABLE OF SUPPORT ON OFFER

Business Type	Conditions	Support	Source
Retail/leisure/hospitality	ALL	100% business rates relief	WG
Retail/leisure/hospitality	Rateable value £12,001 - £51,000	Grant: £25,000	WG



Lee Waters
Aelod Cynulliad dros Llanelli
Assembly Member for Llanelli

ALL	Rateable value <=£12,000 and if receiving SBRR	Grant: £10,000	WG
Pubs	Rateable value £51,000 - £100,000	£5,000 reduction in business rates	WG
SMEs	Under 250 employees	2 weeks SSP per employee with covid-19	UKG
Larger firms		Bank of England Covid-19 Corporate Financing Facility	UKG
ALL and self-employed		HMRC Time to Pay service Mortgage Holidays	UKG
Self-employed		Welsh Government scheme tbc	WG

Grants

The Welsh Government has announced a grants scheme for Welsh businesses hit by coronavirus, this matches support available in England.

A **£25,000 grant** for businesses in retail, hospitality and leisure sectors, with a rateable value of £12,001 - £51,000.



Lee Waters
Aelod Cynulliad dros Llanelli
Assembly Member for Llanelli

A **£10,000 grant** to all businesses eligible for small business rates relief with a rateable value of £12,000 or less.

Payment mechanisms for the grant are being finalised with the aim of it being automatic.

Business Rates

The Welsh Government has announced that all retail, leisure and hospitality businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or less will receive 100% business rates relief and pubs with a rateable value of between £51,000 and £100,000 will receive a £5,000 reduction on their bill in 2020-2021.

The Welsh Government is allocating every penny of the funding it will be receiving as a consequence of the schemes the UK Government announced in England, to support Welsh businesses.

Development Bank of Wales

The bank has equity and loan funding it can make available immediately to otherwise healthy small businesses to help them through the cash flow and other challenges they may face in the next, difficult, few weeks and months.

Please contact: **0800 587 4140**

The Welsh Government has announced that all businesses supported by Development Bank of Wales will have a three-month capital repayment holiday. Other measures are being considered and we will circulate further information as soon as possible.

Statutory sick pay

The UK Government is bringing forward legislation to allow small and medium sized businesses and employers to reclaim statutory sick pay paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19. This will be available to businesses in Wales and the Welsh Government is now working on supporting employers in Wales to make sure they have the right mechanisms in place to access this.



Lee Waters
Aelod Cynulliad dros Llanelli
Assembly Member for Llanelli

- This refund will cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19
- Employers with fewer than 250 employees will be eligible - the size of an employer will be determined by the number of people they employed as of 28 February 2020
- Employers will be able to reclaim expenditure for any employee who has claimed SSP (according to the new eligibility criteria) as a result of COVID-19
- Employers should maintain records of staff absences and payments of SSP, but employees will not need to provide a GP fit note
- Eligible period for the scheme will commence the day after the regulations on the extension of Statutory Sick Pay to those staying at home comes into force

Childcare

The childcare offer will continue to be paid to local authorities and childcare settings, which currently receive payments for children in their care, even where services are disrupted.

Business Loans

The UK Government announced a temporary coronavirus business interruption loan scheme through the British Business Bank. This will be available to businesses in Wales via high street banks and the Development Bank for Wales and it will support businesses to access bank lending and overdrafts.

The UK Government currently say this will take a few weeks to roll out.

As soon as information on roll-out is available, we will circulate it.

Lenders will be provided with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to a per-lender cap on claims) to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs. Businesses and banks will not be charged for this guarantee, and the Scheme will support loans of up to £1.2 million in value.

HMRC – Time to Pay



Lee Waters
Aelod Cynulliad dros Llanelli
Assembly Member for Llanelli

A Time to Pay scheme is also available whereby all businesses and self employed people in financial distress and with outstanding tax liabilities may be eligible to receive support with their tax affairs through HMRC's Time to Pay service.

This is also available to businesses in Wales. These arrangements are agreed on a case-by-case basis and are tailored to individual circumstances and liabilities.

If you are concerned about being able to pay your tax due to COVID-19, call HMRC's dedicated helpline on **0800 0159 559**.

Self-employed and Freelancers

The UK Government has delayed tax reforms known as IR35 for a year, given coronavirus, an important boost for freelancers. This complex piece of counter-tax avoidance law, was intended to be widened to the private sector from April this year, with the aim of targeting those who work as an employee but under their own private company in order to reduce their tax bills.

The Welsh Government is setting up a fund specifically for self-employed people affected by coronavirus. We will provide the details as soon as we get them.

The minimum income floor in Universal Credit will be temporarily relaxed for those directly affected by COVID-19 or self-isolating, ensuring self-employed claimants can have some income support.

The UK Government has also announced a three-month mortgage payment holiday. Further detail on this will follow, but in the first instance talk to your mortgage provider.