

Measures to support businesses experiencing increases in costs or financial disruptions – GRANTS

The government will provide an additional £2.2 billion funding for local authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no Business Rates because of Small Business Rate Relief (SBBR). This will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 (previously announced at £3,000 in the budget) to around 700,000 business currently eligible for SBBR or Rural Rate Relief, to help meet their ongoing business costs. For a property with a rateable value of £15,000, this represents 2/3rd of their rateable value, or comparable to roughly 8 months of rent.

This grant only applies to businesses in England as business rates in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are set by their devolved administrations.

In response to the Prime Minister's previous announcement to limit social contact in pubs and restaurants, the Chancellor has extended 100% business rates relief for 12 months for all businesses within the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors (this includes hotels, restaurants and coffee bars), regardless of size.

In addition, companies with a rateable value of less than £51,000 will be eligible for a cash grant of up to £25,000. Further details are expected within a few days.

The discount that pubs receive on their business rates will increase from £1,000 to £5,000, as long as their rateable value is below £100,000 in England.

In Scotland, an £80 million fund to provide grants of at least £3,000 to small businesses in sectors facing the worst economic impact of COVID-19 has been announced by Scottish government.

Scottish Enterprise has launched a business helpline to provide businesses across Scotland with information and support on COVID-19. The business helpline number is 0300 303 0660 and will be open Monday to Friday, between 8.30am to 5.30pm.

- The £80m grant fund is part of a £320m package of measures announced to help small businesses weather the coronavirus crisis.
- 75% rates relief for retail, hospitality and leisure sectors with a rateable value of less than £69,000 from 1 April 2020
- an £80 million fund to provide grants of at least £3,000 to small businesses in sectors facing the worst economic impact of COVID-19
- 1.6% rates relief for all properties across Scotland, effectively reversing the planned below inflation uplift in the poundage from 1 April 2020
- Fixed rates relief of up to £5,000 for all pubs with a rateable value of less than £100,000 from 1 April 2020