

Budget 2021 Announcements and Related Updates

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Help to Grow: Management

Benefits

- ◆ A new UK-wide management programme to upskill 30,000 SMEs in the UK over 3 years.
- ◆ Combination of the national curriculum with 1:1 support from a business mentor, peer-learning sessions and an alumni network.
- ◆ Use of practical case studies and mentoring from experienced business professionals.
- ◆ The programme is 90% subsidised by government - participants will be charged £750.

Eligibility

Business:

- ◆ Based in UK
- ◆ Any sector
- ◆ Operating for more than 1 year
- ◆ Should have 5 to 249 employees

Note: Charities are not eligible.

Participant:

- ◆ Decision maker
- ◆ Member of the senior management team within the business

Process

You can sign up using the [online form](#) to register.

Help to Grow: Digital

Benefits

- ◆ A digital scheme to help 100,000 SMEs save time and money by adopting productivity-enhancing software, transforming the way they do business.
- ◆ Small businesses will be able to get free impartial advice on how technology can boost their performance through a new online platform.
- ◆ This will combine a voucher covering up to 50% of the costs of approved software up to a maximum of £5,000.
- ◆ Vouchers are initially expected to be available for software that helps businesses:
- ◆ Build customer relationships and increase sales
- ◆ Make the most of selling online
- ◆ Manage their accounts and finances digitally

Eligibility

- ◆ All businesses will be able to benefit from free online advice on the platform.
- ◆ The voucher is expected to be available to UK business that:
- ◆ employ between 5 and 249 employees and are registered at Companies House
- ◆ have been trading for more than 12 months
- ◆ are purchasing the discounted software for the first time

Process

You can register up using the [online form](#) to register for interest. You will need your Companies House registration number for the same.

Livelihood

- ◆ A New Restart Grants (£5 billion) - a one off cash grant of up to £18,000 for hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses in England.
- ◆ A new mortgage guarantee scheme up to £600,000 with a 5% deposit.
- ◆ A new UK-wide Recovery Loan Scheme to make available loans between £25,001 and £10 million, and asset and invoice finance between £1,000 and £10 million, to help businesses of all sizes through the next stage of recovery.
- ◆ A 6-month extension of the £20 per week Universal Credit uplift in Great Britain, with the Northern Ireland Executive receiving additional funding to match the increase.
- ◆ A one-off payment of £500 to eligible Working Tax Credit claimants across the UK.

Apprenticeship

- ◆ A new “flexi-job” apprenticeship programme in England.
- ◆ Extension of the apprenticeship hiring incentive in England to September 2021.
- ◆ An increase of payment to £3,000.

Eligibility

To start an apprenticeship, you'll need to be:

- ◆ 16 or over
- ◆ living in England
- ◆ not in full-time education
- ◆ or in 2021/22 academic year.

Business Grant

These grants are support to businesses which are severely impacted by the restrictions (depending on their rateable value of the property):

- ◆ **Local Restrictions Grant Scheme (Closed)** - Business which are forced to close due to national or local restrictions can claim grants, via their local authority, of up to £3,000 per month.
- ◆ **Local Restrictions Grant Scheme (Open)** - Businesses that remain open, but are impacted by local restrictions, can also claim grants worth up to £2,100 a month.
- ◆ **Top-up grants** - for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses which are forced to close can claim a **one-off grant of up to £9,000**.

Rateable value of property	LRGS (Closed) (per month)	LGRS (Open) (per month)	Top Up Grants
£15,000 or under	£1,334	£934	£4,000
£15,000 - £51,000	£2,000	£1,400	£6,000
£51,000 or over	£3,000	£2,100	£9,000

- ◆ It will be up to Local Authorities to determine which businesses are eligible for grant funding in their local areas.

Discretionary funds from Local Authorities

Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)

- ◆ Local authorities in England have been given an additional £500 million discretionary funding to support their local businesses.
- ◆ In addition to £1.1 billion discretionary funding (worth £20 per head of population) which local authorities in England have already received to support their local economies and help businesses impacted.

Eligibility

Local councils have the freedom to determine the eligibility criteria for these grants. Businesses which are nonetheless severely impacted by the restrictions could include:

- ◆ businesses which supply the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors
- ◆ businesses in the tourism and events sectors
- ◆ business required to close but which do not pay business rates

Restart Scheme

- ◆ The new £2.9 billion UK-wide Restart scheme will go live from Summer 2021 to provide 12 months of tailored support to over 1 million unemployed people and help them find work.
- ◆ It will give Universal Credit claimants who have been out of work for at least 12 months enhanced support to find jobs in their local area.

Employment Support Scheme

Furlough Scheme Extended

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended **until the end of September 2021**, with employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked.

Benefit

- ◆ Businesses will have flexibility to bring furloughed employees back to work.
- ◆ Businesses will only be asked to cover National Insurance and employer pension contributions, accounts for just 5% of total employment costs.
- ◆ For hours not worked, government will pay 80% of the salary/wages up to **£2,500 a month**.

Eligibility

EMPLOYERS	EMPLOYEES
Employers must have a UK bank account and PAYE scheme.	Must be PAYE's payroll on or before 30th October 2020.
Large businesses will have to meet a financial assessment test, no test for small and medium sized firms.	Employers will need to report hours worked and the usual hours an employee would be expected to work in a claim period.
Only for firms facing lower turnover now than compared to before.	Similar working patterns every month not required and will be able to cycle on and off the scheme.
Employer and the employee should not have previously used the Corona virus Job Retention Scheme.	Participating employees must be included in a Real Time Information (RTI) submission to HMRC on or before 30th October 2020.
	Short-time working arrangement must be of minimum 7 days.

- ◆ **The Job Retention Bonus (JRB)** of £1,000 per furloughed employee, whose employment was retained up to the end of January 2021, **has now been shelved**.

DNS will be able to help you in claiming the grant. Please get in touch with your account manager.

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) Grant— Extension

SEISS is to support self-employed individuals who are experiencing reduced demand or cannot trade due to the effect of COVID19. An extension of SEISS till September 2021.

- ◆ The overall level of grant has been increased from 55 per cent to **80 per cent** of trading income for 3-month period **up to a maximum of £7,500**.

SEISS grants do not relate to any particular period or seek to replace lost income over a particular period.

- ◆ The **first grant**, billed as covering March to May 2020, was available to businesses adversely affected up to 13 July 2020.
- ◆ The **second grant**, billed as covering June to August 2020, was available to businesses affected on or after 14 July 2020.
- ◆ The **third grant**, billed as covering November 2020 to January 2021, was available to businesses impacted between 1 November 2020 and 29 January 2021.
- ◆ The **fourth grant**, billed as covering February to April 2021, was available to businesses impacted between 1 February and 30 April 2021.
- ◆ The **fifth grant**, billed as covering May to September 2021, is expected to be available to businesses impacted between 1 May and 30 September 2021.

Note: Claims for the fourth SEISS grant have now closed. The last date for making a claim for the fourth grant was 1 June 2021.

Additionally you may also check the old application link, click [here](#)

Eligibility

- ◆ Individuals previously eligible for the SEISS first and second grant (do not have to have claimed the previous grants).
- ◆ Currently actively trading and intend to continue to trade.
- ◆ Impacted by reduced demand due to COVID-19 in the qualifying period.
- ◆ Trading previously but are temporarily unable to do so due to coronavirus.
- ◆ To allow us to process recently submitted 2019 to 2020 Self-Assessment tax returns, online claims service for the fourth grant will be available from late April 2021 until 31 May 2021.

Kickstart (Recruitment) Scheme

Govt to provide funding for 6-month job placements for 16-24 year olds.

Benefit

- ◆ Funding to employers to create job placements for 16-24 years olds.
- ◆ 6-month job placement.

Funding will cover

- ◆ 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week.
- ◆ The associated employer National Insurance contributions.
- ◆ Employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions
- ◆ **£1500 per job** placement available for setup costs, support and training

There will also be extra funding to support young people to build their experience and help them move into sustained employment after they have completed their Kickstart Scheme funded job.

Who can apply for funding?

- ◆ Any organisation.
- ◆ Must be new jobs.
- ◆ Job must be a minimum of 25 hours per week, for 6 months.
- ◆ Paid at least the National Minimum Wage for their age group.
- ◆ **Should not require people to undertake extensive training** before they begin the job placement.

They must not

- ◆ Replace existing or planned vacancies.
- ◆ Cause existing employees or contractors to lose or reduce their employment.

Eligible Candidates

- ◆ Young people between 16-24 years old.
- ◆ **Who are claiming Universal Credit**, and are at risk of long term unemployment

How to Apply

You no longer need a minimum of 30 job placements to apply directly for a grant. You can now apply for a Kickstart Scheme grant by either:

- ◆ applying online yourself
- ◆ applying through a Kickstart gateway who is already working with the Kickstart Scheme

If you are interested in this scheme, kindly fill the form by clicking the below link and our team will get in touch:

[Apply for Kickstart Scheme](#)

DNS is an authorised Kickstart Gateway and can act as a representative for clients. We can help in making Kickstart application for employers. Please fill up the form above and our team will get in touch with you.

Reduced VAT Rate for Tourism and Hospitality

- ◆ The reduced rate was initially introduced to last for a temporary period between 15 July 2020 and 12 January 2021.
- ◆ This period was subsequently extended to 31 March 2021.
- ◆ In the Budget 2021, the temporary reduced rate got extended for a further six-month period at 5% until 30 September 2021.
- ◆ A new reduced rate of 12.5% will then be introduced which will end on 31 March 2022. The scope of the relief will remain unchanged.
- ◆ Applicable to
 - ◆ supplies of food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, pubs, bars, cafés and similar premises,
 - ◆ supplies of accommodation and admission to attractions across the UK.

CBILS and Bounce Back Loans— Closed on 31st March 2021

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) closed to new applications on 31 March 2021.

CBILS borrowers can extend the term of a loan up to ten years, providing additional flexibility.

Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLs):

- ◆ The Bounce Back Loan Scheme closed to new applications and top-up applications on 31 March 2021.
- ◆ BBL could have been topped up - businesses who **took less than 25% of turnover** in Bounce Back loan could have been top up with remaining allowance.
- ◆ **Pay as you grow** provisions
 - ◆ Option to repay their loan over a period of up to ten years, earlier this was six years.
 - ◆ Option to move temporarily to interest-only payments for periods of up to six months (can be used up to three times).
 - ◆ Pause their repayments entirely for up to six months (can be used only once only after having made six payments).
 - ◆ All early borrowers are covered.

For more on eligibility and application, contact your account manager.

Future Fund Scheme— Closed for new applications

Match funding investment support for start-ups.

- ◆ The investment scheme closed on applications on the 31st January 2021.
- ◆ Businesses already accessed a Future Fund convertible loan cannot apply for another one.
- ◆ The [online portal](#) remains open for investee companies with legally completed convertible loan agreements (CLAs) to submit information.

Eligibility

- ◆ Incorporated in UK, on or before 31st December 2019
- ◆ Must have raised at least £250,000 in equity investment from third-party investors in the last 5 years.
- ◆ No shares traded on a regulated market, multilateral trading facility or other listing venue.
- ◆ At least half or more employees are UK-based or half or more revenues are from UK sales.

For more information on application and eligibility, contact your account manager or click [here](#).

VAT Deferral 'New Payment Scheme'

- ◆ The VAT payment deferral scheme was introduced during the beginning of the pandemic for businesses who were given the option to defer their VAT payments due between 20th March and 30th June 2020 to help manage their cash flow through the initial stages.
- ◆ The scheme was launched to allow businesses with deferred VAT to spread payments over 11 equal interest free payments from March 2021.
- ◆ It is a standard offer, any businesses can opt into.
- ◆ VAT deferral new payment Scheme launched on 23 February 2021.
- ◆ The service closed on 21 June 2021 and this was the latest date for anyone opt into it.

You can get all the details which are available on [gov.uk](#)

Green Homes Grant— Closed for new applications

Homeowner or **residential landlord** could have applied for a Green Homes Grant voucher towards the cost of installing energy efficient improvements to your home. The Green Homes Grant scheme closed for new applications on 31 March 2021.

What the voucher covers

Costs that are covered by the voucher include:

- ◆ Labour
- ◆ Materials
- ◆ VAT

What the voucher could be used for

Home improvements: The available measures are split into 'primary' and 'secondary' measures.

1) Primary measures

- ◆ Insulation
- ◆ Low carbon heat

2) Secondary measures

- ◆ Windows and doors
- ◆ Heating controls and insulation

To know more about "Green homes grant scheme", [click here](#).

Please reach out to your account manager for any further information.

Trade Credit Reinsurance Scheme— Closed for new applications

This scheme ensures trade credit insurance coverage and credit limits are maintained during the coronavirus pandemic to help businesses to trade with confidence. The scheme ended on 30 June 2021.

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