

Coronavirus: Support for businesses in Northern Ireland

Scheme details

Eligibility

Bounce Back Loan scheme | UK-wide

Loans between £2,000 and £50,000 for up to 6 years to help small and medium-sized businesses affected by coronavirus. Guaranteed by government with no fees, interest or repayments in the first 12 months.

How to access? You must apply – [details of the scheme and guidance on how to apply](#).

All UK businesses affected by coronavirus

Business Rates Relief for Retail, Hospitality, Tourism, Leisure and Childcare Sectors | NI only

A full year rates holiday for businesses in the hospitality, tourism and leisure, retail (excluding certain supermarkets and off-licences) and childcare sectors will pay no rates for the full financial year up until 31 March 2021.

How to access? Automatic – [no application required](#).

Sector-specific businesses

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme | UK-wide

Loans up to £5m guaranteed by government. Businesses can access the first year of that finance interest-free and fee-free, as the government will cover the first 12 months of interest payments and any lender-levied charges.

How to access? You must apply – [delivered by the main banks in NI and some other lenders](#).

SME businesses with turnover under £45m + British Business Bank eligibility criteria

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme | UK-wide

A grant to cover 80% of furloughed workers' wage costs (employees kept on your payroll, rather than being laid off) up to £2,500 per employee per month.

How to access? You must apply – [details of the scheme and guidance on how to apply](#).

Note: Closes to new entrants on 30 June 2020, who must have furloughed staff by 10 June 2020.

Employers with a PAYE scheme

Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme | UK-wide

Loans up to £200m guaranteed by government. Businesses can access the first year of that finance interest-free and fee-free - the government will cover the first 12 months of interest payments and any lender-levied charges.

How to access? You must apply – [details of the scheme and how to apply](#).

Large businesses with turnover of more than £45m + British Business Bank eligibility criteria

Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate | UK-wide

This refund will cover up to 2 weeks' Statutory Sick Pay per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19.

How to access? You must apply – [details of the scheme and guidance on how to apply](#).

Businesses with less than 250 employees as of 28 February 2020

COVID-19 Business and Financial Planning Grant | NI-only

Up to £8,000 grant support (for 80% of eligible costs) to engage with a consultant to assess the impact of COVID-19 and develop a strategic recovery plan with financial forecasts.

How to access? You must apply – [details of the scheme and guidance on how to apply](#).

All micro and SME businesses that are Invest NI customers, or operating in certain sectors + Invest NI criteria

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<p>COVID-19 Business and Financial Planning Support Programme NI-only Advisory support to tourism businesses operating in Northern Ireland to develop their recovery plans including a health check and financial plan, a review of business model and identifying funding shortfalls and/or debt restructuring. How to access? You must apply – details of the scheme and guidance on how to apply.</p>	<p>Existing NI tourism businesses in the private or voluntary / community sectors + Tourism NI criteria</p>
<p>COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF) UK-wide The Bank of England will purchase commercial paper of up to one-year maturity, issued by firms making a material contribution to the economy. How to access? You must apply – details of the scheme and guidance on how to apply.</p>	<p>Larger companies that make a material contribution to the UK economy</p>
<p>COVID-19 Equity Investment Fund NI-only Equity investment or convertible loan notes of up to a maximum of £700,000 for early stage high-growth potential businesses, unable to access funding after maximising investment from all other funding sources, to progress business plans and prepare for recovery and growth. How to access? You must apply – details of the scheme and guidance on how to apply.</p>	<p>Unlisted NI SMEs, not in financial difficulty, but adversely impacted by COVID-19 + other eligibility criteria</p>
<p>COVID Social Enterprise Fund NI-only Grants of up to £75,000 to stabilise short-term future cashflow need and to ensure business model resilience, for social enterprises that already deliver services and products but find themselves in financial difficulties directly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. How to access? You must apply – details of the scheme and guidance on how to apply.</p>	<p>Social enterprises with a base in / operating in NI, trading in excess of one year, affected by COVID-19 + DfC criteria</p>
<p>Future Fund UK-wide Convertible loans ranging from £125,000 to £5m for UK-based companies, matched by at least 50% investor funding, to be used for working capital purposes. Loan interest rate will be a minimum 8%. How to access? You must apply – details of the scheme and guidance on how to apply.</p>	<p>Unlisted UK companies with at least £250k recent investor funding + British Business Bank eligibility criteria</p>
<p>Income Tax Deferral for the Self-Employed UK-wide Income Tax payments due in July 2020 under the Self-Assessment system will be deferred to January 2021. Late payment penalties won't be charged in the deferral period. How to access? Automatic – no application required.</p>	<p>All self-employed individuals</p>
<p>Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) UK-wide A taxable grant worth 80% of your trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months. How to access? You must apply – details of the scheme and guidance on how to apply.</p>	<p>All self-employed individuals or members of a partnership</p>
<p>Sports Hardship Fund NI only £2,000 grant for new applicant sports clubs and sporting organisations to cover obligations (eg rent/lease, utility costs, ground maintenance, insurances) that are no longer supported with revenue as a result of coronavirus. Returning applicants may also apply for a £1,000 top up to their award if they have fully expended their initial £2,000 award. How to access? You must apply – details of the scheme and how to apply.</p>	<p>Organisations delivering sport and physical recreation + Sport NI criteria</p>

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Time To Pay | UK-wide

If you miss a tax payment due to Coronavirus, contact HMRC as soon as possible – you may get more time to pay or be able to agree to pay in instalments.

How to access? You must apply – contact the HMRC Coronavirus Helpline on **Tel: 0800 024 1222**.

Businesses paying tax to the UK Government

VAT payments deferral | UK-wide

Business payments for VAT payments from 20 March to 30 June 2020 will be deferred. VAT refunds and reclaims will be paid by the government as normal. Instead of paying the full amount by the end of March 2021, you can make smaller payments up to the end of March 2022, interest free.

How to access? You must opt-in – [details of the scheme and how to opt-in](#).

All VAT-registered businesses

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<p>£10,000 Small Business Grant NI only £10,000 grant for businesses with a total Net Annual Value (NAV) of £15,000 and below, who are eligible for the Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) scheme or currently benefit from Industrial Derating. Closed on 20 May 2020 – more information.</p>	<p>NI businesses with total Net Annual Value of £15,000 and below, eligible for SBRR or access Industrial Derating</p>
<p>£10,000 Small Business Grant: Rental Properties Total NAV £1,590 or below NI only £10,000 grant for rental property sole tenants or owner of a business property with total NAV of £1,590 or below. Closed on 20 May 2020 – more information.</p>	<p>NI businesses renting a property, or owning a property with total NAV of £1,590 or below</p>
<p>£25,000 Retail, Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Grant NI only £25,000 for all businesses in these sectors with a total NAV of between £15,001 and £51,000. Closed on 20 May 2020 – more information.</p>	<p>Sector-specific businesses with a total NAV between £15,001 and £51,000</p>
<p>£25,000 Retail, Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Grant: Rental Properties Total NAV £1,590 or below NI only £25,000 for all businesses in these sectors which are sole tenants of a rental property or owner of a business property with a total NAV of £1,590 or below. Closed on 20 May 2020 – more information.</p>	<p>Sector-specific businesses renting a property, or owning a property with a total NAV of £1,590 or below</p>
<p>Artists Emergency Programme NI only Awards of up to £5,000 to support those in the arts sector creating work making a vital contribution to the well-being of communities or to support proposals for research, design and future presentation of specific showcases, performance(s) and/or public presentation. Closed – more information.</p>	<p>Freelance individual artists, creative practitioners, performers and others who work in the arts</p>
<p>Business Rates Holiday NI only A four-month rates holiday for all NI business ratepayers, ie no rates will be charged for April, May, June and July 2020. This will be shown as a discount on the annual rate bill for business ratepayers. Closed – more information.</p>	<p>All NI business ratepayers excluding public sector and utilities</p>
<p>Childcare Recovery Support Fund NI only Financial support for childcare providers to assist with the additional costs of operating within Department of Health COVID-19 guidance and to support their financial viability in the reopening phase. Closed to applications on 2 October 2020 – more information.</p>	<p>Childcare providers as detailed under Department for Education eligibility criteria</p>
<p>COVID-19 Childcare Support Scheme NI only Financial assistance for eligible childcare providers - registered daycare settings, school age childcare settings and childminders that remain open for vulnerable children and those of key workers, and daycare and school age childcare settings which remain closed and are unable to reopen. Closed on 30 June 2020 – more information.</p>	<p>Childcare providers as detailed under Department for Education eligibility criteria</p>

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<p>COVID-19 Charities Fund NI only Up to £75,000 of grant awards for eligible local charity organisations which have lost income due to the impact of lockdown and are unable to cover unavoidable costs until 30 September 2020. Closed on 21 August 2020 – more information.</p>	<p>Local charities facing severe financial difficulty due to COVID-19 + DfC criteria</p>
<p>COVID-19 Digital Selling Capability Grant NI-only Grants up to £20,000 to support 50% of eligible costs (minimum eligible project expenditure of £10,000) for consultancy services or expertise from a digital marketing or e-commerce supplier to enhance digital offering, build e-commerce capability and increase online sales. Closed on 7 October 2020 – more information.</p>	<p>SME retailers or wholesalers with an existing online presence and physical products which can be sold online + other eligibility criteria</p>
<p>Eat Out to Help Out UK-wide A scheme for restaurants or other eating establishments, from Monday to Wednesday in August, to offer a 50 per cent discount – up to a max. of £10 per person, to diners for food or non-alcoholic drinks to eat or drink in – which businesses can claim back from the government by 30 September. Closed on 31 August 2020 – more information.</p>	<p>Food businesses established on or before 7 July 2020 selling food for immediate consumption on premises with their own dining area</p>
<p>Individuals Emergency Resilience Programme NI only Grants of £1,200, £3,000 or £5,000 for workers in the creative and arts economy to sustain and build their creative, professional and technical skills. Closed on 17 August 2020 – more information.</p>	<p>Workers in the creative and arts economy + Arts Council for Northern Ireland / DfC criteria</p>
<p>NI Micro-business Hardship Fund NI only Fund to help Northern Ireland based micro-businesses and social enterprises unable to access other regional and national COVID-19 support measures. Closed on 12 June 2020 – more information.</p>	<p>NI businesses facing immediate cash flow difficulties due to COVID-19 + DfE criteria</p>
<p>Organisations Emergency Programme NI only Up to £25,000 funding support to small and medium-sized arts organisations (which didn't receive support during the initial call in June 2020) to support the continuance of creative work in Northern Ireland and assist operational costs of arts organisations where necessary. Closed on 17 September – more information.</p>	<p>Small and medium-sized arts orgs + Arts Council for Northern Ireland / DfC criteria</p>