

BVRLA updates guide to operating during Covid

The [BVRLA Guide to Operating during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#) has been updated to reflect the recent changes to social distancing requirements.

Motor vehicles appear to be preferred mode of transport

[Latest transport usage data](#) published today by the Department for Transport shows that motor vehicle usage has been between 77% and 80% of pre-pandemic levels during the past week.

National rail and London Underground figures have peaked at 14% and 16% respectively, indicating that people are following government advice and are avoiding public transport where possible.

Green light given for 12-month e-scooter rental trial

The Department for Transport has [announced](#) that new regulations allowing trials of rental e-scooters will come into force on Saturday 4 July 2020.

The fast-tracked trials will test devices' safety, green credentials and ability to reduce traffic as lockdown is eased.

Local authorities and devolved administrations hosting the trials can allow or run the rental schemes in their areas, as outlined in accompanying [guidance for areas and rental operators](#) published yesterday (30 June).

Health measures set to be eased at UK borders

The Transport Minister, Grant Shapps, has indicated in a [statement earlier this week](#) that the Government will shortly begin to ease the health measures at the UK border, allowing passengers to be exempted from self-isolation requirements, in certain circumstances, on arrival in the UK.

Demand for Government Loan Schemes continues to rise

[Latest HM Treasury figures](#) show that 62,323 more businesses have applied for the Bounce Back Loan Scheme in the past week, taking the total number of applications to 1,186,006 as at the close of business on 28 June. 81% of applications have been approved costing the Treasury £29.5bn.

Approval rates for the two Business Interruption Loan Schemes remain comparatively low with around half of applications being approved. Of the 105,314 applications, 52,634 were approved.

The Future Fund changes eligibility criteria

The [Government has yesterday confirmed](#) that more start-ups and innovative firms will be able to apply for investment from the government's Future Fund as of 30 June.

As at close of business on 28 June, only 674 businesses had applied for the Fund.

Flexible furloughing of employees starts today

From today, (1 July), employers can bring furloughed employees back to work for any amount of time and any shift pattern, while still being able to claim [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) grant for the hours not worked.

From 1 August 2020, the level of grant will be reduced each month, until 31 October, when the scheme is set to close. The full timetable for changes is set out in the [HMRC guidance](#).

[Latest HMRC figures](#) show that although the number of employers furloughing staff has not increased in the past week, the number of staff being furloughed has increased from 9.2m to 9.3m.

Online tool to check if you should go back to work

The Government has developed [a tool to help employees in England](#) easily assess if they can return to work. The tool guides employees through questions that may influence their ability to go back to work safely. Employers can share this tool with employees to aid discussion on how employees can return to work safely.

Leicestershire is the first local lockdown

The Government has confirmed the [areas of Leicestershire](#) that are included in the localised Covid-19 lockdown and what this means. The lockdown restrictions were imposed following a local surge in coronavirus figures.

The Health Secretary [announced plans for managing the outbreak in Leicester](#) in a speech to Parliament on 29 June. The Government recommends against all but essential travel to, from and within Leicester and the lockdown restrictions will be reviewed on 18 July.

Temporary changes to Companies House filing requirements

The Government has today [published guidance](#) explaining how the measures introduced by the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act on 27 June, will affect your filings at Companies House. Affected filings include:

- accounts
- confirmation statement
- event-driven filings (changes to your company)
- mortgage charges

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Specialist vehicle approval tests resume

The DVSA has updated its [specialist vehicle approval guidance](#), to include that from 4 July 2020, all vehicle approval tests will restart, and individual vehicle approval (IVA) tests will continue to be booked under a priority system. You need a vehicle approval test if you have:

- imported a vehicle
- built a vehicle
- rebuilt a vehicle
- radically altered a vehicle