

Face coverings mandatory from today in rental branches

As of today the Government has mandated [the wearing of face coverings](#) in enclosed public spaces, including shops, supermarkets, shopping centres and transport hubs. This includes vehicle rental outlets.

Under the new regulations, members of the public will need to wear face coverings that cover the nose and mouth as well as adhering to frequent hand washing and social distancing.

Face coverings will not be mandatory for:

- anyone under the age of 11
- those with disabilities or certain health conditions, such as respiratory or cognitive impairments that make it difficult for them to wear a face covering

FCA provides notice of mandatory Covid-19 Impact Survey

Next week the Financial Conduct Authority will be writing to solo-regulated firms, including motor finance providers, making them aware of a mandatory survey being issued in August.

The survey will contain ten questions designed to assess each firm's liquidity position and resilience and is designed to enable the FCA to assess what action, if any, is required from the regulator to support markets and businesses post-pandemic.

The questions will relate to liquidity position and resilience, profit and loss, and access to government schemes.

Those named as the principle user on the FCA Gabriel system will receive the survey and businesses will be given a set deadline for its completion.

The survey will be issued over four days in August and timings are as follows:

- Surveys sent on 5 August have deadline of 26 August
- Surveys sent on 6 August have deadline of 27 August
- Surveys sent on 7 August have deadline of 28 August
- Surveys sent on 10 August have deadline of 31 August

ONS figures indicate over a third of firms trading have less than six months cash reserves

The Office for National Statistics has published its [latest figures on indicators](#) for the UK economy and society, showing that more businesses are resuming trade and footfall is up.

92% of responding businesses said they were trading between 29 June and 12 July, compared with 86% between 1 and 14 June.

24,493 businesses were sampled and 21% had responded as of 21 July 2020.

Of those businesses continuing to trade, 38% are providing pay top-ups to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and they report 16% of their workforce on furlough leave. 41% claim to have less than six months in cash reserves and 36% have more than six months.

Of those businesses that have temporarily paused trading, 41% are providing pay top-ups to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and they report 84% of their workforce on furlough leave. 62% claim to have less than six months cash reserves and 15% have more than six months.