

Vehicle rental to remain open during the new national lockdown

The Government has issued [guidance on the new national restrictions](#), including what they mean for working from home and business closures, why they are being introduced and the financial support available.

The new restrictions, which take effect on 5 November and will be reviewed on 2 December, require [certain businesses and venues to close](#). However, vehicle rental, as was the case in the full national lockdown earlier this year, will remain open for business. Car repair and MOT services can also remain open.

[Government advises](#) that those who operate vehicle rental in a showroom environment should hire out vehicles from a separate building or a separate part of the building as vehicle showrooms must close.

Local grants to support businesses and local communities

The Government has published [guidance for local authorities](#) setting out eligibility criteria and operation and delivery details on paying grants to support businesses during the November to December 2020 national lockdown and periods of local restrictions.

The two schemes, which are to support local businesses during the national lockdown between 5 November to 2 December 2020 and during periods of local restrictions are:

- Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB)
- Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)

Members who sublet premises for their rental operations and have been severely impacted by the restrictions are encouraged to speak to their local authority to access grants using the above guidance as back up. Please let us know of any successes or failures in this area by contacting our policy team, policy@bvrla.co.uk.

Regulated members are invited to share views on FCA proposals

The Financial Conduct Authority is inviting comment on its [proposals to extend payment deferrals](#) and other support for motor finance customers who are experiencing payment difficulties because of coronavirus.

The BVRLA will be submitting a consultation response by the deadline of this Friday and members wanting to input should email Director of Fleet Services Amanda Brandon, amanda@bvrla.co.uk by 12 noon tomorrow (Thursday 5 November).

The regulator's proposals will mean that:

- those who have not yet had a payment deferral will be eligible for 2 payment deferrals of up to 6 months in total
- those who currently have an initial payment deferral, will be eligible for a further payment deferral of up to 3 months
- Under the FCA's proposals, borrowers would have until 31 January 2021 to request an initial payment deferral.
- A payment deferral under the FCA's proposals would not be reported as missed payments on a borrower's credit file.

The BVRLA is pleased that the FCA has listened to the association's calls for separate guidance for motor finance from other forms of consumer credit, which will assist with interpretation of the guidance.

£134 million fund awarded to UK's greenest, most innovative businesses

The Government [has announced](#) that over 1,000 projects will today receive up to £175,000 from a £134 million fund, enabling ground-breaking clean growth projects to develop new technologies and secure new jobs.

The funding comes from Innovate UK's Sustainable innovation Fund, which was launched as part of the [£550 million package of measures](#) to support innovative SMEs respond to Covid-19.