

£2bn fund for firms to employ 16 to 24-year olds

The Government has [introduced a new Kickstart Scheme](#) to create hundreds of thousands of high-quality, 6-month work placements aimed at those aged 16 to 24 who are on Universal Credit and are deemed to be at risk of long-term unemployment.

The £2 billion fund, available to firms in Great Britain, will cover 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week, plus the associated employer National Insurance contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions.

- If you are an employer looking to create job placements for young people, [check if you can apply for funding as part of the Kickstart Scheme](#).
- If you are considering becoming a representative for a group of employers, [check what information you need to provide to apply for a grant through the Kickstart Scheme](#).

The Department for Work and Pensions has published a [list of regional contacts for employers](#) applying for a grant through the Kickstart Scheme. A useful [Guide for employers](#) has also been published.

Employers' contribution to furloughed staff's wages increases

The Government has updated [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Guidance](#) to reflect changes as the scheme edges gradually towards a phase out on 31 October 2020.

From 1 September the Government will pay 70% and employers will pay 10% of employees' wages for the time they are being furloughed. Employers will also continue to pay their National Insurance and pension contributions.

From 1 October the Government will pay 60% and employers will pay 20% of employees' wages for the time they are being furloughed. Employers will also continue to pay their National Insurance and pension contributions.

Employers will continue to pay employees wages at the contracted rate for the hours worked.

CMA provides more detail on cancellations and refunds

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) remains of the view that a consumer will generally be entitled to a refund when they have paid money in advance for services or goods that cannot be provided because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Given the evolving situation, [the CMA has provided more detail](#) on issues such as the difference between lockdown laws and government guidance, and their impact on cancellations and refunds.

Transport usage figures see Tube passengers return

The Department for Transport's [weekly transport usage figures](#) show that London Underground passengers are slowly starting to return, with usage levels on the Tube reaching 40% for the first time since 17 March.

The increase coincides with the Government's call to get employees back into the office to help boost business for those relying on trade from city office workers. Since the outbreak of Covid-19 both national rail and London Underground figures have remained low with motor vehicles being the preferred mode of transport.

The Government's Safer transport campaign

The campaign, which provides safety advice to those travelling to and from school and work, includes information on car sharing.

The advice is that people should try not to share a vehicle with those outside their household or support bubble. Where people do need to car share, they should try to: keep the windows open; share the car with the same people each time; and wear a face-covering.

The Department for Transport has published a [suite of printed and digital communication resources](#) to help communicate safety messages. There is also specific [information for employers](#).