

Covid-19 Bulletin

24 September 2020



Support for firms and self-employed extended beyond October

The [BVRLA has welcomed](#) the additional financial support outlined by Chancellor Rishi Sunak earlier today, as he unveiled the [Government's Winter Economy Plan](#).

The plan extends the financial support on offer to businesses and the self-employed, and includes:

1. **A new Job Support Scheme** will begin on 1 November, following the end of the furlough scheme, which will involve the government subsidising the wages of employees working reduced hours. The scheme will last for six months and apply to any employees working a minimum of 33% of their hours. For the remaining hours not worked, the government and the employer will each pay one-third of the employee's wages. This would mean employees working 33% of their hours will receive 77% of their pay. The grant from government will be capped at £697.92 per month.
2. **Workers on the Job Support Scheme will not be able to be made redundant** and there will be restrictions on capital distributions to shareholders for larger firms that use the scheme. The Chancellor also announced that only large businesses that can prove they have been adversely affected by Covid-19 would be eligible for the Job Support Scheme. The Scheme will sit alongside the Jobs Retention Bonus for workers kept on until the start of February 2021.
3. The **Self-employment Income Support Scheme extension** will support viable traders facing reduced demand over the winter months and will cover 20% of average monthly trading profits via a government grant.
4. **CBILS, CLBILS, BBLS and the Future Fund are being extended** to 30 November, with new loan applications being accepted up to this date. Loan offers will be able to be processed up until 31 December.
5. A **'pay as you grow'** scheme will allow businesses that took Bounce Back loans to extend the term of their loan to ten years, as well as allowing businesses to make interest-only payments or suspend payments for six months. No business making use of the pay as you grow scheme will have its credit rating affected. CBILS loans will also be able to have their terms extended up to ten years, with a new loan scheme to be announced in January.
6. Businesses who deferred their **VAT payment** will not need to pay a lump sum in March 2021 and will be allowed to split their VAT bill into smaller, interest-free payments over 11 months during the 2021/22 financial year.
7. To support the tourism and hospitality sectors, the Chancellor has stated **that the temporary reduction of VAT rates from 20% to 5% will remain in place until 31 March 2021**, rather than 13 January.

BVRLA updates its Frequently Asked Questions for members

The BVRLA has updated its [FAQs on the BVRLA Covid Business Advice page](#) in response to an influx of enquiries following the Government's recent tightening of restrictions.

Questions have mainly related to:

- Face coverings
- Rental branches and Test and Trace
- Delivery and collection of vehicles in Scotland

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NHS Covid-19 mobile app launches to support track and trace

People across England and Wales are being urged to download the [NHS COVID-19 app](#) to help control the spread of coronavirus. The app launches today after positive trials and rigorous testing.

It will be available to those aged 16 and over in multiple languages and forms a central part of the NHS Test and Trace service in England and the NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect programme.

Information for [how business can prepare for the NHS Covid-19 app](#) is available as well as the [Privacy notice and data protection impact assessment](#) for the app.

The Department of Health & Social Care has [published data](#) on the daily number of coronavirus tests processed and testing capacity in the UK, split by swab and antibody tests between the period of 20 March and 22 September.

ONS published new data on impact of Covid-19 on the UK

The Office for National Statistics has [published data](#) on the wide-ranging impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the UK so far.

Presented in ten charts, the data highlights the profound impacts of the pandemic on the UK economy and society, including:

- The economy is 11.7% smaller than it was pre-lockdown.
- Public sector debt has exceeded gross domestic product (GDP) for the first time since the early 1960s.
- Almost one-third of jobs have been furloughed at some point.

The ONS [fortnightly Business Survey findings](#) have also been published for the period 24 August to 6 September, showing that during that period 12% of the workforce were on partial or full furlough leave.