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| **Advice and guidance– latest update** |
| The current regulations are in place until **5 March**, but will be reviewed on **18 February 2021**.**Stay at homeYou must stay at home.** The single most important action we can all take is to stay at home to protect the health service and save lives. No-one may leave their home without reasonable excuse.Leaving homeYou must not leave, or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home:* to obtain goods or services from any business permitted to open
* to take exercise, as permitted in the regulations
* to visit your bubble
* to visit hospital, GP, medical appointments or health services (including mental health)
* to provide care or assistance to a vulnerable person, or to provide emergency assistance
* to avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
* to go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
* to access education or childcare
* to access critical public services
* to attend to the care, welfare and exercise of an animal
* to fulfil a legal obligation, such as attending court or jury service
* to donate blood
* to attend a place of worship
* to attend a wedding or civil partnership
* to attend a funeral or visit a burial ground
* to continue access and contact between parents and children who do not live in the same household
* to facilitate a house move, and to do associated activities for that purpose, including viewing properties and making arrangements for removals
* to attend a funeral or wedding

A full list of circumstances is included in the link <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-no2-regulations-northern-ireland-2020>. Visits to food shops, pharmacies and other essential stores should be limited and as seldom as possible. Be organised and only buy what you need. You do not need to stockpile goods as supply chains are secure.Full guidance details are available at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you>  |

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| **Government Support for your Business** | **Keep up to date with the latest information at:** [**https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/campaign/coronavirus-updates-support-your-business**](https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/campaign/coronavirus-updates-support-your-business)**Guidance for NI companies** [**https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-guidance-information-for-ni-businesses-employers?utm\_source=e7492372-e10b-4879-93a6-9a71f788f1f8&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\_content=immediate**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-guidance-information-for-ni-businesses-employers?utm_source=e7492372-e10b-4879-93a6-9a71f788f1f8&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)**Working Safely Guidance for different business settings -** [**https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/node/23544**](https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/node/23544) |
| **Latest Funding Details Overview** | **£16million - allocated to support the tourism and hospitality sector. £20million - funding for the Company Directors Scheme.An extension of the 12 months rates holiday to local newspapers £7.5million allocated to meet the challenges of education through Covid including resources for blended learning and support for childcare.**The January monitoring allocations are as follows:- £45million – Department for Infrastructure - for DVA Reinstatement of Reserves (£10million) & Translink (£35million).-  £18.1million – Department of Education - for costs of providing ICT to the Education Authority and carrying out minor capital works across the education sector. -  £9.7million – Department for Economy – Higher Education Quality Research and Further Education Colleges Pay Remit.- £3.5million – DAERA – Financial Discipline reimbursement due from the EU.- £0.3million – Public Prosecution Service – Dilapidation Costs |
| **Employees** |
| **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** | The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) - also known as the furlough scheme, is being **extended until 30 April 2021** with eligible employees receiving 80% of their current salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month.Find out more here: <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/business-support/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-uk-wide> |
| **Free online training places**  | For people whose employment has been disrupted by the pandemic. More details of the courses available and how to access them are available at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/free-short-term-courses-improve-skills> |
| **Businesses** |
| **£10m support scheme for wet pubs** | The Wet Pubs Business Support Scheme (WPBSS) will provide £10.6m to drink-only public houses which were forced to close between July 4 and September 23.The schemes will use datasets held by Land & Property Services, as well as an additional verification checks completed by DfE (including self-declarations relating to the qualifying period of time the business was closed and the submission of bank statements to evidence the relevant trading position). Payments will issue to eligible wet pubs without an additional application process.Payments will be based on the Net Annual Value (NAV) rating of the business. The payment structure, which is consistent with that of the Local Restrictions Support Scheme (LRSS), is set out below:1. Total NAV £15,000 and less:  £800 per week x 12 weeks
2. Total NAV £15,001 to £51,000:  £1,200 per week x 12 weeks
3. Total NAV over £51,000:  £1,600 per week x 12 weeks

**Roll out of the scheme commenced the 11 January 2021. Qualifying Wet Pubs will be identified by my Department from a list of recipients of the Localised Restrictions Support Scheme provided by Land & Property Services.  The Department will be contacting them before the end of January 2021. Businesses will be asked to supply supporting information to ensure all recipients are correctly identified and minimise the risk of fraud and error. Once applications are verified payments will be made as soon as possible thereafter.** |
| **Localised Restrictions Support Scheme** | The Localised Restrictions Support Scheme (LRSS) is for businesses that are forced to close because of government restrictions that have a premises or are a tenant in a premises. Payments range from £800-1,600 for each week a business is closed. If a business has previously applied, it does not need to re-apply and will automatically get a top-up for the six weeks starting from 26 December in a lump sum payment of between £4,800-£9,600.Find out more here - <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-localised-restrictions-support-scheme> |
| **Covid Restrictions Business Support Scheme** | Covid Restrictions Business Support Scheme was launched on 16 October 2020 to support those businesses directly impacted by the latest Health Protection Regulations. The Covid Restrictions Business Support Scheme is for some not eligible for the LRSS.The scheme is divided in two; Part A and Part B.Part A is for businesses forced to close that don't have a premises, for example, driving instructors or hairdressers that rent a chair. Eligible applicants are entitled to £600 per week they are closed in a payment that will be made in one lump sum. If a business has previously applied, it does not need to re-apply, payments will be made automatically.Part B is for businesses that are in the supply chain of those businesses forced to close because of restrictions and have seen a 40% reduction in turnover, for example, a food producer or a wedding photographer. Grants of between £2,400-4,800 are available depending on the size of the business. Those who don't pay rates can get a grant of £1,800. Full details on both Part A and Part B of the CRBSS, including an eligibility checker, are available at:Part A: [https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/crbss-part-a](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nibusinessinfo.co.uk%2Fcrbss-part-a&data=04%7C01%7CVivienne.Walsh%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7Cac17bee05da54be6a3b908d892da5543%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637420813717858951%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=sYCp9LBWcT6GVwe3AgwuMvoSq2FQ0Ki3iSdu%2BouPqH4%3D&reserved=0)    Part B: <https://nibusinessinfo.co.uk/crbss-part-b>  **The scheme is now open for new applicants.** |
| **Apprenticeship Recovery package plan – Return, Retain and Result** | Employers are offered £3,700 for every apprentice brought back from furlough - £500 return payment, £2,000 for the employer who retains the apprentice for 4 months following return from furlough and £1,200 when the apprentice completes their qualification. Also £3,000 will be available to employers for each new apprenticeship opportunity created 1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021.The scheme commenced on 1 November 2020. For more information visit: <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-apprenticeship-return-retain-and-result-scheme>The application form is available at <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/sites/default/files/2020-11/Apprenticeship-Return-Retain-and-Result-Scheme-Application-Form.PDF> Employers may also be interested in the new **Apprentice Recruitment Incentive** which offers up to £3,000 for each new apprenticeship opportunity created – information can be found below:[www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-new-apprenticeship-incentive-scheme](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nibusinessinfo.co.uk%2Fcontent%2Fcoronavirus-new-apprenticeship-incentive-scheme&data=04%7C01%7CVivienne.Walsh%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7Cd5062a2802d84d85e68408d896a92276%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637425000625604013%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=CoJ4D0BtPxTxY5UR%2Bljhz76PckUxEuXSl6iWCT3izug%3D&reserved=0) |
| **Covid-19 Self-Isolation Grant** | The non-repayable Discretionary Support Self-Isolation Grant assists with short-term living expenses where a person on a low income or any member of their immediate family are diagnosed with Covid-19 or advised to self-isolate in accordance with guidance published by the Public Health Agency.  The financial support available will vary according to the period of financial need and individual circumstances.To check out if you are eligible and apply for the Discretionary Support Self-Isolation grant go to [https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/extra-financial-support](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nidirect.gov.uk%2Farticles%2Fextra-financial-support&data=04%7C01%7CVivienne.Walsh%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7Cc202a00874a047c5c8d608d88a1cb463%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C1%7C637411203183620965%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5TcaFGUe0TeTHY%2FWs5TVYoDAgxCipaLG0w139KbLz8Q%3D&reserved=0) or telephone (Freephone 0800 587 2750). |
| **SSP for Small & medium-sized UK based businesses and employers**  | Covers up to 2 weeks’ SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19. Visit here for more information: <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-your-employees-due-coronavirus-covid-19> |
| **New support scheme for large tourism and hospitality businesses** | The Large Tourism and Hospitality Business Support Scheme (LTHBSS) will provide support to large businesses in these sectors which have been significantly impacted by the Health Protection Regulations put in place by the Executive. The scheme will provide additional financial support to help these businesses meet fixed costs and overheads associated with the survival of their businesses and the protection of jobs.LTHBSS will be open to businesses that have a total Net Annual Value of £51,001 and above which meet the following criteria:1. The business is named within the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 AND The business is eligible for the Localised Restrictions Support Scheme (LRSS);
2. The business is operating in Northern Ireland and was trading immediately prior to 16 October 2020.
3. The grant payment paid to businesses should not exceed the maximum levels of State aid permitted under the Covid-19 Temporary State Aid Framework.
4. Businesses which have failed to comply with a prohibition notice under regulation 7 of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020(b)) would not be eligible for support under the scheme.

The Department has identified over 250 eligible businesses in Northern Ireland with a total NAV of £51,001 or more. It will follow a tiered payment support structure ensuring that businesses with higher NAV’s receive a higher payment reflecting higher fixed costs The scheme will make a one-off payment based on weekly amounts of between £2,400 and £41,900 depending on an individual business’ NAV.Eligible businesses will receive a single grant payment based on the relevant weekly amounts - eight weeks of support for the period of restrictions to 11 December 2020 (10 weeks in the case of businesses located in the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area) PLUS six weeks of support the period of restrictions from 26 December 2020 to 6 February 2021.For example, businesses where the NAV is £51,001 to £60,000 will receive £2,400 per week. This will increase to £2,900 per week for businesses where the NAV £60,001 to £70,000 and £3,400 per week for businesses where the NAV is £70,001 to £80,000. This pattern continues up to a NAV of £600,000.From £600,001 onwards the NAV bands are widened to £100,000 with increments of £2,500. For example, £31,900 per week for a business with a NAV of £600,001 to £700,000 and £34,400 per week for a business with a NAV of between £700,001 and £800,000. Finally business where the NAV is £1,000,001 or greater will receive a maximum of £41,900 per week.   The Department will contact eligible businesses to provide an application form (with a unique application number). Once the application form has been fully completed and returned with the required supporting evidence, it will be assessed and a grant payment will issue in March. |
| **£4m scheme to support B&Bs, guest houses and guest accommodation**  | The Bed and Breakfast, Guest House and Guest Accommodation Scheme – opens on January 28 – and will support around 900 providers to continue to deliver much needed tourist accommodation in 2021 and beyond.The scheme, which will be administered by Tourism NI, will provide grant to support eligible businesses on a flat per room amount plus a percentage of 2019’s turnover.  The inclusion of turnover gives some recognition to business performance. The maximum grant any one business can receive will be capped at £12,500.Tourist accommodation providers meeting the following criteria will be eligible for the Bed and Breakfast, Guest House and Guest Accommodation Scheme:* the tourism accommodation provider must be compliant with the Tourism (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 and have received certification from Tourism NI;
* the accommodation was certified by Tourism NI and operational on or before 23 March 2020;
* the accommodation has an active listing on the Tourism NI consumer website  [www.discovernorthernireland.com](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.discovernorthernireland.com%2F&data=04%7C01%7CVivienne.Walsh%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7C178c2657d34b443399a408d8be22897c%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637468402862796425%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=kR04SGuOByRFTCFB2ey3Mn%2FSNhf%2B2bAck1lZlVrDx4o%3D&reserved=0) as at 1 April 2020;
* the accommodation adheres to the various regulations applicable to tourism accommodation including but not limited to the following – fire safety regulations, liquor licensing laws, package holiday regulation and food hygiene etc;
* the accommodation is fully tax compliant (registered with HMRC and all relevant tax filing with HMRC are up to date) on the date of application;
* the tourist accommodation provider was viable prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and has taken all reasonable steps to safeguard the viability of the business.

Support received under previous grant schemes will be considered in calculating the level of grant under this scheme. For example, a business which received the £10k Small Business Support Grant would only be able to access £2,500 under the Tourism NI Scheme. Businesses that received funding as part of the £25k Retail, Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Scheme will be excluded from the Tourism NI scheme.Eligible businesses will be able to apply online through the Tourism NI Flexigrant system. The grant will be paid by electronic transfer to the business bank account detailed on the application form.  |
| **The Childcare Sustainability Support Fund**  | The Childcare Sustainability Support Fund developed for the period 1 September to 31 December, will:* help childcare providers with the additional costs of operating within Covid-19 guidance; and
* provide financial support to childcare providers operating with reduced demand for services.

The Fund is open for applications on Friday 4 December from daycare and school-aged childcare settings, childminders, eligible playgroups and crèches. A grant payment will be made according to the type and size of the provider.  Eligible childcare providers will shortly receive an email inviting them to apply.The Minister said his officials are currently working on a further funding scheme which will address temporary closures during the period September to December which will be announced in due course – SEE BELOW.  Full details of the eligible providers and the available amounts, including the opportunity to apply for funding will be available at: [https://www.early-years.org/childcare-support-fund](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.early-years.org%2Fchildcare-support-fund&data=04%7C01%7CVivienne.Walsh%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7C6ea386363f12468e3a7d08d897736863%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637425869214889916%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1sPk5lmIpCvJL%2F%2FzUCtRqnVMBpG0XRXXCfPfVsBSlos%3D&reserved=0) from Friday, 4 December. |
| **The Childcare Temporary Closure Support Fund**  | T**he Childcare Temporary Closure Support Fund will provide a financial contribution towards the loss of income as a result of the Covid-19 related closures and for those providers unable to operate due to school closures during the extended half-term break in October.** **This funding support is to ensure that childcare providers do not charge parents while their provision is temporarily closed due to Covid-19 cases.  This will be a condition of funding.** Details on the application or allocation process is not available as yet, further details will follow once available. |
| **Social Economy and Community Sector** |
| **Covid Recovery Fund** | This fund will help to safely deliver essential services during the Covid-19 crisis, with an allocation of £2.5m to assist with the safe reopening of the VCSE sector and additional funds of £800,000 to provide IT and digital devices to VCSE groups which need to move services to an online platform.Groups can apply for awards up to £5,000 for purchase of PPE and IT and digital devices. Further information is available at [https://cooperationireland.org/projects/covid-recovery-application/](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcooperationireland.org%2Fprojects%2Fcovid-recovery-application%2F&data=04%7C01%7CVivienne.Walsh%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7C9f18a1a2515143ab269f08d886f0b97f%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637407715747365943%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=oSfspgVEntELBJWecwyeutPe2R8Rp2tUoPWQiU1ApqA%3D&reserved=0) |
| **Loans** |
| **Bounce Back Loan scheme** | The Bounce Back Loan scheme helps small and medium-sized businesses to borrow between £2,000 and up to 25% of their turnover. The maximum loan available is £50,000. The government guarantees 100% of the loan and there will not be any fees or interest to pay for the first 12 months. After 12 months, the interest rate will be 2.5% a year.If you already have a Bounce Back Loan but borrowed less than you were entitled to, from 10 November you can top up your existing loan to your maximum amount. You must request the top-up by 31 January 2021. Further information here: <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-apply-bounce-back-loan-scheme> |
| **NI Small Business Loan** | Part of the Invest NI Access to Finance Strategy providing loans of £10-£15,000 to start-up businesses and £10-£100.000 for established businesses.  The NISBLF II funding can be used as well as the Bounce Back and CBILS loans.To find out more visit [www.nisblf.com](http://www.nisblf.com/) or call: Michael Carlin T: 07545250658 or Donal Leahy T: 07999751095 |
| **Coronavirus Small/Medium Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)** | **CBILS helps small and medium-sized businesses to access loans and other kinds of finance up to £5 million. The government guarantees 80 per cent of the finance to the lender and pays interest and any fees for the first 12 months.****For more information on:** <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-apply-coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-small-and-medium-sized>**The scheme is open for applications until 31 January 2021.**  |
| **Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme** | **This loan will provide a government guarantee of 80% to enable banks to make loans of up to £25 million to firms with an annual turnover of over £45 million. There is also an option of a loan up to £200 million criteria apply. This scheme is open to applications until 31 January 2021. Find out more here:** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-coronavirus-large-business-interruption-loan-scheme> |
| **The Future Fund scheme** | The Future Fund scheme will issue loans to UK-based companies ranging from £125,000 to £5 million, subject to at least equal match funding from private investors. Deadline 31 January 2021.For more information, visit the NIBusinessInfo website: <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-future-fund-innovative-businesses> |
| **Rates** |
| **Rate Relief** | For Full information on Rates relief: <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-ni-budget-2020-21-includes-further-rates-reduction>Rates relief saw hospitality, retail, leisure, tourism, childcare businesses and airports in Northern Ireland given a 12 month rates holiday last year that takes them up until 31 March 2021.**Note** A reduced VAT rate of 5% for hospitality and accommodation is in place until 31 March 2021. |
| **Tax Liabilities** |
| **Tax Assistance** | Firms  and  individuals  who  are  in  temporary  financial  distress as a result of Covid-19 and have outstanding tax liabilities may apply to HMRC to defer tax payments:[For more information on the Tax Helpline to support businesses affected by Covid-19 visit the Gov.UK website](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fnews%2Ftax-helpline-to-support-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19&data=02%7C01%7CGary.Sullivan%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7Ca11b156f0c18466358fb08d7d19fbc73%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637208356291991264&sdata=M865VoL0nx5swxChTkK%2FKLRLBD5aQVJVAYgsL%2FYNv9g%3D&reserved=0) on <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-helpline-to-support-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19>**Assistance for the firms and individuals T: 0800 024 1222** |
| **Self Employed** |   |
| **Universal Credit Allowance** | The UK Government recognises the continued impact that coronavirus (COVID-19) has had on the self-employed and has taken action to provide support. To access information visit <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/business-support/self-employment-income-support-scheme-seiss-uk-wide>  |
| **Limited Company Director's Support Scheme** | **Dodds announces £20m support scheme for company directors.** The Minister said £20million will be available for the Limited Company Directors Support Scheme (LCDSS). The scheme will open for applications at 6pm on Thursday 21 January.A £1,000 grant will be paid to eligible limited company directors. At scheme closure, any underspend will be distributed equally amongst approved applicants in the form of a top-up grant, up to a maximum of £3,500.The scheme will be delivered by Invest Northern Ireland on behalf of the Department for the Economy.More information and eligibility criteria for the scheme are available at [www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/lcdss](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nibusinessinfo.co.uk%2Flcdss&data=04%7C01%7CVivienne.Walsh%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7C2e68636d109b4e97bac508d8b88cb709%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637462261796253246%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=XR2WE0KWIMBG6dFl6ErPRa5EIbxWX8KrZzliGb6NYX0%3D&reserved=0) |
| **Self-Employed** | The UK Government recognises the continued impact that coronavirus (COVID-19) has had on the self-employed and has taken action to provide support. To access information visit <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/business-support/self-employment-income-support-scheme-seiss-uk-wide> It has been extended to include a third grant covering the period from November 2020 to January 2021 and a fourth payment to cover February-April 2021. The third grant will be 80% of average monthly profits in a single instalment, covering three months, capped at £7,500 in total. Details of the fourth grant have yet to be released. |
| **Newly Self-EmployedDEADLINE EXTENDED TO 5 FEB** | CRITERIA CHANGES NEWLY self-employed workers in Northern Ireland are able to apply for a £3,500 grant under a new £10 million scheme.Newly self-employed individuals (sole traders and those in partnerships) will be eligible for the NSESS if they commenced trading as self-employed between 6 April 2019 and 5 April 2020 and their business has been adversely impacted by Covid-19. Their trading profits for 2019/20 must be below £50,000.Under the previous criteria over 50% of their income in 2019/20 must have been from self-employment. This has been amended to allow those who commenced self-employment later in the financial year to qualify for support. If you can demonstrate that you moved from paid employment (PAYE) to self-employment during 2019/20 your income from the previous employment will not be taken into account.The rest of the eligibility criteria remains unchanged.Invest Northern Ireland will deliver the scheme on behalf of the Department for the Economy. At scheme closure any underspend will be considered and a top-up grant may be paid to eligible applicants. For more information visit: [www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/nsess](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nibusinessinfo.co.uk%2Fnsess&data=04%7C01%7CVivienne.Walsh%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7C1309e2aa37fd4f57c85208d897768dd6%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637425882719398007%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=8OemSeLtFWVGzwQtaFZLsli7K044gTHO19gNYyBbQy8%3D&reserved=0) |
| **Additional info** | Insurers must pay small firms for Covid lockdown losses - BBC News<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-55661702> |

**Coronavirus: Support for your Business through Mid and East Antrim Borough Council**

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the support available, please contact Mid & East Antrim Borough Council’s Economic Development Team on:

Email: amplify@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

Keep up to date with the latest information at: <https://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/covid-19/supporting-ourmea-businesses/>

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| **In Place** | **Details** |
| **Support for Small/Med sized businesses** | **Amplify Business Escalator Programme** Council is supporting our existing small and medium sized businesses to navigate through COVID-19 and prepare for the new economic landscape post lockdown to sustain jobs.We can help businesses realise their potential, proactively plan for a new way of working, prepare robust financial plans and to ensure an effective and efficient way of working to service their existing customers and new markets.We can provide you with 1-1 mentoring support in the following areas **Finance Support*** Detailed business plan and financials to access finance from lenders
* Preparing accounts and Financial Projections
* Financial management planning

**HR Support*** Taking staff off Furlough and reviewing contracts of employees
* HR policies after COVID-19
* Capacity Planning

**Diversification*** How to generate new revenue streams for your business
* New product/service ideas
* Market Research

**Business Continuity*** Supply chain management
* Social distancing measures in a return to business post lockdown
* Maintaining products and services
* Streamlining systems and processes

**Strategic Business*** Develop your business strategy
* Monitoring and review pre and post Covid 19
* Goal Mapping

Please note the above supports can be tailored to your specific needs. If you want to access support contact and email* E: amplify@midandeastantrim.gov.uk
* T: 028 2563 5036

*Eligible businesses must be based in the Mid and East Antrim District Council areas and employ less than 50 people. This project is part-funded by Invest Northern Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for Growth & Jobs Northern Ireland (2014-2020) Programme* |
| **Advice and Guidance** | **Support for Small/Med sized businesses** | **Kickstart** continues to provide guidance (currently via virtualmentoring) to support early stage businesses and social enterprisesand help prepare for the futureE: amplify@midandeastantrim.gov.ukT: 028 2563 5036**Go for it**Are still here to help you start a business. Business advisors can nowprovide virtual meetings to discuss as business idea.Call 0800 027 0639 or visit goforitni.com |
| **Business Webinars** **Mentoring Support** | Support for Small/Medium sized businesses | Council are providing a blend of dedicated webinars (accessible at any time) which follow with provision to book one to one mentoring slots to support your business in key areas of Finance, Human Resources and Digital/Online business.   **Webinars & Support for 2021**MEA’s Business Growth Team are here to help your business during this difficult time by enlisting support from a panel of highly qualified and experienced business mentors. These confidential 1 to 1 sessions will focus on different aspects of the challenges your business faces, and help you navigate your way through the coming weeks and beyond. Please contact the relevant Client manager to register for your business mentoring session. **Business Finance queries:** Laura McCourt Laura.McCourt@midandeastantrim.gov.uk**Digital/Remote Working queries**: Barbara Orr Barbara.Orr@midandeastantrim.gov.uk**Human Resources queries:** Allastar McGarry Allastar.McGarry@midandeastantrim.gov.ukOnline webinars from 2020Digital/Online BusinessLive Webinar 1 - Working from HomeGet assistance on how to work from home to (set up a remote office/stay connected with staff/ensure the security of your home office) with live Q&A session.Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xameVK-_oeI&feature=youtu.be> Live Webinar 2 - Delivering Services OnlineDeliver your services online Develop new ways of delivering your services online/quick e-Commerce /Facebook shops/accept payments) with live Q&A session.Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIeCvodROXc&feature=youtu.be> Live Webinar 3 - Connect with CustomersStay connected with your customers/get your social messaging right/use online tools such as Facebook Live, Zoom, Creating videos, setting up Facebook community groups with live Q&A session.Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fG25J59dIkc&feature=youtu.be> **Eligibility Criteria** - businesses must be based in the Mid and East Antrim District Council area and employ less than 50 people. ***This project is part-funded by Invest Northern Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for Growth & Jobs* Northern Ireland (2014-2020) Programme.** |
| **Business Support** | Masterclasses including: | * Digitisation and Digital Awareness
* Health and Safety Environment
* LEAN and Continuous Improvement
* Capacity Planning and Forecasting
* Purchasing and Procurement – 12 Feb 2021
* Quality Assurance and Control
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