

UK Government Support for Business in Scotland: March 2021

The UK Government has compiled a resource to help businesses in Scotland understand and navigate the wide range of support available. Below is a link where you can download the resource and we have written a summary of the contents.



See:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/972822/FINAL - UK Gov Support for Business in Scotland CD.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/972822/FINAL_-_UK_Gov_Support_for_Business_in_Scotland_CD.pdf)

Please contact us if you need help with any of these supports during these turbulent times.

Introduction

The UK Government has compiled this resource to help businesses in Scotland understand and navigate the wide range of support available. Throughout the document, links are provided for further information and take you directly to application processes online.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)

Anybody with a UK payroll can apply, including businesses, charities, recruitment agencies and public authorities. You can claim 80% of an employee's usual salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month. Employees will receive 80% of their usual salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended until the end of September 2021.

Check if you can claim for your employees' wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)

If you're self-employed or a member of a partnership and have been impacted by COVID-19, you may be eligible to claim a SEISS grant. In the 2021 Budget, it was confirmed that the fourth SEISS grant will be available from late April 2021. It will be set at 80% of 3 months' average trading profits, paid out in a single instalment, up to £7,500. The fourth grant will take into account 2019/20 tax returns and be open to those who became self-employed in the 2019/20 tax year. The rest of the eligibility criteria remain unchanged.

Your eligibility for the scheme will now be based on your submitted 2019/20 tax return. This may also affect the amount of the fourth grant which could be higher or lower than previous grants you may have received.

See: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

DWP kickstart

The £2 billion Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Kickstart Scheme puts young people at the heart of our economic recovery. The scheme provides funding to employers to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long-term unemployment. For many young people, a lack of real-world work experience can be a barrier to the job market. The Kickstart Scheme will address this by helping young people to gain experience, build skills, and boost their career prospects. The scheme is intended to complement other schemes for young people. The DWP is working closely with its counterparts in the Scottish Government to discuss how the Scottish Youth Guarantee offer will work alongside the Kickstart Scheme as their policy develops.

Kickstart is for employers of all sizes. As of 3 February 2021, smaller organisations can apply directly without having to use a gateway organisation.

Employers of all sizes can apply for funding which covers 100% of the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage (depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of 6 months, they can also claim the associated employer National Insurance contributions and the employer minimum automatic pension enrolment contribution. Employers can spread the start date of the job placements up until the end of December 2021. Further funding is available for training and support so that young people on the scheme can secure employment in the future.

See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/kickstart-scheme>

EU transition

Doing business with Europe has changed. UK businesses now need to follow new rules on exports, imports, tariffs, data and hiring when trading with firms in European Union (EU) member states. Information for all types of businesses in Scotland can be found on gov.uk, including a Brexit checker which can generate a personalised list of actions for you, your business and your family. See: <https://www.gov.uk/transition>

Export Finance

If you are already actively exporting, or considering it, the UK Government has significant resources and advice to help you reach new markets across the world. The UK Government employs around 17,300 staff in our diplomatic and development offices worldwide, including in 280 overseas embassies and high commissions. UK Export Finance (UKEF) provides the finances occasionally necessary to help businesses make the transition to entering new export markets. As the UK Government's export credit agency, UKEF's mission is to ensure no viable UK export fails for lack of finance or insurance, while operating at no net cost to the taxpayer.

For more details on exporting see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/our-products>

Innovate UK funding

Innovate UK is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Innovate UK supports innovative ideas and business growth through grant funding, loans or procurements. Organisations can apply for a funding opportunity. Each opportunity has its own eligibility criteria and scope. Opportunities are available through the Innovation Funding Service, where you can find out more about funding opportunities and which ones may be right for you. This funding is for any businesses that want to develop new products, services, and processes through innovation.

Throughout the year, Innovate UK offers various types of funding opportunities. Click below to access a list of open or upcoming opportunities.

See: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/search>

British Business Bank

The British Business Bank (BBB) is a government-owned business development bank dedicated to making finance markets work better for smaller businesses. BBB is for all types of businesses, whether you're looking for finance to start a business, grow to the next level, or stay ahead of the competition.

Whether your business has only just begun, or you're looking to grow an established business, a variety of finance options are available. The Interactive Finance Finder on BBB's Finance Hub allows you to identify the right finance option for your needs and goals. The Hub also offers business advice on how to deal with debt, how to make your business investor-ready, and much more.

See: <https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/finance-hub/>