



THE COAL MINING CHARITY

## COVID-19 - Guidance for Welfares – February 2021

### Are you accessing the financial support available to you?

Since the start of the pandemic a range of financial initiatives to support charities and businesses have been put in place by the UK government and the devolved administrations. Support differs across England, Scotland and Wales and initiatives are constantly changing, so a quick and effective way to find out what your charity or social club may be entitled to and how to apply is by using the “business coronavirus support finder” tool on gov.uk. Simply click the link below and answer a few questions to check you aren’t missing out on the support available.

- Business coronavirus support tool - <https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder>

Specific support which applies to Scotland and Wales can also be found on the following links:

- Scotland - <https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice>
- Wales - <https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/>

### Local council support for businesses

Local councils are responsible for administering support grants and other initiatives to help reduce the financial impact on your organisation. They are best placed to advise which schemes apply to you and we strongly recommend you contact your council to check you are not missing out on any support available.

- Find your local council website here - <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

### Christmas Support Payment (England only)

The Christmas Support Payment, administered by local councils in England, provides one-off grants of £1,000 to wet-led pubs who were subject to Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions in December 2020. These are pubs that predominantly serve alcohol rather than provide food and have been severely impacted over the festive season due to temporary local restrictions.

Please note - the deadline for applications has been extended to 28 February 2021 and we encourage you to contact your local council to check if you are eligible for this grant.



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### **Defer your VAT to support your cash flow**

If you deferred your VAT payment that was due between 23 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 this is now payable by 31 March 2021. **BUT** you can defer this further and pay in instalments over 11 months, interest free. We strongly encourage you to do this if it applies to you and for more information click the link below.

- Defer your VAT here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferral-of-vat-payments-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

### **Business rates holiday**

If you normally pay business rates you should have automatically received a payment holiday for 2020/21. If you haven't, contact your local council as you will be entitled to a refund.

### **Bounce Back Loans**

The scheme is open to new applications until 31 March 2021 and may now be a consideration for your welfare as you plan to recover from the pandemic. If you already have a Bounce Back Loan but borrowed less than you were entitled to, you can top up your existing loan to your maximum amount. You must request the top-up by 31 March 2021. Please always consider your ability to re-pay a loan before taking it out.

- Apply for a bounce back loan here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan>

### **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)**

A reminder that the CJRS ("furlough scheme") has been extended until 30 April 2021. Claims for furlough days in January 2021 must be made by 15 February 2021 and the final date for claiming days for April 2021 will be 14 May 2021. However, please regularly check on gov.uk for any updates to this scheme.

- Find out about CJRS here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>



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### **What will you do when the CJRS comes to an end?**

It is terribly unfortunate but also a regrettably necessary task to consider that some of the roles within your organisation may no longer be required or financially viable once the CJRS scheme comes to an end. It may also be the case that continual employment for some staff is already a risk to the future of your charity and you may need to take action sooner rather than later to protect it. You may wish to seek legal HR advice or alternatively refer to free resources via ACAS for matters relating to redundancy procedures - <https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

CISWO can also provide guidance on the statutory redundancy process, please contact your regional office for more information.

### **Keep updated with the latest information and policy changes**

Support schemes and advice are constantly changing. In order to keep up-to-date we recommend that you subscribe to email updates direct from gov.uk here - <https://www.gov.uk/email-signup/?topic=/coronavirus-taxon/funding-and-support>

### **Further help and guidance**

Please contact your usual CISWO contact for any help and advice:

**North England:** The Old Rectory, Rectory Drive, Whiston, Rotherham, S60 4JG.

01709 728 115      [NorthEngland@ciswo.org.uk](mailto:NorthEngland@ciswo.org.uk)

**South England:** Welfare Offices, Berry Hill Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG18 4JR.

01623 625 767      [SouthEngland@ciswo.org.uk](mailto:SouthEngland@ciswo.org.uk)

**Scotland:** 42 Coalburn Road, Coalburn, Lanarkshire, ML11 0LH

01506 635 550      [Scotland@ciswo.org.uk](mailto:Scotland@ciswo.org.uk)

**Wales:** Woodland Terrace, Maesycoed, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, CF37 1DZ

01443 485 233      [Wales@ciswo.org.uk](mailto:Wales@ciswo.org.uk)