

Business support packages & guidance update

Support	Overview	Eligibility criteria	Claim	Availability	Reference
<p>Localised Restrictions Support Scheme ("LRSS")</p>	<p>The LRSS is administered by the Department of Finance ("DoF") and provides financial support to businesses which have been required to close or severely limit operations at their premises under <u>the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020</u> ("the Health Protection Regulations") that have been put in place by the NI Executive, subject to some exclusions.</p> <p>Eligible businesses will receive the following amounts for every week these restrictions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small businesses (up to £15,000 NAV) – £800 • Medium businesses (£15,001 - £51,000 NAV) – £1,200 • Large businesses (over £51,000 NAV) – £1,600 	<p>Eligibility for the LRSS is directly linked to the Health Protection Regulations.</p> <p>A table summarising the restrictions on businesses that are relevant to this scheme can be found here.</p>	<p>The link and guidance notes to apply for the LRSS can be found here.</p>	<p>Businesses only need to apply for the LRSS once in relation to each premises.</p> <p>If your application is successful and localised restrictions in your area are extended, further payments will issue automatically.</p> <p>This also applies to applicants who are waiting for the outcome of their application, and to those who have requested a reconsideration of an unsuccessful application, should the application/reconsideration be successful.</p>	<p>https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-localised-restrictions-support-scheme</p>

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<p>Covid Restrictions Business Support Scheme ("CRBSS")</p>	<p>The CRBSS is administered by Invest NI on behalf of the DfE.</p> <p>CRBSS will operate in two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Part A - A business that is required to close or cease trading under the Health Protection Regulations but is not eligible for the LRSS; Successful applicants to Part A of the CRBSS will automatically receive an additional payment to cover the extended period of restrictions while they are required to stay closed. Eligible businesses will receive a grant equivalent to £600 for each week the initial Regulations are in place. This will be paid in one lump sum.</p> <p>Part B – A business which has not been forced to close, but is part of the direct supply chain to a business that is forced to close/cease trading under the Health Protection Regulations, and as a result it has been severely impacted. A one-off grant is available to eligible businesses, subdivided between those paying business rates and those that do not.</p> 	<p>CRBSS Part A is open to any business that can meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A business named within Health Protection Regulations as required to close/cease trading, but is not eligible for the LRSS. A business operating in Northern Ireland and was trading at the time the restrictions came into effect on 16 October 2020. For businesses based in the Derry City & Strabane District Council area, this date is 5 October 2020. Based means your business address must have a Derry City & Strabane District Council postcode. The income lost as a result of your business having to close or cease trading is your main source of income – i.e. accounts for more than 50% of your income. <p>CRBSS Part B is open to businesses not been named in the regulations but either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the direct supply chain of a business named in the Health Protection Regulations and as a result, has been severely impacted; or reliant upon a business named in Health Protection Regulations being open and fully operational and as a result, has been severely impacted. <p>To qualify, any business that meets the criteria above must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be based and operating in Northern Ireland and have been trading immediately prior to 16 October 2020. Have seen their turnover decline by at least 40% as a result of a business or businesses they supply, or rely upon, being named in the Health Protection Regulations. Declare that the income lost was the main source of income, accounting for more than 50% of the total income. 	<p>If you missed applying before the scheme previously closed you can now apply. Any grant payment will be backdated to the date your business was required to close or cease trading.</p> <p>If you have already applied, you do not need to make another application. Additional support payments will automatically be issued to successful applicants for the period that the restrictions apply up to Friday 5th February 2021.</p>	<p>CRBSS Part A and Part B reopened on 7th January 2020 to cover the period to 5th February 2021.</p>	<p>Part A - https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/covid-restrictions-business-support-scheme-part</p> <p>Part B - https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/covid-restrictions-business-support-scheme-part-b</p>

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<p>Wet Pubs Business Support Scheme (“WPBSS”)</p>	<p>The DfE has launched a new WPBSS which will provide £10.6m to drink-only public houses which were forced to close between 4th July and 23rd September when the rest of the hospitality sector was permitted to open and trade.</p> <p>Payments will be based on the NAV rating of the business. The payment structure, which is consistent with that of the LRSS, is set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total NAV £15,000 and less: £800 per week x 12 weeks • Total NAV £15,001 to £51,000: £1,200 per week x 12 weeks • Total NAV over £51,000: £1,600 per week x 12 weeks 	<p>Businesses meeting the following criteria will be eligible for the WPBSS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The business is named within the Health Protection Regulations; and 3. The business is eligible for the Department of Finance’s LRSS; 4. The business was closed during the period 4 July to 23 September 2020. The applicant will be eligible to apply for the number of full weeks it was closed during this period. 5. Wet pubs who have an attached off licence service are eligible for support if the wet pub element of their business was closed. 6. Businesses must have been actively trading before they were forced to close due to Covid-19 lockdown/ restrictions. <p>The following businesses are not eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses which have failed to comply with a prohibition notice under regulation 7 of The Health Protection Regulations would not be eligible for support under the scheme. • Only businesses who were fully closed during the 4 July to 23 September period are eligible, those businesses who operated at a reduced capacity are not eligible (for example those who offered a takeaway service only) • Businesses that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dissolved or about to be dissolved, insolvent or for whom insolvency action had been instigated; or • dormant, i.e. not trading but not insolvent. 	<p>Rollout of the scheme will now commence during the week beginning the 11th January 2021.</p> <p>There is no requirement to make an application for the WPBSS through an online portal. The DfE has worked with Land & Property Services to identify potentially eligible businesses within the ‘wet pubs’ industry.</p>	<p>Once the payment for a business, identified as a wet pub, has been verified and processed for the LRSS, DfE’s WPBSS team will contact those potentially eligible businesses via email and provide a scheme information and ask businesses to declare when they were closed during the 4 July to 23 September period.</p> <p>It is anticipated that all emails will be issued by 22nd January 2021.</p> <p>If you consider your business to meet the wet pub criteria and you do not receive an email from the DfE by 22 January 2021, email your details to wpbss@economy-ni.gov.uk.</p>	<p>https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/corona-virus-wet-pubs-business-support-scheme</p>

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Coronavirus: Childcare Sustainability Fund	<p>This funding scheme will be administered by Early Years - the organisation for young children - on behalf of the Department of Education (“DoE”)</p> <p>The fund will provide a financial contribution to eligible registered childcare providers who are open and providing childcare to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assist with the continued additional costs of operating within Department of Health COVID-19 guidance; and support their financial viability whilst operating with reduced demand for services <p>The amount of funding available will depend upon the type of childcare provision offered and the opening/operational date following endorsement from the HSC Trust</p>	<p>Childcare providers eligible to apply include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> childminders daycare settings school-age childcare settings community and voluntary crèches (specific conditions apply) playgroups (with additional provision other than Pre-School Education Programme (PSEP) places). <p>Only those providers who have been reactivated by their HSC Trust, have been operational during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 December 2020 and are still currently operational are eligible for this funding support.</p>	<p>The Childcare Sustainability Fund (Phase 2 - Sep-Dec 2020) is now open for applications.</p> <p>All eligible beneficiaries will receive an email from Family Support NI inviting them to apply.</p> <p>If you think you may be eligible for this funding and haven’t received an email, you should contact the Early Years Childcare Support Fund team at the following email address: sustainability@early-years.org.</p>	<p>The fund will close for all applicants at 5pm on Friday 5 February 2021.</p>	<p>https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-childcare-sustainability-fund</p>
The Childcare Temporary Closure Support Fund	<p>The Childcare Temporary Closure Support Fund will help childcare providers, including registered childminders, daycare providers, school age childcare, crèches and playgroups who have been reactivated by the trust and have been operational during the period 1 September 2020 to 31 December 2020 and are still currently operational.</p>	<p>To be eligible for this fund, you must have had to temporarily close childcare provision fully, or in the case of a childcare setting, had to close a pod or pods due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there has been a COVID positive case of either a member of staff, a childminder or a child in a setting which has resulted in the provider fully closing or in the case of a setting, a pod/group closing; or there is an inability of a setting to comply with staff:child ratios due to staff being required to self-isolate as advised by Public Health Agency. 	<p>Initially, eligible providers who have notified their Trust Early Years Teams of a positive case in their setting and those providers located on school premises will receive an invitation to apply.</p>	<p>Applications must be submitted by 5pm on Friday 5 February 2021. No late applications will be accepted.</p>	<p>See further details on the Childcare Temporary Closure Fund.</p>

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The Covid-19 Charities Fund	<p>The Covid-19 Charities Fund (Phase 2) will provide £11.7m in financial support to charities that have lost income due to Covid-19 and are unable to cover unavoidable costs between 1st October and 31st March 2021. Community Finance Ireland will administer this phase of funding on behalf of the Executive and the Department for Communities (“DfC”).</p> <p>Funding requests of up to £75,000 to be spent within 6 months will be considered.</p> <p>The amount awarded will depend on the assessment of need and the demand for the available budget.</p>	<p>Charities must meet all eligibility criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established prior to 31 March 2020 and is a lawfully operating charity as defined by the Charities Act (NI) 2008. Have at least two unrelated people on its board or committee. Have a UK bank or building society account in the legal name of the charity with at least two unrelated people who can manage the account. Was financially stable prior to the impact of COVID-19. Be able to demonstrate that fundraising or trading income has reduced due to the impact of COVID -19 and is unable to meet unavoidable costs up to 31/03/2021. Have unavoidable costs that cannot be covered by existing grants or public funding <p>Who cannot apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Amateur Sports Club Community Interest Company Non-charitable social enterprise Non-charitable trading arm 	<p>The application pack and guidance notes and supporting documents are available on the Community Finance Ireland website.</p>	<p>The Fund is open for applications from 9am on Wednesday 6 January to Friday 22 January at 4pm.</p>	<p>https://www.nicva.org/covid19/charities-fund-advice</p> <p>https://communityfinanceireland.com/covid-charity-fund-is-open-for-applications/</p>
Charity support	<p>A list of other funding supports for charities, to assist them through the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic can be found at: https://www.nicva.org/article/new-updated-covid-19-funds</p>				
Coronavirus Sports Sustainability Fund	<p>The Sports Sustainability Fund aims to help address the economic consequences of the COVID 19 health pandemic effecting the sports sector</p> <p>It will provide the financial interventions needed to stabilise and sustain sports core governing bodies of sport; enabling them to withstand the worst impacts of Covid19, specifically it will minimise the financial stress on the sports sector due to lost income as a result of COVID-19 lockdown and ongoing restrictions so as to sustain the sector</p>	<p>The Sports Sustainability Fund will only accept applications from a recognised (meaning that the governing body is named on the UK Recognition list, per the UK Recognition policy as implemented by the UK Sports Councils) governing body of sport.</p> <p>If you are not a recognised governing body and have not submitted a pre-application for recognition before the 4th December 2020, you will not be eligible to apply for this fund. See recognition of governing bodies</p>	<p>Applications must be completed online through Sport NI’s Internet Grants Applications Manager (IGAM) portal</p> <p>Governing bodies must complete the excel spreadsheet providing all information regarding current and historic income and expenditure.</p>	<p>This fund will close for completed applications at 4pm on Wednesday 20th January 2021.</p>	<p>https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-sports-sustainability-fund</p>

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Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ("CJRS")	Funds 80% of employee's usual salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month.	<p>You must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> created and started a PAYE payroll scheme on or before 30 October 2020; enrolled for PAYE online; and a UK, Isle of Man or Channel Island bank account. <p>You can only claim for furloughed employees that were employed and on payroll on 30th October 2020. This means you must have made a PAYE RTI submission to HMRC between 20 March 2020 and 30 October 2020, notifying a payment of earnings for that employee. This may differ where you have made employees redundant, or they stopped working for you on or after 23rd September 2020 and you have subsequently re-employed them.</p> <p>You can claim for employees on any type of employment contract, including full-time, part-time, agency, flexible or zero-hour contracts. Foreign nationals are eligible to be furloughed.</p> <p>There are rules about what your employees can do whilst on furlough.</p>	Claim to be submitted by 14 th of following month	The CJRS has been extended until 30 th April 2021.	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae
Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme ("CSSPRS")	The CSSPRS will repay employers the current rate of SSP that they pay to current or former employees for periods of sickness starting on or after 13 March 2020.	<p>This scheme is for employers. You can claim back up to 2 weeks of SSP if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> you have already paid your employee's sick pay (use the SSP calculator to work out how much to pay) you're claiming for an employee who's eligible for sick pay due to coronavirus you have a PAYE payroll scheme that was created and started on or before 28th February 2020 you had fewer than 250 employees on 28th February 2020 across all your PAYE payroll schemes 	You can claim online at: Claim now for Statutory Sick Pay		https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-your-employees-due-coronavirus-covid-19
Directors support	No official scheme exists for limited company directors who receive a wage through the "dividend salary" model. There is no cover for lost dividends, although many are lobbying for it. However, in November 2020, the DoF announced a support package worth £213 million which included £20 million to support company directors who have been without support up until now. No further information has been released in respect of this proposed Scheme.				

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Self-employed income support ("SEISS")	The third taxable grant is worth 80% of your average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months' worth of profits, and capped at £7,500 in total.	<p>If you were not eligible for the first and second grant based on the information in your Self-Assessment tax returns, you will not be eligible for the third.</p> <p>To make a claim for the third grant your business must have had a new or continuing impact from coronavirus between 1st November 2020 and 29th January 2021, which you reasonably believe will have a significant reduction in your profits.</p> <p>You must be a self-employed individual or a member of a partnership. You cannot claim the grant if you trade through a limited company or a trust.</p> <p>You must have traded in both tax years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018 to 2019 and submitted your Self-Assessment tax return on or before 23 April 2020 for that year 2019 to 2020 <p>You must either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be currently trading but are impacted by reduced demand due to coronavirus have been trading but are temporarily unable to do so due to coronavirus <p>You must also declare that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> you intend to continue to trade you reasonably believe there will be a significant reduction in your trading profits 	<p>The online service for the third grant is available.</p> <p>You must make your claim on or before 29th January 2021.</p>	<p>The SEISS has been extended to provide critical support to self-employed individuals and members of a partnership in the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> third grant - covering November 2020 to January 2021 fourth grant - covering February 2021 to April 2021 <p>HMRC will set out further details, including the level of the fourth grant in due course.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme</p>
Newly Self-Employed Support Scheme ("NSESS")	<p>The NSESS is administered by Invest Northern Ireland on behalf of the Department for the Economy ("DfE").</p> <p>The Scheme will offer an initial one-off taxable grant of £3,500 to newly self-employed individuals who have not been able to access support from the UK government's SEISS and whose business is adversely impacted by COVID-19.</p>	<p>NSESS is open to sole traders or individual members of a partnership business operating in Northern Ireland, which meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> commenced trading as self-employed between 6 April 2019 and 5 April 2020. have been trading at 1 March 2020 (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic). have either been temporarily unable to trade or are currently trading but impacted by reduced demand, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. over 50% of their income in 2019/20 was from self-employment. If you moved from paid employment (PAYE) to self-employment during 2019/20, you do not need to take into account the income from the paid employment when calculating this percentage. their 2019/20 trading profits were less than £50,000. In the case of a partnership business, this refers to your share of the trading profits as outlined on your individual tax return. they have experienced at least a 40% decline in trading profits between 1 March and 30 November 2020, i.e. your trading profits over this period are at least 40% lower than they would have been in the absence of the COVID-19 pandemic. they are able to provide the 10-digit HMRC & VAT Registration Number, if relevant they intend to continue to trade as a sole trader or individual member of the partnership. 	<p>You can find out if you are eligible for NSESS and apply online here</p>	<p>The NSESS will close to applications at 6pm on Friday 5th February 2021.</p>	<p>https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/newly-self-employed-support-scheme</p>

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Apprenticeship Return, Retain and Result Scheme (“ARRRS”)	<p>The aim of the scheme is to help businesses return apprentice(s) from furlough, and retain them until 31 March 2021 and on to successful completion of their apprenticeship.</p> <p>The total amount payable under the scheme will be a maximum of £3,700 per apprentice, distribution as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Return - £500 per returned furloughed apprentice payable for the first full month of paid apprenticeship from 1 November 2020. Retain – maximum of £2,000 available: £500 per month for up to 4 months of paid apprenticeship between 1 December 2020 and 31 March 2021. Result - £1,200 for successful full framework achievement of a returned furloughed apprentice. 	<p>This scheme is open to employers participating in the DfE funded ApprenticeshipsNI or Higher Level Apprenticeship programmes, who return their furloughed apprentices to work since April 2020, with payments as follows:</p> <p>What evidence will I need?</p> <p>It is important that you retain evidence of when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> your apprentice was furloughed your apprentice returned and was retained, in paid employment during the period claimed, this can be up to the total period of 5 months (1 month return and up to 4 months retained) and, your apprentice has continued and completed their paid apprenticeship 	<p>The applicant claim form can be found at: here</p> <p>Send completed forms or any queries you may have regarding the scheme or your application to ApprenticeshipsRecovery@economy-ni.gov.uk.</p>	<p>The ARRRS is now open for applications</p>	<p>https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-apprenticeship-return-retain-and-result-scheme</p>
The New Apprenticeship Incentive Scheme	<p>This incentive is available to all employers to support the recruitment of new apprentices. As an employer, you will be eligible for up to £3,000 for each new apprenticeship opportunity created from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>This bonus will apply to all new apprenticeship opportunities and includes apprentices who have been made redundant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment 1 - £2,000 after 90 days retention following start* of new paid apprenticeship Payment 2 £1,000 after 200 days retention following start* of new paid apprenticeship 	<p>This scheme is open to employers who take on an apprentice participating in the Department for the Economy funded ApprenticeshipsNI or Higher Level Apprenticeship programmes.</p> <p>As part of the application process, checks will be made to ensure that apprentices on similar pathways have not been displaced to support recruitment if this is found to be the case eligibility may be impacted.</p>	<p>The application form is available here.</p> <p>Send completed forms or any queries you may have regarding the scheme or your application to ApprenticeshipsRecovery@economy-ni.gov.uk.</p>	<p>The New Apprenticeship Incentive Scheme is now open for applications.</p>	<p>https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-new-apprenticeship-incentive-scheme</p> <p>Apprenticeship guidance for employers can be found at: https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-guidance-employers</p>

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ASM is geared to continue operating at full capacity at present and are therefore available to assist your needs. We will continue to monitor the ongoing situation to provide our clients with the information we consider will support them and may benefit them at this time.

However, if you have any specific queries that you need assistance with, please do not hesitate to contact our offices and you will be directed to the appropriate person for help.

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