

Covid Support Update June 18th

- **Eviction Protection Extended for Businesses**
- **Check if you're eligible for the coronavirus Additional Restrictions Grant**
- **Claims for furlough days in June 2021 must be made by 14 July 2021**



There have been a few updated announcements from the government this week regarding coronavirus support for businesses. We detail them below.

EVICTION PROTECTION EXTENDED FOR BUSINESSES

Businesses that have had to remain closed during the pandemic and are unable to pay rent on their commercial property will continue to be protected from eviction, giving them the breathing space they need and helping to protect jobs, the government has announced this week (16th June 2021).

In order to give places such as nightclubs and other hospitality businesses the help they need to recover from the pandemic, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick has announced that legislation will be introduced in this session to ringfence outstanding unpaid rent that has built up when a business has had to remain closed during the pandemic. Landlords are expected to make allowances for the ringfenced rent arrears from these specific periods of closure due to the pandemic and share the financial impact with their tenants.

The legislation will help tenants and landlords work together to come to an agreement on how to handle the money owed – this could be done by waiving some of the total amount or agreeing a longer-term repayment plan. This agreement should be between the tenant and landlord and, if in some cases, an agreement cannot be made, the law will ensure a binding arbitration process will be put in place so that both parties can come to a formal agreement. This will be a legally binding agreement that both parties must adhere to.

In order to ensure landlords are protected, the government is making clear that businesses who are able to pay rent, must do so. Tenants should start paying their rent as soon as restrictions change, and they are given the green light to open.

The existing measures in place to protect commercial tenants from eviction will be extended to 25 March 2022. This is to ensure that the sectors who are unable to open have enough time to come to an agreement with their landlord without the threat of eviction. [Full announcement here.](#)

CHECK IF YOUR BUSINESS IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT

The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) supports businesses that are not covered by other grant schemes or where additional funding is needed.

It provides local councils with grant funding to support businesses that are severely impacted by restrictions, and that may or may not be in the business rates system. Local councils can determine which businesses to support and determine the amount of funding provided from the ARG scheme.

Local councils are encouraged to support:

- businesses from all sectors that may have been severely impacted by restrictions but are not eligible for the Restart Grant scheme, including those which do not pay business rates
- businesses from sectors that remain closed or severely impacted by the extended restrictions, even if those businesses have already been in receipt of Restart Grants. This may include the travel and tourism sector, wedding industries, nightclubs, theatres, events industries, wholesalers, English language schools, breweries, freelance and mobile businesses including caterers, events, hair, beauty and wedding related businesses

You cannot get funding if:

- your business is in administration, insolvent or has been struck off the Companies House register
- you have exceeded the permitted subsidy allowance

[Full announcement here](#)

CLAIMS FOR FURLOUGH DAYS IN JUNE 2021 MUST BE MADE BY 14TH JULY 2021

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended until 30 September 2021. From 1 July 2021, the government will pay 70% of wages up to a maximum cap of £2187.50 for the hours the employee is on furlough.

Employers will top up employees' wages to make sure they receive 80% of wages (up to £2,500) in total for the hours the employee is on furlough. The caps are proportional to the hours not worked.

Find out more about [how the scheme is changing](#).

Claims for furlough days in June 2021 must be made by 14 July 2021.

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