



Briefing Note 15 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Thursday 2nd April 2020

1. **Headline developments announced on Wednesday 1st April 2020**

| Item | Source |
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| A | Updated guidance for local authorities setting out details of the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877286/small-business-grant-fund-and-retail-guidance-v3.pdf |
| B | Updated guidance for businesses setting out details of the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877301/small-business-grant-and-retail-leisure-hospitality-grant-guidance-for-businesses.pdf |
| C | Ministerial Press Briefing 5.00 pm 1 st April 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/business-secretarys-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-1-april-2020? |
| D | Link to slides and data sets used to support Ministerial Press Conference at 5.00 pm, 1 st April 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conference-1-april-2020?utm_source=2bd1706f-8c35-4abf-a31a-ea064aed8246&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate |
| E | Businesses may apply for automatic and immediate extension to filing company accounts https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/extensions?ga=2.234769625.690888286.1585564098-1247673890.1582625672 |
| F | Guidance related to induction for newly qualified teachers https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-induction-for-newly-qualified-teachers/covid-19-induction-for-newly-qualified-teachers-guidance |
| G | Data controllers in healthcare and other organisations to share information https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-notification-of-data-controllers-to-share-information |
| H | Updated guidance on early years and childcare closures https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures/coronavirus-covid-19-early-years-and-childcare-closures |
| I | HSE advice on first aid cover and qualifications https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/first-aid-certificate-coronavirus.htm |
| J | UK statistics: 2,392 dead (+563) 29,474 tested positive (+4,324) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public |



2. Key Sources of Government Advice

| Document | |
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| A | <p>Coronavirus: action plan – A guide to what you can expect across the UK</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/869827/Coronavirus_action_plan_-_a_guide_to_what_you_can_expect_across_the_UK.pdf</p> |
| B | <p>World Health Organisation advice</p> <p>https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019</p> |
| C | <p>NHS health advice</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</p> |
| D | <p>Mental health helplines</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/</p> |
| E | <p>Essential travel guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-essential-travel-guidance</p> |
| F | <p>Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and for vulnerable people</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults</p> |
| G | <p>Guidance for schools and other educational settings</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings</p> |
| H | <p>Guidance for schools and local authorities on maintaining educational provision</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision</p> |
| I | <p>Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE): COVID-19 guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response</p> |
| J | <p>Guidance for employees, employers and businesses</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19</p> |
| K | <p>Measures to protect people at higher risk from Coronavirus</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19</p> |

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| L | <p>Guidance on home care provision</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-home-care-provision</p> |
| M | <p>Guidance on vulnerable children and young people</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people</p> |
| N | <p>Guidance for parents and carers on supporting children & young people’s mental health</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak</p> |
| O | <p>Guidance on temporary closure of schools in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing</p> |
| P | <p>Compliance advice for businesses and other venues directed to close</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-and-other-venues-subject-to-further-social-distancing-measures/businesses-and-other-venues-subject-to-further-social-distancing-measures</p> |
| Q | <p>Emergency measures for railways to ensure continuity of operations and ticket refunds</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-ensures-ticket-refunds-and-protects-services-for-passengers-with-rail-emergency-measures</p> |
| R | <p>Stay at home guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance</p> |
| S | <p>Easy-read guide on protecting extremely vulnerable people – also known as ‘shielding’</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875126/Easy_read_guidance_on_shielding_March_2020.pdf</p> |
| T | <p>Coronavirus Act 2020</p> <p>http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf</p> |
| U | <p>Guidance for UK businesses trading internationally</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses-trading-internationally</p> |
| V | <p>Guidance on cyber security and home working</p> <p>https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working</p> |
| W | <p>Guidance for local authorities for controlling fraud during COVID-19 emergency</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875844/Fraud-Control-in-Emergency-Management-COVID-19-UK-Government-Guidance.pdf</p> |

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| X | <p>Guidance for closing certain businesses – as at 27 March 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876535/270320_Revised_Guidance.pdf</p> |
| Y | <p>Guidance on how to help safely</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely</p> |
| Z | <p>Financial help for the self-employed</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals</p> |
| A A | <p>How to check if you're covered under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme</p> |
| B B | <p>How employers can claim wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme</p> |
| C C | <p>New interim safeguarding guidance for schools, colleges and other premises in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/coronavirus-covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers</p> |
| D D | <p>Non-statutory renting guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities?</p> |
| E E | <p>Collection of healthcare guidance for healthcare workers and others</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance</p> |
| F F | <p>Online support and practical guidance for those suffering with mental health issues</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19</p> |
| G G | <p>Small Business Grant Fund & Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund – Version 3</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876893/small-business-grant-fund-retail-guidance-vers-3.pdf</p> |
| H H | <p>Easy-read guide: looking after your feelings and body</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876989/Easy_read_looking_after_your_feelings_and_body.pdf</p> |
| I I | <p>Easy-read guide: staying at home</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876715/Coronavirus_COVID-19_advice_on_staying_at_home_20200328.pdf</p> |

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| J J | <p>Easy-read guide: keeping away from other people</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876699/COVID-19_Keeping_away_from_other_people_20200328.pdf</p> |
| K K | <p>Guidance for parents & carers on looking after mental health & wellbeing of children</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak</p> |
| L L | <p>Construction site operating procedures – version 2 (updated 2 April 2020)</p> <p>http://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Site-Operating-Procedures-02-April-2020-v2.pdf</p> |
| M M | <p>Guidance for care of the deceased – for health professionals and other organisation</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased/guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased-with-suspected-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19</p> |
| N N | <p>Changes to the Care Act 2014 allowing local authorities to prioritise care and support</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities</p> |

3. Commentary

At the ministerial press briefing held at 5.00 pm the Business Secretary explained that local authorities have been given over £12 billion by the government so that they can begin making payments to businesses under the Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund. Updated government guidance on how these funds are to be administered and controlled is shown via weblinks at 1A (local authorities) and 1B (businesses).

Companies may apply for an automatic three-month extension to filing their company accounts. The weblink to the application procedure is at 1E, Companies must apply before their filing deadline.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has issued guidance to businesses regarding the provision of first aid cover and also permitted extensions to the dates of first aid certificates. If you hold a first aid certificate that expires on or after 16 March 2020 and cannot access requalification training because of coronavirus you may qualify for a 3-month extension. You must be able to explain to your training provider why you haven't been able to requalify and demonstrate what steps you have taken to access the training, if asked to do so. The weblink to further information about these arrangements is at 1I.