

**DCMS Arts Sector
Coronavirus bulletin
10 August 2020
Arts and Libraries COVID-19 Response Mailbox
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1. Key updates

NEW [Arts Council England: Culture Recovery Fund opens for applicants Monday 10 August](#)

- You must [register](#) on ACE's application portal before starting your application.

In first funding round £622m will be distributed:

- **£500m** via [@ace_national](#) to cultural organisations including museums & galleries, theatres and music venues
- **£92m** via [@HeritageFundUK](#) & [@HistoricEngland](#) to heritage sites and organisations
- **£30m** via [@BFI](#) to independent cinemas

NEW [Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage](#)

- Jointly administered by [Historic England](#) and the [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)
- Applications opened 30 July and the deadline is midday on 17 August.

NEW [British Film Institute: Culture Recovery Fund for independent cinemas](#)

- £30m has been allocated to the Culture Recovery Fund for Independent Cinemas in England which will be open for applications from Monday 3 August to Friday 30 October.

NEW [Reopening of further businesses and venues in England postponed](#)

- The Prime Minister has announced that until 15 August at the earliest, casinos, bowling alleys, skating rinks and remaining close contact services must remain closed, and that indoor performances will not resume. Pilots of larger crowds in sports venues and conference centres will not take place and wedding receptions of up to 30 people will also not be permitted. Data on the prevalence of the virus in the community in England will continue to be carefully reviewed in order to move forward with the intention to open up these higher risk settings as soon as possible.

NEW [Updated guidance on face coverings](#)

- You must wear a face covering by law in some public places unless you have a reasonable excuse for not wearing one or you are not able to wear one, for example, because of your age or a health condition.
- You are also strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in other enclosed public spaces where social distancing may be difficult and where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

NEW [Public Health England Workplace Action Cards](#)

- Action Cards designed to be printed or downloaded to keep on-hand in your business or organisation.

2. Arts reopening

[DCMS publish Guidance for Performing Arts returning to Training, Rehearsal and Performance: 09/07](#)

[MHCLG update Guidance for Multi-purpose Community Facilities to align with Performing Arts Guidance: 11/07](#)

[Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy: updated 24/07](#)

Devolved nations approaches:

- [Scotland routemap: 21/05](#)
- [Wales roadmap: 15/05](#)
- [Northern Ireland approach: 12/05](#)

3. Business support

[Plan for jobs: 08/07](#) and [Press release](#)

The Chancellor announced a series of measures to support, protect and create jobs, including:

[Temporary VAT cut for accommodation and attractions](#)

- From 15 July to 12 January 2021 the reduced (5%) rate of VAT will apply to supplies of accommodation and admission to attractions across the UK, including museums.

[Further information on the Job Retention Scheme has been published](#)

- The policy paper confirms the eligibility criteria for the Job Retention Bonus, including:
 - Which employers can claim the JRB, including clarifying the eligibility of employers that have employees who have been transferred under TUPE or due to a change in ownership;
 - Which employees an eligible employer can claim the JRB for, including clarifying eligibility for employees returning from statutory parental leave, for military reservists and employees who are on fixed term contracts;
 - What employers should do now if they intend to claim the Job Retention Bonus.

Full guidance, including on how employers will be able to claim the JRB, will be available by the end of September

Temporary VAT cut for food and non-alcoholic drinks

- The reduced (5%) rate of VAT will apply to supplies of food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, pubs, bars, cafés and similar premises from 15 July to 12 January 2021
- Further guidance on the scope of this relief will be published by HMRC in the coming days.

Eat Out to Help Out

- Every diner entitled to a 50% discount of up to £10 per head on their meal, at any participating restaurant, café, pub or other eligible food service establishment.
- The discount can be used unlimited times and will be valid Monday to Wednesday on any eat-in meal (including on non-alcoholic drinks) for all of August 2020 across the UK.
- Participating establishments will be fully reimbursed for the 50% discount.

[Get more information about the Eat Out to Help Out scheme: updated 27/07](#)

[Get a discount with the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme: updated 27/07](#)

[Business support homepage](#)

- [Financial support for businesses: updated 09/07](#)
- [Find coronavirus financial support for your business self-checker](#)
- [Business support website](#)
- [Business support helpline](#)

Support schemes for businesses

Loans

- [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CBILS\)](#) - loans of up to £5 million
- [Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CLBILS\)](#) - loans of up to £25m.
- [Bounce Back Loans Scheme: updated 04/05](#) - loans of £2,000 to £50,000 at 2.5% interest.

Grants and business rates

- [Small business grants; and retail, hospitality and leisure grants guidance: updated 23/05](#)
- [Apply for the coronavirus Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund: updated 08/06](#)
- [Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund guidance version 2: updated 23/05](#)
- [Business rates: expanded retail discount: updated 02/04](#)

Further support and guidance

Finance and procurement

- [Insolvency law: help companies trading while exploring options for rescue: updated 14/05](#)
- [Companies House support for businesses hit by COVID-19: 16/04](#)
- [Tax helpline to help businesses affected by coronavirus: updated 26/03](#) - 0800 024 1222
- [Procurement policy note 02/20: Supplier relief due to Covid-19: updated 25/06](#)
- [Procurement Policy Note 04/20: Recovery and Transition from COVID-19: updated 25/06](#)
- [Pay no Customs Duty and VAT on importing museum and gallery exhibits: 27/05](#)

Construction

- [Construction Leadership Council: site operating procedures v3: 15/04](#)
- [Procurement policy note 02/20: Guidance notes for construction contracts: 06/04](#)
- [Responsible contractual behaviour guidance: 07/05](#)
- [Construction Leadership council guidance: 07/05](#)

Staffing

- [Holiday entitlement and pay during coronavirus: 13/05](#)
- [Claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to your employees due to coronavirus: updated 29/05](#)

Other

- [£1.3 million fund to support Destination Management Organisations: 07/04](#)
- [Reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission during the pandemic: 03/06](#)
- [Code of practice for the commercial property sector: 19/06](#)
- [Apply for a moratorium under the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act: 26/06](#)

Help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus: videos and webinars

- how to make your workplace COVID-secure: [register here](#) or [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for international trade: [register here](#) or [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for small businesses and changes to reporting, regulation and tax: [recorded webinars](#)

Support across the UK

- Information for individuals and businesses in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#)

4. Employee support

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

- [Guidance for employers: updated 10/07](#)
- [Guidance for employees: updated 17/07](#)
- [Fact sheet](#)
- [Step by step guide for employers: updated 02/07](#)
- [Guidance for research organisations: 05/06](#)
- [Template: claiming for 100 or more employees through Job Retention Scheme: 19/06](#)

The following will apply for the period people are furloughed:

- **August**
 - The government will pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500.
 - Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions.
 - For the average claim, this represents 5% of the gross employment costs.
- **September**
 - The government will pay 70% of wages up to a cap of £2,187.50.
 - Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 10% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500.
 - For the average claim, this represents 14% of the gross employment costs.
- **October**
 - The government will pay 60% of wages up to a cap of £1,875.
 - Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 20% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500.
 - For the average claim, this represents 23% of the gross employment costs.

[Self-employment Income Support Scheme: updated 16/07](#)

- [Online eligibility checker tool](#)
- Applications for the second SEISS grant will open in August. Individuals will be able to claim a second taxable grant worth 70% of their average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering three months' worth of profits, and capped at £6,570 in total.

5. Health guidance

[Coronavirus: collected guidance: updated 10/08](#)

Latest government guidance for health professionals and other organisations.

- [Staying alert and safe \(social distancing\): updated 31/07](#)
- [Working safely during coronavirus: updated 07/08](#)
- [Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do: updated 25/07](#)
- [Meeting people from outside your household: updated 17/07](#)
- [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection: updated 04/08](#)
- [Guidance for contacts of people with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection who do not live with the person: updated 13/07](#)
- [Meeting people from outside your household from 4 July: updated 17/07](#)

Face coverings

- [Public advised to cover faces in enclosed spaces: 11/05](#)
- [How to wear and make a cloth face covering: updated 15/07](#)

[New rules on gatherings in some parts of Northern England: 30/07](#)

[North of England: local restrictions – what you can and cannot do: updated 10/08](#)

6. Sector support and funding

[NLHF Heritage Emergency Fund grants details](#)

- The £50m Heritage Emergency Fund accepts applications for two grant levels, £3,000 to £50,000 or £50,000 to £250,000, to cover emergency costs during this difficult time. Applications for this fund are now closed.
 - [Guidance for grants from £3,000 to £50,000](#)
 - [Guidance for grants from £50,000 to £250,000](#)

[Art Fund: Respond and reimagine grants: 16/06](#)

- New grants to help museums, galleries and cultural organisations respond to immediate challenges, and offer support to adapt and reimagine ways of working for the future.
- Funding from £10,000 to £50,000. The Art Fund will consider offering 100% funding.
- Next deadline for applications is Monday 17 August

England

[Arts Council England Covid-19 support](#)

- ACE are making £160 million of emergency funding available:
 - £90m [financial support for National Portfolio Organisations](#)
 - £50m [financial support for organisations outside of the National Portfolio](#)
 - £20m [financial support for artists, creative practitioners and freelancers](#)

[Funding for councils to address coronavirus pressures and cover lost income: 02/07](#)

- Scheme to compensate councils in England for losses from museums and cultural assets
- All relevant losses, over and above the first 5% of planned income from sales, fees and charges, will be compensated for at a rate of 75p in every pound.

Wales

[Welsh government £18m support package for culture, creative and sport sector: 01/04](#)

- £7m [Arts Council of Wales](#) Arts Resilience Fund to support artists and arts organisations.
- £1m Cultural Resilience Fund for museums, collections, conservation services, archives and community and public libraries.
- £750k Emergency Relief Fund to support the smallest and most vulnerable independent sector sport, museum and heritage organisations.

Scotland

[Lifeline support for Performing Arts Venues in Scotland: 03/07](#)

- A targeted £10m fund to support Scotland's performing arts venues.
- Creative Scotland has launched a variety of funds for the Cultural and Creative Sector:
- [Creative Scotland Bridging Bursary Fund](#): This £4 million fund will offer one-off bursary payments of £500 to £2,500 to help support freelance creative professionals.
 - [Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development](#): The £7.5m fund will support creative practitioners to develop work for up to 12 months with a maximum award of £50,000.

Northern Ireland

[Minister announces £4 million lifeline for the arts in Northern Ireland: 01/07](#)

- Communities Minister Carál Ní Chuilín announced a major £4m lifeline for the arts sector

[Northern Ireland Creative Support Fund: updated 02/06](#)

- £1.5m fund for arts organisations, freelance artists, creative practitioners and performers.
- Creative Support Fund worth £500,000 for small to medium sized organisations

Other funding sources

- [Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund covid response](#)
- [Art Fund: 17/03](#)
- [Paul Hamlyn Foundation Contingency Fund: updated 28/05](#)

7. Sector information

- [Arts Council England: coronavirus guidance](#)
- [Arts Council England: Financial support for organisations outside of the National Portfolio](#)
- [Arts Council England: Financial support for National Portfolio Organisations](#)

- [Arts Council England: Financial support for artists, creative practitioners and freelancers](#)
- [Arts Council England: Economic Support Package Q&A](#)
- [Arts Council England: open funding programmes](#)
- [Arts Council England: Support for organisations from Government and other sources](#)
- [Arts Council England: Support for individuals from Government and other sources](#)
- [UK Theatre](#) - UK Theatre is the UK's leading theatre and performing arts membership organisation.
- [Society of London Theatre \(SOLT\)](#) - works with and on behalf of its Members to champion theatre and the performing arts.
- [Association of British Orchestras](#) - Represents orchestras, youth ensembles and the wider classical music industry
- [ACAS \(Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service\)](#) - COVID-19 advice for employers and employees
- [One Dance UK](#) - The sector support organisation for the dance sector.

8. Key information sources

Check regularly for updates

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): UK government response](#)
[Sign up for email alerts](#)
- [Public Health England](#)
- [NHS guidance](#)
- [FCO Travel advice](#)

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