

English Restrictions and Financial Support Summary

*This document was last reviewed on **29th December 2020**. Please note however the situation is continually changing. This document is being reviewed regularly, however, if events have changed prior to us updating it, please let the NFAN office know at info@farmattractions.net*

Updates are in red.

DETAILED GUIDANCE FOR DIFFERENT TIERS

We are glad to confirm that **outdoor attractions** at farm parks (alongside zoos and other animal attractions) can now **remain open** in Tier 4. This news was announced on Christmas Eve.

However, it also states you should exercise locally wherever possible, but you can travel a short distance within your tier 4 area to do so if necessary (for example, to access an open space).

The ability to stay open is to provide more green spaces for the public to visit (but you can still charge admission) <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-on-accessing-green-spaces-safely>

These restrictions will be reviewed in two weeks around 30th December. The full guidance on Tier 4 is here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home>.

To find out which tier you are in visit: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/full-list-of-local-restriction-tiers-by-area?mc_cid=3f601c7324&mc_eid=306d10fa95

Tier 1

More information for tier 1: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-1-medium-alert>

A quick overview...

- Farm attractions (like zoos and theme parks) can open inside and outside areas from 2 December.
- You will need to provide table service if you are selling alcohol. Restaurants and cafe's also need to take last orders by 10pm and close by 11pm.
- Takeaway services can operate without restrictions until 10pm. After 10pm, orders can only be taken by click and collect, delivery or drive-thru.
- Large Indoor or Outdoor Events (performance or shows) are restricted by capacity. You need to work to 50% capacity or 1,000 indoors/4,000 outdoors (whichever is smaller).
- Our interpretation of the latest guidance is that Santa's Grottos can take place inside and outside, with appropriate COVID-secure measures including social distancing. To find

out more: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period#visiting-shops-and-christmas-markets>

Tier 2

You can find out more detailed information on Tier 2 (high alert at): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-2-high-alert>

A quick overview:

- Farm attractions (like zoos and theme parks) can open inside and outside areas from 2 December.
- You will need to provide table service if you are selling alcohol. Pubs and bars must close, unless you are operating as a restaurant or cafe. Last orders should be taken by 10pm and closed by 11pm.
- Takeaway services can operate without restrictions until 10pm. After 10pm, orders can only be taken by click and collect, delivery or drive-thru.
- Large Indoor or Outdoor Events (performance or shows) are restricted by capacity. You need to work to 50% capacity or 1,000 indoors/2,000 outdoors (whichever is smaller).
- Tour groups must operate in line with social contact rules. This means that larger tours where different households or support bubbles (or groups of more than 6 if outdoors) interact will not be feasible
- It is worth noting that if any visitor is in Tier 2, they should also follow the rules of Tier 2 if they visit a Tier 1 area. Tier 2 cannot enter a Tier 3 area unless it is a necessity due to work, education, youth services, medical treatment or caring responsibilities.
- Our interpretation of the latest guidance is that Santa's Grottos can take place inside and outside, with appropriate COVID-secure measures including social distancing. To find out more: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period#visiting-shops-and-christmas-markets>

Tier 3

For more information on Tier 3 (very high alert): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-3-very-high-alert>

- All indoor attractions (including soft play areas) at farm attractions, zoos and theme parks must close. Indoor shops, through-ways and public toilets can remain open.
- Guidance has been updated to confirm Outdoor venues and attractions can remain open and can offer food and drink as a takeaway service.

- We have been told an outside marquee is 'outside' if it has 2 open sides. This relates back to rules on smoking shelters.
- Markets may open, however where there are larger events with activities such as funfairs, local authorities may choose to prevent these from going ahead if they are concerned about the safety practices or transmission risk.
- The guidance states that Large Outdoor Events (performances and shows) should not take place, with the exception of drive-in events. The Outdoor areas of visitor attractions can remain open.
- Bars, pubs, cafes and restaurants are closed. However, you are permitted to continue sales by takeaway, click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery services.
- We understand those within a Tier 3 area cannot leave their own Tier 3 area other than for work, education, youth services, medical treatment or caring responsibilities.
- Outdoor Santa's grottos can definitely open, however, we are aware some EHO's have given permission for indoor Santa's Grotto's to reopen in Tier 3. The relevant paragraph of the government guidance is ambiguous stating: "Santa's grottos are able to open in all tiers where they are located in venues otherwise permitted to open". Please liaise with your local Council on what you are able to do.
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-the-christmas-period#visiting-shops-and-christmas-markets>

Tier 4

Whilst the Government initially confirmed all animal attractions needed to close in tier 4, we are glad to confirm that outdoor attractions at farm parks (alongside zoos and other animal attractions) can now remain open in Tier 4. This news was announced on Christmas Eve.

However, it also states you should exercise locally wherever possible, but you can travel a short distance within your tier 4 area to do so if necessary (for example, to access an open space).

Please click here for full guidance. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home?mc_cid=63c9bd8743&mc_eid=306d10fa95

- All indoor attractions at farm parks should close. Outdoor attractions can remain open [Read The Green Space Guidance](#)
- All non-essential retail is to close
- Hospitality venues (such as cafés and restaurants) need to close, unless offering takeaway, click and collect, drive through or delivery services.
- Leisure and sports facilities must close.
- **Travelling within a tier 4 area:** If people live in a tier 4 area, they must stay at home and only travel for work, education or other legally permitted reasons. You should exercise locally wherever possible, but you can travel a short distance within your tier 4 area to do so if necessary (for example, to access an open space).

- **Travelling out of a tier 4 area:** People must only leave Tier 4 area for legally permitted reasons such as travelling to work, where they cannot work from home, for education and for caring responsibilities. The full list of exceptions will be published in the Regulations.
- **Travelling to a tier 4 area from a tier 1, 2 or 3 area:** People must not travel into a Tier 4 area from another part of the UK, other than for reasons such as travel to work where it is not possible to work from home, etc

English Government Grants

There are three grants available if your business suffers restrictions outside of a national lockdown. They could be backdated to 9th September and are granted by the local council.

(1) The Coronavirus Local Restrictions Support Grant (for closed businesses).

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-youre-eligible-for-the-coronavirus-local-restrictions-support-grant-for-closed-businesses>

This grant is paid if you are forced to close your doors. The grant will be based on the rateable value of the property on the first full day of local restrictions.

What you get:

- If your business has a property with a rateable value of £15,000 or less, you may be eligible for a cash grant of £667 for each 14-day period your business is closed.
- If your business has a property with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000, you may be eligible for a cash grant of £1,000 for each 14-day period your business is closed.
- If your business has a property with a rateable value of £51,000 or above, you may be eligible for a cash grant of £1,500 for each 14-day period your business is closed.
- The grant will be extended to cover each additional 14-day period of closure. If your business is closed for 28-days, or 2 payment cycles, it will receive £1,334, £2,000 or £3,000, depending on the rateable value of the property.

To be eligible:

- The key criteria is that you are forced to close for local restrictions, you occupy the property on and are the ratepayer).
- Is in an area of local restrictions and has been required to close because of local restrictions that resulted in a first full day of closure on or after 9th September.
- Has been required to close for at least 14 days because of the restrictions.
- Has been unable to provide its usual in-person customer service from its premises.

Businesses are not eligible if:

- You can continue to operate during the period of restrictions because you do not depend on providing direct in-person services from your premises (for example, accountants).
- Local restrictions are introduced for less than 14 days or you are closed for less than 14 days.
- You have chosen to close but have not been required to close as part of local restrictions.
- Your business has been subject to national closures, since 23rd March 2020, such as nightclubs (these are eligible for another grant support).
- You have exceeded the permitted state aid threshold.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-youre-eligible-for-the-coronavirus-local-restrictions-support-grant-for-closed-businesses>

(2) The Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB) for Open businesses.

This grant is for businesses that are not required to close for local restrictions but have been seriously impacted.

Eligible business may be entitled to a cash grant for each 28-day period under local restrictions. The government is placing responsibility on local councils to determine local needs. We have told they will exercise their discretion and local knowledge.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-youre-eligible-for-the-coronavirus-local-restrictions-support-grant-for-open-businesses>

What you get:

The grant is based on the rateable value of the property on the date of the local restrictions.

- If your business has a property with a rateable value of £15,000 or less, you may be eligible for a cash grant of up to £934 for each 28-day period.
- If your business has a property with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000, you may be eligible for a cash grant of up to £1,400 for each 28-day period.
- If your business has a property with a rateable value of £51,000 or above, you may be eligible for a cash grant of up to £2,100 for each 28-day period.

To be eligible:

- Your business is in an area subject to 'High' or 'Very High' local restrictions since 1st August 2020 and has been severely impacted because of the local restrictions.
- Your business was established before the introduction of Local COVID alert level: High restrictions.
- Your business has not had to close but has been impacted by local restrictions.

Businesses are not eligible if:

- Your business was established after the introduction of local restrictions in your local council area.

- Your business is in administration, insolvent or has been struck off the Companies House Register.
- You have exceeded the permitted state aid threshold.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-youre-eligible-for-the-coronavirus-local-restrictions-support-grant-for-open-businesses>

(3)The Coronavirus Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)

The additional restrictions grant supports business that are not covered by other grant schemes or where additional funding is needed. Local councils have the freedom to determine the eligibility criteria, however it is expected this could include:

- Businesses which supply retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors.
- Businesses in the events sector.
- Businesses required to close but which do not pay business rates.

This should be good news for many tourism businesses that has missed out on previous grants.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-youre-eligible-for-the-coronavirus-additional-restrictions-grant>

Employer or Self-Employed support

- **Furlough scheme:**

The Furlough scheme is extended to 30 April and the Job Support Scheme has been postponed. Guidance has now been updated on the link below.

There were some early references that the November/December/January furlough needs to be at least 7 consecutive days, however this reference referred to the claim period not the employee's absence on furlough.

Until 31 January employer support will revert back to August when companies had to pay NI and employer pensions contributions, whilst employees obtain 80% of their salary, capped to £2,500. The government will reassess the economic situation in January to decide whether company contributions can increase.

What is new about the Furlough Guidance?

- You can claim for staff who haven't been on the scheme before.
- HMRC intends to publish details of employers who use the scheme for claim periods from December, and employees will be able to find out if their employer has claimed for them under the scheme.
- There are now monthly deadlines for claims. Claim periods must be submitted within 14 calendar days after the month they relate to.
- After 1 December, you cannot use furlough to pay someone's notice.

As the furlough scheme has been extended the government have removed the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme bonus of £1000 per employee in January/February. It is expected this will be replaced by an alternative at some stage.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wages-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

- **Self Employed Financial Help**

This has been extended from November to April 2021 and payments made in two instalments: each covering 3 months each. You can now make a claim.

The November to January grant will be taxable and subject to NI. It is calculated at 80% of your 3 monthly average trading profits, capped to £7500 over 3 months.

The details of the February to April grant is yet to be announced.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/self-employment-income-support-scheme-grant-extension/self-employment-income-support-scheme-grant-extension>

Other financial Government Support

- **Business Rates Holiday**

A business rates holiday was introduced for the 2020 to 2021 tax year.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-your-retail-hospitality-or-leisure-business-is-eligible-for-business-rates-relief-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

- **5% VAT extension for hospitality businesses**

As part of the Winter Economy Plan, The VAT cut for hospitality and tourism sectors has been extended to 31 March 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/winter-economic-plan>

The dates in the guidance on how to claim VAT hasn't yet been updated beyond 13 January. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vat-reduced-rate-for-hospitality-holiday-accommodation-and-attractions>

- **Payment of Deferred VAT payments.**

Businesses that deferred VAT between 20 March and 30 June 2020 have been required to pay the deferred VAT in full on or before 31 March 2021.

The Government has announced that businesses will be allowed to opt into a new VAT Deferral scheme next year whereby any deferred VAT can be paid in up to 11 instalments over the course of the year so that the total deferred VAT is paid by March 2022. The online opt in process will be available in early 2021.

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

- **Bounce Back and CBILs loans.**

The UK Treasury has extended applications for Bounce Back & CBILs loans until 31 January.

Bounce Back Loans: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan>

CBILs: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme>

- **Bounce Back Loans – More Flexibility**

More flexibility has been added for Bounce Back Loans.

Specifically:

- If you have already had a Bounce Back Loan but borrowed less than you were entitled to, from 10th November you can top up your existing loan to your maximum amount. You must request this top-up by 31st January 2021.

Also, before your first repayment is due, your lender will contact you about further options to:

- Extend the term of your loan to 10 years.
- Move to interest-only repayments for a period of 6 months (you can use this option up to 3 times).
- Pause your repayments for a period of 6 months if you have already made at least 6 repayments (you can use this option once).

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

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