

Welsh Guidance & Financial Support Overview

Message from NFAN: This document was last updated on **21 December 2020**. Please note however, the situation is continually changing. If any content needs updating, please let the NFAN office know at info@farmattractions.net

The updated sections are in red.

Quick overview

Wales has now moved into Alert Level 4 (moving at midnight on Saturday 18 December) for 3 weeks, which is, earlier than originally planned. Under level 4 in Wales all visitor attractions must be closed. The guidance is below.

Christmas arrangements are also changing. Christmas bubbles and other loosening of restrictions now only applying on Christmas day.

<https://gov.wales/making-christmas-bubble-friends-and-family>

Alert Levels & Restrictions





In Wales there are 4 alert levels. Wales are currently in Alert Level 3.

- Alert Level 1 – Low Risk
- Alert Level 2 - Medium Risk
- Alert Level 3 – High Risk
- Alert Level 4 – Very High Risk.

Guidance – Levels 1 to 4

Appendix A of the [Welsh Coronavirus Control Plan](#) provide a very good overview of the restrictions at each level.

We have taken a snapshot of the guidance relevant to businesses and services.

	Alert level one (Low risk) 	Alert level two (Medium risk) 	Alert level three (High risk) 	Alert level four (Very high risk) 
Entertainment venues (cinemas, bingo halls, bowling alleys, indoor play centres and areas, casinos, amusement arcades and adult gaming centres, theatres and concert halls)	Open	Open	Closed (drive-in cinema and theatre allowed)	Closed
Indoor Visitor attractions (including museums, galleries, educational and heritage attractions, and heritage sites such as stately homes)	Open	Open	Closed	Closed
Ice skating rinks (public leisure use)	Open	Closed	Closed	Closed
Outdoor visitor attractions (including gardens, museums, theme parks, funfairs, heritage sites, farm attractions, zoos)	Open	Open	Closed	Closed

	Alert level one (Low risk)	Alert level two (Medium risk)	Alert level three (High risk)	Alert level four (Very high risk)
Businesses and services				
Non-essential retail	Open	Open	Open	Closed (click and collect allowed)
Close contact services (hairdressers, nail and beauty salons, tattoo and massage parlours, etc.)	Open	Open	Open	Closed (except medical and related services)
Hospitality (pubs, restaurants, cafes, bars, members clubs) [Table service, other mitigations like collecting contact details, and takeaway at all levels]	Licensed premises can serve alcohol between 6am and 10pm Premises (including BYO) must close by 10:20pm. Limited exceptions	Licensed premises can serve alcohol between 6am and 10pm where it is part of a substantial meal Premises (including BYO) must close by 10:20pm. Limited exceptions	No alcohol for consumption on premises Can open between 6am and 6pm, and for takeaway after 6pm	Closed (except for takeaway and delivery)
Holiday accommodation	Open	Open	Open	Essential only (for work or other reasons)

	Alert level one (Low risk)	Alert level two (Medium risk)	Alert level three (High risk)	Alert level four (Very high risk)
Leisure and fitness facilities (gyms, swimming pools, spas, fitness studios)	Open	Open	Open	Closed
Venues for events and conferences	Open	Open for limited activities (e.g. pilot indoor events)	Closed	Closed
Nightclubs and adult entertainment venues	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Community facilities				
Places of worship	Open	Open	Open	Open
Community facilities	Open	Open	Open	Limited opening (e.g. for essential public services)
Crematoriums	Open	Open	Open	Open
Libraries and archive services	Open	Open	Open	Closed to public (click and collect only)
Sports courts, golf courses, enclosed pitches	Open	Open	Open	Closed
Playgrounds, public parks	Open	Open	Open	Open

The tourism and hospitality guidance has also been updated on 19 December.

<https://gov.wales/guidance-for-tourism-and-hospitality-businesses-coronavirus>

Welsh Government Support

A new grant has been made available, in addition to the ERF Restrictions Business Fund and ERF Restrictions Discretionary Fund.

Grant 1: ERF Sector Specific Grant

This fund opens for grant applications on 11 January 2021 and will remain open for two weeks (or as long as funds last).

£80 million worth of business development grants are available (with £20 million ring-fenced for tourism).

You can now go through the Government's Eligibility Checker to assess what you can apply for at <https://fundchecker.businesswales.gov.wales/sectorspecificgrant/>

You could get:

- Micro businesses (employing between 1 and 9 people) will be able to apply for up to £10,000 on the condition they match this with their own investment of at least 10 per cent.
- SMEs (employing between 10 and 249 people) will be able to apply for up to £150,000 on the condition they match this with their own investment of at least 10% for small business (1 to 49 staff) and 20% for medium sized (50 to 249) business.
- Large businesses (employing 250+ people) will be able to apply for up to £200,000 on the condition they match this with their own investment of at least 50%.

Grant 2: ERF Restrictions Business Fund

The ERF Restrictions Business Fund will provide the following financial assistance:

- Businesses in the hospitality sectors that are in receipt of Small Business rate relief (SBRR) and have a rateable value of £12,000 or less will be eligible **for a £3,000 payment**. Tourism, leisure, and supply chain businesses qualifying for SBRR will also be eligible for this support if they have greater than 40% reduction in turnover during the restriction period.
- Hospitality businesses with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000 being **eligible for a £5,000 payment** if they are forced to close. Tourism, leisure, retail, and supply chain business in the same rateable value bracket will also be eligible for this support if they have greater than 40% reduction in turnover during the restriction period.
- Hospitality businesses with a rateable value between £51,001 and £150,000 will be **eligible for a £5,000 payment** if impacted by the restrictions. Tourism and leisure businesses in the same rateable value bracket will also be eligible for this support if they have greater than 40% reduction in turnover during the restriction period.

Accessing The Grant

The [Business Wales website](#) states "Hospitality businesses who received the Lock-down Business Grant in October via their Local Authority will begin receiving payments via the ERF Restriction Fund into their bank account during December. These businesses will not be required to re-register their details".

For all other eligible businesses to receive any of the ERF Restrictions Fund, businesses will need to register their details, as well as making a short online application to their respective local authority for the discretionary elements. These payments will start to reach businesses in January.

Grant 3: ERF Restrictions Discretionary Fund

This fund is aimed at those not eligible for Grant 2 above. Please note it is being distributed on a first come first served basis. You need to apply via your local authority.

The grant level for this strand would be set at eligible costs of **up to £2,000** per business.

- This will provide support to sub VAT sole traders without a property who are materially impacted (>40% reduced turnover) as a result of the restrictions, e.g. cleaners providing services to the hospitality industry.
- Application for the grant can be accessed by visiting the relevant local authority website, or via the Business Wales website.

You are **not eligible** for this grant if:

- You are eligible for, or have received a Non-Domestic Rate Grant from your Local Authority
- If you have 50 or more employees
- If the business generated less than 50% of your income, the business must be your main source of income.

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 2021, employer support will revert 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.

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://en.powys.gov.uk/article/9070/Business-Rates-Retail-Leisure-and-Hospitality-Rates-Relief>

- **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.bbc.co.uk/news/business-54277285>

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.

However, 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>

- **Bounceback and CBILs loans.**

The UK Treasury has extended applications for Bounceback & 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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