



COVID-19 Business Support in Manchester

Business Rate Relief

All retail, hospitality, and leisure properties are to receive a business rates holiday for the entirety of the 2020/21 financial year. This is specifically for small and medium enterprises who have up to 250 employees, and have a rateable value of between £15k-£51k.

An additional £10k relief is also available for all businesses already eligible for small business rate relief. This will come in the form of a one off payment. This is as well as an additional business rate relief of £5k during the 2020/12 financial year for public houses.

For further guidance visit the Manchester City Council COVID-19 page [here](#).

Grants

Funding of £25k in the form of a grant is also available for businesses in the retail, hospitality, and leisure sector provided that they have a rateable value of between £15k-£51k. Further eligibility criteria is yet to be confirmed, but it is likely that this grant will be facilitated via your local authority.

Statutory Sick Pay

Small and medium enterprises with up to 250 employees will be eligible to claim a rebate of 14 days SSP for employees sick as a result of COVID-19. It comes into effect on day one of sickness, but will however need to be paid back at a later date. To find out more call the National Helpline: 0800 015 9559. Lines open 8am - 8pm Mon-Fri, & 8am - 4pm Sat.

Time to Pay

This scheme offers you the option to defer or delay on payments of money owed for taxes, and is facilitated through tailored payment plans. Late payment fees and interest on taxes will be waived if HMRC are contacted immediately. To find out more call the National Helpline: 0800 015 9559. Lines open 8am - 8pm Mon-Fri, & 8am - 4pm Sat.

Fund for Vulnerable People

A £500m national fund facilitated by local authorities in order to support vulnerable people in hardship, including the self-employed, and those working in the gig economy. Those eligible to access this fund can do so via their local authority.

Universal Credit

The Government has suspended the minimum income floor for Universal Credit eligibility, thus allowing self-employed workers facing hardship to apply. You will have to wait for your first full payment, you can however get an advancement on this which is usually paid relatively quickly. Apply through this [link](#).



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Employment Support Allowance

Self-employed workers can claim ESA from the first day of isolation that has resulted from the COVID-19 illness; this is rather than the usual 7 day threshold. The application can be found [here](#).

Business Interruption Loan Scheme

To be launched week commencing 23rd March 2020 by the British Business Bank, this scheme is for small and medium enterprises who can provide evidence that they are 'long term viable'. The loans will be free of interest for the first 6 months - as this period of interest will be covered by the government. Further info can be found [here](#).

Corporate Financing Facility

Launching week commencing 23rd March 2020, this Bank of England loan facility will enable businesses to remain liquid by buying up short term debt of a business in order to ease cash flow problems. Further details can be found [here](#).

Business Growth Hub

The Business Growth Hub are offering advice on helping your business remain viable in both the short term and long term, and are also hosting webinars on a range of subjects that could help your business in this time of crisis. More info can be found [here](#).

Pro Manchester

To receive regular industry updates on the COVID-19 outbreak, you can register for regular bulletins with Pro Manchester by visiting their [website](#) and filling in the form at the bottom of the homepage.