



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

BID Area Business Support Information - COVID-19

100% Business Rates Relief

Swansea BID has been part of the important policy consultations that helped to inform the Chancellor's decision. We have also used our mature relationships with the Welsh Government to push for implementation of this important rates relief scheme for eligible businesses, under devolved legislation. As part of the service we provide to our levy payers, we take every opportunity to represent your concerns to the policy makers.

We are pleased to let you know that The Welsh Government is today announcing a package of support worth more than £200m for small businesses to help them during the coronavirus outbreak. This will be welcomed by BID levy payers set to benefit from the initiative. All eligible businesses will be contacted by the Local Authority's Rates team in due course.

Retail, leisure and hospitality businesses with a rateable value of £51,000 or less will receive 100% business rate relief and pubs with a rateable value of between £51,000 and £100,000 will receive a £5,000 reduction on their bill. A further £100m will be available for a new grant scheme for small businesses. Further details on this new rate relief scheme will be confirmed as soon as possible. Eligible businesses will be contacted directly about this.

We are advised that Welsh Government is allocating every penny of the funding it will be receiving as a consequence of the schemes the UK Government announced in England last week to support businesses in Wales. They are also aware that helping businesses with their rates bills will not be enough to protect them from the severe drop in custom many are experiencing as coronavirus cases increase. As a result, Welsh Government will be calling on the UK Government to act quickly and decisively to provide a very significant support package for vulnerable businesses and employees.

Further information to follow as a result of the Chancellors announcements 17/3/2020 late afternoon that included expanding the rate holiday for businesses.

Business Interruption Loan Scheme

The UK government announced a temporary Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme to be delivered by the British Business Bank. It will launch in a matter of weeks to support businesses to access bank lending and overdrafts. The government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to a per-lender cap on claims) to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs.

The scheme will support loans of up to £1.2 million in value. This new guarantee will initially support up to £1 billion of lending on top of current support offered through the British Business Bank.

This will be available to businesses in Wales via high street banks and the Development Bank of Wales.

It is intended to support the continued provision of finance to Welsh businesses during the Covid-19 outbreak. It will operate in much the same way as the current Enterprise Finance Guarantee but on more attractive terms for both businesses and lenders.

The Business Interruption loan Scheme is going to take a few weeks to set up. For further information on the scheme, businesses should monitor the British Business Bank's website or call British Business Bank on 0203 772 1340.

The Development Bank of Wales has loan and equity funding available immediately to Welsh businesses. The Welsh Government is working closely with the Development Bank of Wales to consider additional support to help businesses through the Covid-19 impact.

For further information please visit the Development Bank of Wales website or call 0800 587 4140.

Business Banking Support Information

Banks and other lenders have announced a range of financial support to help businesses deal with the impact of coronavirus, including:

Banks including Barclays, Santander, Virgin Money and TSB have announced they will be offering payment holidays for loans and mortgages to help businesses and individuals affected by coronavirus. Read more at www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2020/03/10/rbs-offers-mortgage-payment-relief-coronavirus-victims/.

Barclays has launched a free telephone helpline offering support and information to its business banking customers. It is also providing repayment holidays. Find out more at <https://home.barclays/news/2020/03/supporting-customers-affected-by-coronavirus/>.

Lloyds has launched a £2 billion package to help minimise disruption to business operations. Support includes repayment holidays, and no arrangement fees for new or increased overdrafts, invoice discounting and finance facilities. Read more at www.lloydsbank.com/business/coronavirus.html.

NatWest has announced a £5 billion fund to support small and medium-sized firms to deal with the impact of coronavirus. Support includes the provision of working capital, loan repayment holidays and temporary emergency loans with no fees. Read more about the support at www.rbs.com/rbs/news/2020/03/natwest-pledges-p5bn-working-capital-support-for-smes-during-cor.html.

Santander has outlined the support it is offering to customers impacted by coronavirus. Support includes a helpline and advice on managing finances. Find out more at www.santander.co.uk/about-santander/media-centre/press-releases/santander-uk-outlines-support-for-customers-during-coronavirus-outbreak.



HSBC UK

News Release

11 March 2020

HSBC UK ANNOUNCES PACKAGE OF SUPPORT FOR CUSTOMERS AFFECTED BY COVID-19

HSBC UK announces a package of support for customers as they tackle the financial impact of Covid-19.

For **personal customers** in financial difficulty, this could include:

- Short term support through reduced or deferred payments for mortgages, with longer term support through extending the remaining term of their mortgage, switching rates or switching part or all to interest-only mortgage arrangements
- Giving customers early access to fixed rate savings accounts without closure charges
- Support for customers with unsecured debt through reduced payments or breathing space to defer payments due; these solutions are tailored to individual customer need
- The option of a temporary increase in credit card and overdraft limits.

Customers who wish to discuss their financial situation can visit the Help section our website (<https://www.hsbc.co.uk/help/>) or call us on 03457 404 404.

For **business customers**, the Bank has:

- allocated £5bn to help businesses that need support*
- asked relationship managers to proactively contact customers to see what help their businesses need
- launched a helpline to support any customer queries (08000 121 614, open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday).

In addition, we will also consider:

- Offering repayment holidays to free up cash within businesses
- Reviewing overdrafts or trade loans to allow stock to be held for longer
- Providing trade finance solutions to support customers with their supply chains.

Ian Stuart, CEO, HSBC UK, said: "We know that the finances of some customers will be affected by Covid-19, so we have created this range of support measures to help them through these uncertain times.

"We're encouraging our personal and business customers to contact us if they are concerned about their finances so we can help find the most appropriate solution for their individual circumstances."

HSBC UK is working closely with the Government and UK Finance to identify emerging issues and make sure customers and businesses have the advice and support they need.