

Support for Occupiers throughout the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Outbreak

Updated 26.03.2020

Health advice should always be sought from the NHS and your GP. Information is available here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>. You should use the NHS-111 service if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days.

Type of Assistance	Offered By	Summary Details	Further Information
Businesses Tenants			
General Helpline relating to matters handled by HMRC	Government/HMRC	If you run a business or are self-employed and are concerned about paying your tax due to coronavirus, you can call HMRC's helpline for help and advice: 0800 0159 559.	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19
Business Support Helpline (England)		You can contact the Government's Business Support Helpline for free advice: 0300 456 3565.	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-employees-employers-and-businesses
VAT Deferral		The Chancellor has set out a package of temporary, timely and a targeted measures to support public services, people and businesses through this period of disruption.	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses
Time to Pay Arrangements (TTP)	HMRC	TTP arrangements are already in place for individuals and companies and can be highly personalised, depending on the taxpayer's ability to obtain funds. HMRC are often open to negotiation when it comes to payment of tax due as this prevents them taking action to recover the debt.	https://www.gov.uk/difficulties-paying-hmrc
Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)	Government in collaboration with the British Business Bank	CBILS is a new initiative launched by the Government and coordinated by the Government owned British Business Bank. It is a lending scheme for small and medium sized businesses who are experiencing disruption due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Loans of up to £5m for a maximum term of six years are available to help businesses struggling with their cashflow. Businesses looking for shorter term finance can also access	https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/supporting-business-loans-enterprise-finance-guarantee/ https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-

		overdrafts and invoice finance for a maximum of three years through CBILS.	business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils/for-businesses-and-advisors/
Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)	Government/HMRC	Legislation will be brought in over the next few weeks to allow small- and medium-sized businesses and employers to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19. See link for eligibility criteria and updates.	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses
Business Rates	Government/Local Authority	<p>Business rates are administered by local authorities.</p> <p>The Business Rates retail discount will increase in England to 100% for the 2020 to 2021 tax year for properties below £51,000 rateable value. The relief will also be expanded to the leisure and hospitality sectors in response to COVID-19. Businesses that received the retail discount in the 2019 to 2020 tax year will be rebilled by their local authority as soon as possible. Those businesses eligible for the newly expanded retail discount may need to apply to their local authority to receive the discount. Any enquiries on eligibility for, or provision of, the reliefs should be directed to the relevant local authority. Guidance for local authorities on the application of the expanded retail discount will be published by 20 March.</p> <p>The government will provide an additional £2.2 billion funding for local authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR). This will provide a one-off grant of £3,000 to business currently eligible for SBRR or Rural Rate Relief, to help meet their ongoing business costs.</p>	https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/emergencies/coronavirus/businesses-and-employers.aspx
Insurance	Your insurance provider	Businesses should check with their insurance provider if they are covered. Many businesses are unlikely to be covered as most business interruption insurance policies are dependent on damage to property, which will exclude pandemics. Some businesses may have purchased a specific add on relating to notifiable diseases, but some of these will still specify damage to the building. Some businesses may have purchased supply chain or denial of access cover which may meet their needs in this case.	

Business in the Community Charity		A checklist for contingency planning and further information on UK Government schemes has also been put together in a factsheet by the Business in the Community Charity.	https://www.bitc.org.uk/fact-sheet/small-business-and-covid-19/ https://www.bitc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/bitc-berg-factsheet-COVID-19-advicetosmallbusiness-march2020.pdf
Local Growth Hub		Provide free support, advice and sources of finance through your local 'growth hub' .	https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/?utm_campaign=Business%20Support%20Covid%20test&utm_medium=social&utm_source=stakeholder&utm_content=biz-support-covid19-stakeholder-social-220320
Banking and Associated Support	Your bank or lender	Banks and lenders are offering their own advice and support in regard to existing lending including overdrafts, loans, credit cards and mortgages. If you are in financial difficulty then make contact with your bank.	
Council Representative	Dorset Council	You can directly contact your Dorset Council Councillor for the Cranborne and Alderholt Ward	Councillor David Tooke 21 Churchill Close Alderholt Dorset SP6 3BG Email: cllr david.tooke@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk Mobile: 07789 692492
Residential Tenants			
Employment Rights and Sick Pay	Government/HMRC		Coronavirus: Employment rights and sick pay (House of Commons Library)

Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)		<p>Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) will now be available for eligible individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 or those who are unable to work because they are self-isolating in line with Government advice. This is in addition to the change announced by the Prime Minister that SSP will be payable from day 1 instead of day 4 for affected individuals.</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/statutory-sick-pay</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-employees-employers-and-businesses</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19</p>
Self-Isolation and Sick Notes	NHS-111	<p>People who are advised to self-isolate for COVID-19 can obtain an isolation note through a new online service.</p>	<p>https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care/nhs-111/</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/online-isolation-notes-launched-providing-proof-of-coronavirus-absence-from-work</p>
Financial Support	Government/Universal Credit	<p>Those who are not eligible for SSP, for example the self-employed or people earning below the Lower Earnings Limit of £118 per week, can now more easily make a claim for Universal Credit or Contributory Employment and Support Allowance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for the duration of the outbreak, the requirements of the Universal Credit Minimum Income Floor will be temporarily relaxed for those who have COVID-19 or are self-isolating according to government advice, ensuring self-employed claimants will receive support 	<p>https://www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/coronavirus/</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people will be able to claim Universal Credit and access advance payments upfront without the current requirement to attend a jobcentre if they are advised to self-isolate • contributory Employment and Support Allowance will be payable, at a rate of £73.10 a week if you are over 25, for eligible people affected by COVID-19 or self-isolating in line with advice from Day 1 of sickness, rather than Day 8. 	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-support-for-employees-benefit-claimants-and-businesses
Local Authority Support	Local Authority	The government has announced a new £500 million Hardship Fund so Local Authorities can support economically vulnerable people and households. The government expects most of this funding to be used to provide more council tax relief, either through existing Local Council Tax Support schemes, or through similar measures.	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-confirms-500-million-hardship-fund-will-provide-council-tax-relief-for-vulnerable-households https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/council-tax-covid-19-hardship-fund-2020-to-2021-guidance
Council Representative	Dorset Council	You can directly contact your Dorset Council Councillor for the Cranborne and Alderholt Ward	<p>Councillor David Tooke 21 Churchill Close Alderholt Dorset SP6 3BG</p> <p>Email: cllr david.tooke@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk</p> <p>Mobile: 07789 692492</p>

Let Farms (in addition to above guidance for businesses)			
Help for the Farming Industry	Farm Community Network and the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI)	Voluntary organisations that support farmers and families within the farming community with personal and business related matters and concerns.	https://fcn.org.uk/ https://rabi.org.uk/
General Advice and Guidance		National Farmers Union Tenant Farmers Association Country Land and Business association	https://www.nfuonline.com/ https://www.tfa.org.uk/ https://www.cla.org.uk/
Wellbeing and Mental Health			
Mental Health	Mind	General advice on how to deal with the worry and anxiety surrounding Coronavirus and self isolation.	https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/
Help for the Elderly Including Loneliness	Age UK	Specific help and guidance for those in their later years of life.	https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/health-wellbeing/conditions-illnesses/coronavirus/ Age UK Advice Line: 0800 678 1602 Lines are open 8am-7pm, 365 days a year.
General Advice and Guidance	Citizens Advice	A nationally recognised charity which offers confidential advice online, over the phone and in person for free. Free advice on a range of topics including benefits, housing, law and courts and health.	https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/ https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/health/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you/ https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/if-you-cant-pay-your-bills-because-of-coronavirus/ Search for your local Citizens Advice on the following link; https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/search-for-your-local-citizens-advice/?q=bh21+5ps&c=HOME-BUREAU

	The Money Advice Service	Free and impartial money advice, set up by the Government	https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/coronavirus-what-it-means-for-you
Campaign to End Loneliness		Providing connections in older age	https://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/blog/coronavirus-and-social-isolation/
Local Food Banks		Foodbanks are grassroots community organisations aimed at supporting people who cannot afford the essentials in life.	https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/