

# DCMS Museums and Galleries Sector Coronavirus bulletin

13 July 2020

Museums & Cultural Property COVID-19 Response Mailbox  
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## 1. Key updates

### **NEW** [Plan for jobs: 08/07](#) and [Press release](#)

The Chancellor announced a series of measures to support, protect and create jobs, including:

#### [Temporary VAT cut for accommodation and attractions](#)

- From 15 July to 12 January 2021 the reduced (5%) rate of VAT will apply to supplies of accommodation and admission to attractions across the UK, including museums.

#### *Job Retention Bonus*

- £1,000 one-off payment to employers for every furloughed employee who remains continuously employed through to the end of January 2021. Details by end of the month.

#### *£2 billion Kickstart Scheme*

- £2 billion fund to create high quality 6-month work placements aimed at those aged 16-24 who are on Universal Credit and are deemed to be at risk of long-term unemployment.
- Funding will cover 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week, plus employer NI contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions.

#### *Payments for employers who hire new apprentices*

- £2,000 to employers in England for each new apprentice hired aged under 25, and £1,500 for each new apprentice aged 25 and over, from 1st August 2020 to 31st January 2021.

#### *Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme*

- £1 billion Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme that will offer grants to public sector bodies to fund both energy efficiency and low carbon heat upgrades.

#### *Temporary VAT cut for food and non-alcoholic drinks*

- The reduced (5%) rate of VAT will apply to supplies of food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, pubs, bars, cafés and similar premises from 15 July to 12 January 2021
- Further guidance on the scope of this relief will be published by HMRC in the coming days.

#### *Eat Out to Help Out*

- Every diner entitled to a 50% discount of up to £10 per head on their meal, at any participating restaurant, café, pub or other eligible food service establishment.
- The discount can be used unlimited times and will be valid Monday to Wednesday on any eat-in meal (including on non-alcoholic drinks) for all of August 2020 across the UK.
- Participating establishments will be fully reimbursed for the 50% discount.

**[NEW Get more information about the Eat Out to Help Out scheme: 09/07](#)**  
**[Register your establishment for the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme: updated 13/07](#)**  
**[Eat Out to Help Out scheme: promotional materials: 13/07](#)**

- You can register if your establishment:
  - sells food for immediate consumption on the premises
  - provides its own dining area or shares a dining area with another establishment for eat-in meals
  - was registered as a food business with relevant local authority on or before 7 July
- This includes restaurants and cafes within tourist attractions and leisure facilities.

**[NEW Scotland: guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions: 06/07](#)**

- Good practice guidelines for re-opening museums, galleries and heritage attractions

**[NEW National Lottery Project Grants is returning](#)**

- Opens 22 July for applications, with a budget of £59.8 million available until April 2021.
- ACE are prioritising reopening this programme to help fund independent organisations, creative practitioners and freelancers as quickly as possible.
- ACE will publish updated guidance for the programme by mid-July.

**[NEW Performing Arts given green light to resume outdoors on July 11: 09/07](#)**

**[Performing Arts guidance: 09/07](#)**

- Outdoor performances with social distancing can resume from July 11.

**[NEW New planning rules to protect our cultural heritage: 12/07](#)**

- Councils will now need to take the temporary impact of coronavirus into account when considering permission for change of use, redevelopment or demolition of a theatre, concert hall or live music performance venue.

## 2. Guidance for reopening

**[Good practice guidance for reopening museums: 25/06](#)**

- Guidance for the museums sector in England intended to help employers, employees and the self-employed, and volunteers understand how to work safely.
- The guidelines should:
  - provide a set of practical considerations museums will want to work through before a museum is ready to reopen
  - be used in conjunction with COVID-safe guidelines published by HM Government, and is intended to enhance, not supplant existing regulations
  - sit alongside and inform existing business practices and standard structures already considered when managing risk and conducting business planning

Devolved nations guidance:

- [Northern Ireland: Culture and Heritage Destinations Venues: Guidance for a phased return](#)
- [Wales: Culture and heritage destinations and venues: guidance for a phased return](#)
- [Scotland: guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions: 06/07](#)

**[AIM and Museum Development checklist: 25/06](#)**

- AIM and Museum Development have developed a related checklist that takes a step-by-step look at reopening considerations, in addition to and in support of the guidance

**[Reopening timeline](#)**

- NMDC has also produced a timeline of possible stages of reopening.

### [VisitBritain “We’re good to go” industry standard: 25/06](#)

- Apply for a free UK-wide industry standard and consumer mark to reassure your customers that your business adheres to Government and public health guidance.

### International examples

- **Belgium** - Museums reopened 19 May. Old Masters Museum protective measures [here](#).
- **France** - Museums reopened from 2 June. The Louvre plans to reopen on 6 July with strict rules for social distancing and 70% of the museum open to the public.
- **Germany** - Museums reopening. The [Museumsbund](#), [Brandenburg](#) museums association and the [Saxony](#) region have published guidelines.
- **Ireland** - Museums reopening as part of **phase 3 - 29 June** with safety measures in place.
- **Italy** - Museums [reopened](#) from 18 May with [social distancing measures](#), including buying tickets in advance, wearing a mask, and clearly indicating routes to take.
- **Netherlands** - [reopened](#) from 01/06. Dutch museums association reopening [protocol](#).
- **USA** - American Alliance of Museums has published [information](#) and some basic [guidelines](#) including a collection of [sample museum reopening plans](#).

### Further information and guidance

- [Guidance for DCMS sectors](#)
- [Heritage locations guidance: 24/06](#)
- [The visitor economy guidance: 23/06](#)
- [Guidance on searching for archaeological finds in England: updated 09/07](#)
- [Guidance for shops and branches on reopening: updated 10/07](#)
- [Plans announced for London's Covid-19 recovery: 23/05](#)

## 3. Reopening museums

### [£1.57 billion investment to protect Britain’s world-class cultural, arts and heritage institutions: 05/07](#)

The investment includes:

- £1.15bn for cultural organisations through grants and loans
- £100m of targeted support for national cultural institutions
- £120m capital investment to restart construction
- Dedicated new funding for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

### [Joint statement from NMDC, AIM and MA welcoming the funding: 06/07](#)

### [Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government’s COVID-19 recovery strategy: updated 12/06](#)

### [Government announces roadmap taskforces: 13/05](#)

### [Culture Secretary announces Cultural Renewal Taskforce: 20/05](#)

### [Museums and Galleries working group members announced 04/06](#)

Devolved nations approaches:

- [Scotland routemap: 21/05](#)
- [Wales roadmap: 15/05](#)
- [Northern Ireland approach: 12/05](#)

### [UK cultural sector reopening v7](#)

- Visual representation of reopening of the cultural sector. Tweet by Ben Melham.

## 4. Business support

### **Business support homepage**

- [Financial support for businesses: updated 29/05](#)
- [Find coronavirus financial support for your business self-checker](#)
- [Business support website](#)
- [Business support helpline](#)

### **Support schemes for businesses**

#### *Loans*

- [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CBILS\)](#) - loans of up to £5 million
- [Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CLBILS\)](#) - loans of up to £25m.
- [Bounce Back Loans Scheme: updated 04/05](#) - loans of £2,000 to £50,000 at 2.5% interest.

#### *Grants and business rates*

- [Small business grants: and retail, hospitality and leisure grants guidance: updated 23/05](#)
- [Apply for the coronavirus Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund: updated 08/06](#)
- [Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund guidance version 2: updated 23/05](#)
- [Business rates: expanded retail discount: updated 02/04](#)

### **Further support and guidance**

#### *Finance and procurement*

- [Filing charity annual returns during the coronavirus pandemic: 16/03](#)
- [Companies to receive 3-month extension period to file accounts during COVID-19: 25/03](#)
- [Insolvency law: help companies trading while exploring options for rescue: updated 14/05](#)
- [Companies House support for businesses hit by COVID-19: 16/04](#)
- [Tax helpline to help businesses affected by coronavirus: updated 26/03](#) - 0800 024 1222
- [Procurement policy note 02/20: Supplier relief due to Covid-19: updated 25/06](#)
- [Procurement Policy Note 04/20: Recovery and Transition from COVID-19: updated 25/06](#)
- [Government to support businesses through Trade Credit Insurance guarantee: 13/05](#)
- [Pay no Customs Duty and VAT on importing museum and gallery exhibits: 27/05](#)

#### *Construction*

- [Letter from BEIS Secretary of State on construction: 31/03](#)
- [Construction Leadership Council: site operating procedures v3: 15/04](#)
- [Procurement policy note 02/20: Guidance notes for construction contracts: 06/04](#)
- [Responsible contractual behaviour guidance: 07/05](#)
- [Construction Leadership council guidance: 07/05](#)

#### *Staffing*

- [Rules on carrying over annual leave to be relaxed: 27/03](#)
- [Holiday entitlement and pay during coronavirus: 13/05](#)
- [Claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to your employees due to coronavirus: updated 29/05](#)

#### *Other*

- [Processing ticket refunds for cancelled charity events: 16/04](#)
- [£1.3 million fund to support Destination Management Organisations: 07/04](#)
- [Reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission during the pandemic: 03/06](#)
- [Advice on staying secure during COVID-19: 10/06](#)
- [Code of practice for the commercial property sector: 19/06](#)
- [Apply for a moratorium under the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act: 26/06](#)

## [Help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus: videos and webinars](#)

- how to make your workplace COVID-secure: [register here](#) or [watch recorded sessions](#)
- supporting and retaining staff and self-employed: [future webinars](#) and [recorded sessions](#)
- for international trade: [register here](#) or [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for small businesses and changes to reporting, regulation and tax: [recorded webinars](#)

## **Support across the UK**

- Information for individuals and businesses in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#)

## **National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) guidance on secure home working**

- [Moving your business from the physical to the digital](#)
- [Home working guidance](#)
- [Training for staff](#)

## **5. Employee support**

### [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#)

- [Guidance for employers: updated 01/07](#)
- [Guidance for employees: updated 01/07](#)
- [Fact sheet](#)
- [Step by step guide for employers: updated 02/07](#)
- [Guidance for research organisations: 05/06](#)
- [Template: claiming for 100 or more employees through Job Retention Scheme: 19/06](#)

The following will apply for the period people are furloughed:

- **June and July**
  - The government will pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500 as well as employer National Insurance (ER NICs) and pension contributions.
  - Employers are not required to pay anything.
- **August**
  - The government will pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500.
  - Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions.
  - For the average claim, this represents 5% of the gross employment costs.
- **September**
  - The government will pay 70% of wages up to a cap of £2,187.50.
  - Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 10% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500.
  - For the average claim, this represents 14% of the gross employment costs.
- **October**
  - The government will pay 60% of wages up to a cap of £1,875.
  - Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 20% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500.
  - For the average claim, this represents 23% of the gross employment costs.

### [Self-employment Income Support Scheme: updated 02/07](#)

- [Self-Employment Support Scheme extension: 29/05](#)
- [Online eligibility checker tool](#)
- Individuals can apply for the first SEISS grant until 13 July - eligible individuals can claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their average monthly trading profits.
- Applications for the second grant will open in August. Individuals will be able to claim a second taxable grant worth 70% of their average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering three months' worth of profits, and capped at £6,570 in total.

## 6. Health guidance

### [Coronavirus: collected guidance: updated 01/06](#)

Latest government guidance for health professionals and other organisations.

- [Staying alert and safe \(social distancing\): updated 09/07](#)
- [Staying safe outside your home: updated 24/06](#)
- [Working safely during coronavirus: updated 10/07](#)
- [Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do: updated 09/07](#)
- [Meeting people from outside your household: updated 09/07](#)
- [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection: updated 08/07](#)
- [Guidance for contacts of people with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection who do not live with the person: updated 17/06](#)
- [Review of 2m social distancing guidance and summary of review findings: updated 26/06](#)
- [Meeting people from outside your household from 4 July: updated 09/07](#)
- [Plans to ease guidance for over 2 million shielding: 22/06](#)
- [Update from the UK Chief Medical Officers on the UK alert level: 19/06](#)

#### *Face coverings*

- [Public advised to cover faces in enclosed spaces: 11/05](#)
- [How to wear and make a cloth face covering: updated 04/06](#)

#### *Outdoors*

- [Guidance on spending time outdoors in England: 13/05](#)
- [Guidance on accessing green spaces safely: updated 04/07](#)
- [Safer public places – urban centres and green spaces: updated 26/06](#)

### [NHS Test and Trace service: 27/05](#)

- [NHS test and trace: how it works: updated 11/06](#)
- [NHS test and trace: workplace guidance: updated 15/06](#)
- [Maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors to support NHS Test & Trace 02/07](#)
- [Privacy notice for maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors: 03/07](#)
- Assist NHS Test and Trace by keeping a temporary record of your customers and visitors for 21 days, in a way that is manageable for your organisation, and assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed. This could help contain clusters or outbreaks.
- Further information can be found [here](#), including FAQs and a toolkit for business

## 7. Sector support and information

### [National Lottery Heritage Fund information: updated 18/06](#)

#### [Heritage Emergency Fund extended: 18/06](#)

- The £50m Heritage Emergency Fund accepts applications for two grant levels, £3,000 to £50,000 or £50,000 to £250,000, to cover emergency costs during this difficult time.
- Grants can now be used to help organisations reopen after the coronavirus crisis.
- The deadline to apply has also been extended to Friday 31 July.
  - [Guidance for grants from £3,000 to £50,000](#)
  - [Guidance for grants from £50,000 to £250,000](#)

#### **England**

#### [Arts Council England Covid-19 support](#)

- ACE are making £160 million of emergency funding available.
- £64.8m invested so far in 9,666 people and organisations outside of the National Portfolio.

### Funding for councils to address coronavirus pressures and cover lost income: 02/07

- Scheme to compensate councils in England for losses from museums and cultural assets
- All relevant losses, over and above the first 5% of planned income from sales, fees and charges, will be compensated for at a rate of 75p in every pound.

### **Wales**

#### Welsh government £18m support package for culture, creative and sport sector: 01/04

- £7m [Arts Council of Wales](#) Arts Resilience Fund to support artists and arts organisations.
- £1m Cultural Resilience Fund for museums, archives and community and public libraries.
- £750k Emergency Relief Fund for independent sport, museum and heritage organisations.

#### Welsh Museums Federation £325,000 Covid-19 Resilience Grants

### **Scotland**

#### £10m lifeline support for Performing Arts Venues in Scotland: 03/07

#### Museums Galleries Scotland information: 25/03

#### Museums Galleries Scotland funding overview: 06/04

- [Urgent Response COVID-19 Fund](#) - for independent accredited museums up to £60,000 to cover up to 3 months of core costs.
- [Digital Resilience COVID-19 Fund](#) - up to £3000 to support digital working during closure.
- [COVID-19 Adaptation Fund](#) - up to £7,500 (£10,000 for partnerships) to purchase equipment and training that will enable them to reopen safely

Creative Scotland has launched a variety of funds for the Cultural and Creative Sector:

- [Creative Scotland £4m Bridging Bursary Fund](#) to help freelance creative professionals.
- [£7.5m Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development](#): to support creative practitioners to develop work for up to 12 months with a maximum award of £50,000.

#### Third Sector Resilience £20m Fund (TSRF): updated 08/05

- For charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations.

### **Northern Ireland**

- [Museums in Northern Ireland can reopen from 3 July: 02/07](#)
- [£4 million lifeline for the arts in Northern Ireland: 01/07](#)

#### Northern Ireland Creative Support Fund: updated 06/07

- £1.5m fund for arts organisations, freelance artists, creative practitioners and performers.
- Creative Support Fund worth £500,000 for small to medium sized organisations
- [Northern Ireland Museums Council: 03/07](#)

### **Other funding sources**

- [Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund covid response](#)
- [Art Fund: Respond and reimagine grants: 16/06](#)
- [Paul Hamlyn Foundation Contingency Fund: updated 28/05](#)
- [Association of Independent Museums guidance](#)
- [Museums Association: collected resource page](#)

**Cultural objects licences: new temporary procedure: updated 27/05**

- Arts Council England's Export Licensing Unit temporary export licences procedure.

**Museums In Quarantine: 22/04 - Four behind the scenes programmes** available on BBC iPlayer

**Culture Diary: cultural activities to watch at home**

**8. Key information sources**

***Check regularly for updates***

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): UK government response](#)  
[Sign up for email alerts](#)
- [Public Health England](#) twitter [Public Health England](#)
- [NHS guidance](#) twitter [NHS England](#)
- [Department of Health](#)
- [UK Prime Minister](#)
- [FCO Travel advice](#)