

# DCMS Museums and Galleries Sector Coronavirus bulletin

## 4 January 2021

Museums & Cultural Property COVID-19 Response Mailbox  
[covid19-mcp@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:covid19-mcp@dcms.gov.uk)

### 1. Key updates

#### **NEW** [National lockdown: stay at home: 04/01](#)

##### [National lockdown guidance](#)

- You must stay at home.
- You may only leave your home for work if you cannot reasonably work from home.
- Museums and galleries in England must stay closed.
- You should follow this guidance immediately. The law will be updated to reflect these new rules. Regulations will be laid on Tuesday and debated on Wednesday.

#### [Culture Recovery Fund: Repayable Finance Round Two: 14/12](#)

- **Application Deadline: 12pm (midday), Thursday 7 January 2021**
- Loans of over £1m available - no upper limit. £100m available in total.
- Museum applicants must be Accredited or working towards Accreditation.
- Statutory bodies and other public bodies including Universities and museums who run or maintain cultural services are also eligible.

#### [Culture Recovery Fund: Grants Second Round: 18/12](#)

- The Culture Recovery Fund: Grants Second Round is for cultural organisations as they transition back to a viable and sustainable operating model during April-June 2021.
- Opens 12pm **Wednesday 6 January**, closes 12pm Tuesday 26 January.
- Minimum grant amount you can apply for is now £25,000. Total fund is up to £250m.

#### [Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage: Second Round: 18/12](#)

- The National Lottery Heritage Fund is distributing £36m of funding to organisations in England, in partnership with Historic England, based on criteria set by DCMS.
- Grants of between £10,000 and £3m.
- Opens **Thursday 7 January** and you can apply any time from then until 26 January.

### 2. Current rules

#### [National lockdown: stay at home: 04/01](#)

##### [National lockdown guidance](#)

- From 00.01am Wednesday morning a national lockdown will be in place.
- You must stay at home.
- You may only leave your home for work if you cannot reasonably work from home.
- Museums and galleries in England must stay closed.

In [Wales](#), [Scotland](#) and [Northern Ireland](#) different rules apply.

- **Northern Ireland:** closed for a planned 6 week period from 23 December
- **Wales:** indoor and outdoor attractions including museums closed.
- **Scotland:** [Protection levels](#), restrictions [guidance](#) and [central belt restrictions](#)

### 3. Guidance

#### [Good practice guidance for reopening museums: updated 04/01](#)

- Guidance for the museums sector in England.

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: updated 14/12](#)

Sector resources:

- [AIM and Museum Development reopening checklist: 25/06](#)
- [Association of Independent Museum coronavirus resources](#)
- [EMBED Reopening Recommendations Guidance](#)

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

- Industry standard shows your business follows Government and public health guidance.

#### [Cultural objects licences: new temporary procedure: updated 09/12](#)

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

#### [Government Indemnity Scheme: temporary courier arrangements: updated 12/11](#)

- Details of temporary courier arrangements in place due to pandemic.

#### Further information and guidance

- [Guidance for DCMS sectors](#)
- [Heritage locations guidance: updated 01/01](#)
- [The visitor economy guidance: updated 01/01](#)
- [Guidance on searching for archaeological finds in England: updated 21/12](#)
- [Guidance for shops and branches on reopening: updated 01/01](#)
- [Performing Arts guidance: updated 01/01](#)
- [Volunteering guidance: updated 23/12](#)

### 4. Test and Trace

#### [NHS Test and Trace: requirement to maintain records: updated 02/12](#)

[NHS test and trace: how it works: updated 14/12](#)

[NHS test and trace service in the workplace: updated 15/12](#)

[NHS Test and Trace customer logging toolkit: updated 25/09](#)

[ICO guidance: 18/09](#) and [Q&A for small businesses and organisations](#)

- Mandatory for museums and galleries to have a system to collect Test and Trace data, and to ask customers to provide these details. Businesses required to retain details for 21 days.
- Museums must display an official NHS QR code poster so visitors can scan the QR code using their NHS COVID-19 App, as an alternative to visitors providing contact details.
- The regulations are [here](#), and further information [here](#), with FAQs and a business toolkit.

#### [NHS COVID-19 app launches across England and Wales: 24/09](#)

[Information and resources for app](#)

- The QR codes can be [downloaded via a website to display as posters in premises](#).

#### [COVID-19 early outbreak management action cards: updated 31/12](#)

[Arts, Heritage and Cultural Venues action card](#)

- Quick-reference guides to help you quickly identify, report and respond to any outbreak.

**[Scotland: Test and protect, multi-sector guidance: 14/07](#)**

**[Protect Scotland: 10/09](#)**

- Confidential contact tracing app. Scotland only.

## 5. Job Support

**[Chancellor extends furlough and loan schemes: 17/12](#)**

[Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#)

[Claim for employees' wages: updated 23/12](#)

[Check which employees you can put on furlough: updated 23/12](#)

- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended until the end of April.
- For claim periods running to January 2021, employees will receive 80% of their usual salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month. The £2,500 cap is proportional to the hours not worked. Employers have to pay NI and pension contributions.
- Flexible furloughing, in regard to the hours and days staff work, will continue.
- Workers made redundant in advance of 31 October can be rehired.
- The [Job Support Scheme](#) will be postponed.
- The [Jobs Retention Bonus](#) will not be paid in February.

**[Check you can claim a grant through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme: updated 29/11](#)**

[Online eligibility checker tool](#)

- Scheme extended to April 2021. Provides 2 further grants. Applications for third grant open.
- Grant for November to January calculated at 80% of average trading profits, up to £7,500.

**[Kickstart Scheme: AIM and the MA working together to support the kickstart scheme: 14/09](#)**

- The [Kickstart Scheme](#) offers fully-funded 6-month job placements to young people.

## 6. Funding

**[Culture Recovery Fund: £1.57bn to protect cultural, arts and heritage institutions: 05/07](#)**

[Culture Recovery Fund: Lifeline for culture organisations across the country: 07/11](#)

- Over £1bn has been distributed:
  - [£500m grants via ACE](#) to museums & galleries, theatres, music & comedy orgs
  - [£92m via National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England to heritage sites](#)
  - [£30m via BFI to independent cinemas](#)
  - [£165m in repayable finance to support major arts and heritage institutions: 11/12](#)
  - [Capital Kickstart Fund: 11/12](#)

[Historic England: Lifeline Grants for Culture: 07/11](#)

- £14 million investment in England's historic sites benefitting 162 heritage organisations.
- [Heritage Capital Kickstart Fund](#): supports heritage projects paused, delayed or at risk.

### England

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

[ACE National Lottery Project Grants open for applications](#)

- £59.8m available for independent organisations, creative practitioners and freelancers.

[National Lottery Heritage Fund information: updated 21/12](#)

**[Funding for councils to address coronavirus pressures and cover lost income: 02/07](#)**

[Local government income compensation scheme guidance](#)

- 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.

## Northern Ireland

### [Northern Ireland Creative Support Fund: updated 21/12](#)

#### [£2m Community Arts, Culture and Heritage Fund](#)

- Will prioritise projects which support people with disabilities and those who are vulnerable.

#### [£7.75m programme to support arts and cultural organisations: 28/10](#)

- Aimed at helping the arts and cultural sector recover from the effects of the pandemic.

#### [£4 million lifeline for the arts in Northern Ireland: 01/07](#)

- £4m fund for arts organisations, freelance artists, creative practitioners and performers.

## Scotland

### [Scottish government: supporting culture throughout the pandemic: 20/12](#)

- The Museums Recovery and Resilience Fund to receive an extra £3.1m to meet demand.

#### [Museums Galleries Scotland Coronavirus Guidance for Museums](#)

#### [Museums Galleries Scotland funding overview: 06/04](#)

- [Museum Development Fund: support for civic and university museums: 08/10](#)

Open to organisations that manage Accredited museums not eligible for the Recovery and Resilience Fund – civic (local authority and ALEO run museums) and university museums.

- [COVID-19 Adaptation Fund](#) - up to £7,500 (£10,000 for partnerships) for reopening safely

#### [Creative Scotland](#) support:

- [£7.5m Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development](#): to support creative practitioners
- [£10m lifeline support for Performing Arts Venues in Scotland: 03/07](#)

## Wales

### [Welsh government's £53m Cultural Recovery Fund: updated 23/10](#)

- £18.5m for accredited museums, archive services, and others.
- £7 million fund for freelancers to support individuals in the sector
- [£27.5m fund administered by the Arts Council of Wales](#) for galleries and arts centres.

## Other funding sources

- [Paul Hamlyn Foundation Contingency Fund: updated 10/2020](#)
- [£25m Weston Culture Fund Launched: 05/10](#)

## 7. Business support

### [Spending Review: 25/11](#)

- Over £150 million to strengthen our cultural and heritage infrastructure
- More than £100 million of capital investment for DCMS-supported bodies
- Over £320 million for our internationally renowned galleries and museums
- Six museums and galleries have been added to the VAT refund scheme.

### [Business support homepage](#)

### [Temporary VAT cut for accommodation and attractions: updated 03/12](#)

- VAT reduced from 20% to 5% for hospitality and attractions, including museums, and for food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, cafés, extended to 31 March.

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

- how to make your workplace COVID-secure: [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for international trade: [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for small businesses and changes to reporting, regulation and tax: [recorded sessions](#)

### [Business evictions ban extended until March 2021: 09/12](#)

- Business owners affected by the pandemic protected from eviction until end of March 2021.

### **Loans and grants for businesses**

*Loans - application deadline extended to 31 March*

- [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CBILS\)](#) - loans of up to £5m.
- [Bounce Back Loans Scheme: updated 30/11](#) - loans of £2,000 to £50,000 at 2.5% interest.

*Grants and business rates*

- [Further economic support announced: 31/10](#)
- Businesses required to close in England due to local or national restrictions:
  - Properties: rateable value £15k or less: £1,334 per month, £667 per two weeks
  - Properties: rateable value £15k-£51k: £2,000 per month, £1,000 per two weeks
  - Properties: rateable value £51k or over: £3,000 per month, £1,500 per two weeks.
- [Local Restrictions Support Grants and Additional Restrictions Grant: updated 27/12](#)
- [Check if eligible for Local Restrictions Support Grant \(for open businesses\): updated 22/12](#)
- [Check if eligible for Local Restrictions Support Grant \(closed businesses\): updated 31/12](#)
- [Check if you're eligible for the coronavirus Additional Restrictions Grant: updated 22/12](#)
- [Small business grants: and retail, hospitality and leisure grants guidance: updated 07/08](#)

### **Support across the UK**

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

## 8. Health guidance

### [Coronavirus: collected guidance: updated 09/11](#)

- [Social distancing: updated 22/12](#)
- [Making a support bubble with another household: updated 29/12](#)
- [Working safely during coronavirus: updated 01/01](#)
- [Public Health England Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resource Centre](#)

## 9. 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](#)