



Business & Economy News: August 2020

HM Government

Up to
£10
Mon-W

*Terms apply

The image is a promotional graphic for HM Government. It features a smiling woman with dark hair, wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt and a grey denim apron, holding a tablet. The background is a blurred indoor setting, possibly a shop or office. In the top left corner, there is the HM Government logo (the Royal Coat of Arms) and the text "HM Government". In the bottom left corner, it says "*Terms apply". On the right side, there is a blue circular graphic containing the text "Up to £10 Mon-W".

'Eat Out to Help Out' Launch and HMRC Webinar

Thousands of businesses across the country and dozens in Mendip district have signed up to the government's Eat Out to Help Out scheme. Look out for the logo or find an outlet online.

The logo means diners that eat in will benefit from a 50% discount, up to a maximum of £10 per person, on food and non-alcoholic drinks, any Monday to Wednesday in August – and no voucher is needed. You can take advantage of the offer as many times as you like during the month.

[Find a participating restaurant locally](#)

'Eat Out to Help Out' webinar for participating businesses

HMRC are running a free webinar on the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme. The webinar provides an overview of the scheme, including how the scheme works, eligible establishments, registering and making a claim and what happens after a claim has been made.

Friday August 7th: 3.45pm-4:00pm

[Register now: Eat Out to Help Out - HMRC Webinar](#)

Pavement Licences

For the latest advice and guidance on how to apply for a pavement licence.

Further information for Mendip District businesses [Pavement Licences](#)

Latest Government information on [Pavement Licences](#)

Mendip Businesses - have your say

Local businesses are urged to complete a new Somerset business survey

By completing this vital survey, local businesses will be providing much-needed intelligence to help shape the government response to the crisis, including the support that businesses are able to receive in our area of Mendip.

We know time is precious, but the survey

should take no more than 10 minutes - and these views from businesses could make a real difference. Personal data will not be shared with anyone outside of Somerset's local authorities, and participants remain fully anonymous in any reporting.

If you have questions about the survey or wish to provide additional feedback, please email economy@mendip.gov.uk

Complete the Somerset Business Survey

Kickstart business grant announcements

The Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government, Simon Clarke, has announced £20 million in new funding to help businesses in England.

Small and medium sized businesses can access grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 for new equipment and technology and specialist advice.

[Kickstart Government announcement](#)

The Heart of the South West Growth Hub provides free help and advice to businesses in Somerset and Devon. Ahead of further details on the scheme from Government, early expressions of interest may be submitted (please indicate separately if you run a tourism or hospitality business) using their 'Get in Touch' contact form.

[Click here for further information](#)

Covid-19 Arts Council Funding - August deadline

Detailed guidance for cultural, creative and heritage organisations and businesses needing urgent funding to survive and return to viability by March 2021 has now been announced by Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund/Historic England, and British Film Institute.

Cultural organisations, businesses, freelancers and other professionals are advised to

bookmark the website for further announcements and deadlines as funding rounds may be subject to change at short notice.

[Click here for further information](#)

Reporting outbreaks of Coronavirus

The Department of Health and Social Care published guidance last week for businesses and organisations on how to recognise, contain and report incidents of coronavirus.

The early outbreak management information has been created to make sure that people who run businesses or organisations:

- Know how to recognise and report an incident of coronavirus
- Are aware of measures local health protection teams may advise in order to contain an outbreak. Be prepared.

This information is contained within 'action cards' that have been designed for specific situations where an outbreak could occur.

Examples include:

- a restaurant or café
- a construction site
- a place of worship

[Click here for further information](#)

Changing rules widen access to CBILS for SMEs

HM Treasury (HMT) has confirmed that a change to EU State Aid Rules will allow more small businesses to access the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS).

The rules have been relaxed so that small and micro businesses – those employing fewer than 50 staff and with a turnover less than £9 million – will be exempt from elements of the

‘undertaking in difficulty’ test. HMT expect that all accredited CBILS lenders will implement the changes, which would also mean that businesses whose CBILS applications have previously been declined may now be eligible.

[Click here for further information](#)

Citizens Advice

Local communities and businesses in Mendip are being reminded that the UK’s largest advice provider is there for you.

If you need help, there are some new finance videos and other online resources available, to

help those with money worries.

[Click here for further information](#)

Useful Links

For more information, help, advice and support.

For business advice and information: [Heart of the South West Growth Hub](#)

Mendip District

Council: www.mendip.gov.uk/coronavirus

Somerset Coronavirus Helpline: 0300 790
6275

Government information on
coronavirus: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

[Mind in Somerset](#), available on 01823 276 892

Read the FSB blog: [Small businesses and the self-employed: taking care during the pandemic](#)

If your mental health has been more seriously affected by trying to run a small business during the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many organisations offering support such as [Samaritans](#) or [Maytree](#). The Federation of Small Businesses also offers [FSB Care](#) mental health support and toolkits both for members and as free resources.