



Office for Life Sciences

Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 5 June 2020



OLS Introduction

The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) is a joint unit between the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

This bulletin aims to keep the life sciences sector up to date on the latest guidance whilst the UK is in the transition period and during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, providing you with information from Government to help your members and networks prepare.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email Anisha.Visram@beis.gov.uk



Events

Government departments are hosting a series of free webinars to help businesses understand the support available. Keep up to date with all the latest available webinars [here](#).

Various dates – [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – How to make a claim](#)

Various dates – [Coronavirus COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme](#)

Various dates – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – Self-Employment Income Support Scheme \(SEISS\)](#)

10 June 2:30pm - Selling services overseas during and after COVID-19. Register [here](#).



Workforce

UPDATED – Information for parents and carers about the wider opening of nurseries, schools and colleges has been updated to reflect the decision, based on all the evidence, to move forward with the wider opening of education and childcare settings. You may wish to share this information with your employees, please find it [here](#).

UPDATED – [Guidance](#) for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessment organisations has been updated with information on which apprentices should be prioritised in the offer of face-to-face training from 15 June, and details of the flexibility that enables

apprentices to take end-point assessment ahead of receiving their calculated functional skills qualification results.

UPDATED – Advice for Tier 2, 4 and 5 visa sponsors in the UK who are sponsoring those affected by coronavirus [has been updated](#) to add information on scanned documents.



Support to business

UPDATED – The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced 29 May that the Government's Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will be extended. A copy of the factsheet for SEISS and CRJS is available [here](#), please find more information [here](#). Those eligible will be able to claim a second and final grant in August.

UPDATED – From 1 July 2020, businesses will be given the flexibility to bring furloughed employees back to work part time. From August 2020, the level of UK Government grant provided through the job retention scheme will be slowly tapered to reflect that people will be returning to work. Please find further information [here](#).

Further guidance on flexible furloughing and how employers should calculate claims will be published on 12 June 2020.

NEW – Small and micro businesses in England with fixed property costs that are not eligible for the Small Business Grant Fund or the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund, may be eligible for the Discretionary Grants Scheme. Your local council will run an application process and decide whether to offer you a grant. You can find [more information here](#).

UPDATED – Goods exported from the European Union after midnight on Monday 25 May 2020 will no longer require an export authorisation. The export authorisation requirement for personal protective equipment expired on 25 May 2020 and will not be extended. Find out more [here](#).

UPDATED – Businesses can now borrow up to a maximum of £200 million through the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme. You can find out more [here](#).

UPDATED – Temporary relaxations of EU and GB drivers' hours rules for all sectors can be found [here](#).

NEW – HMRC are inviting views on the technical effectiveness of taxation of COVID-19 support payments measure, which ensures that grants within the legislation are subject to tax. These grants are treated as income where the business is within the scope of either Income Tax or Corporation Tax. Find out more [here](#).

UPDATED – Guidance on the management of staff, patients and residents in health and social care settings who have been exposed to COVID-19. This has been updated in light of the test and trace guidance and added guidance for risk assessment of staff in the event of PPE breaches. Find out more [here](#).

UPDATED – The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill will implement reforms to the insolvency and corporate governance framework, together with temporary measures to support continued trading through the crisis. You can view factsheets for more information on the Bill [here](#).

UPDATED – Guidance from the Small Business Commissioner on late payment support through the COVID-19 crisis. If you'd like more information or help visit the Small Business Commissioner [website](#).

UPDATED – From 8 June, there will be [new rules](#) in place for entering the UK because of COVID-19. [Some travellers](#), including some specific workers, will be exempt from new English border rules. These workers may need to show a letter from their company or the company they are coming to work for at the border.

NEW – Trade Credit Insurance, which provides essential cover to hundreds of thousands of business-to-business transactions, will receive up to £10 billion of government guarantees. Please see further information [here](#).

MHRA updates

NEW – MHRA have received an increased number of enquiries about the use of 3D printing to manufacture medical devices and personal protective equipment (PPE) during the coronavirus pandemic.

Please [see the MHRA website for guidance](#) which aims to provide those using 3D printing to produce non-CE marked medical devices with a list of important considerations that must be demonstrated before submitting an application for [exceptional use authorisation](#) to the MHRA.

NEW – There is now a [CE marked SARS-CoV-2 Serology Quality Control \(QC\) reagent](#) intended for use in diagnostic laboratories available from the [National Institute for Biological Standards and Control](#) (NIBSC). This complements the Institute's [SARS-CoV-2 serology research reagent](#). Please see the [NIBSC website](#) for more information.

UPDATED – MHRA have previously published specific [software guidance](#) on medical device stand-alone software including apps. If your software or app has a role in responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic, but is not CE marked for this purpose, you may be able to use COVID-19 related [regulatory flexibilities](#) which provides options for exemptions and expedited clinical investigations.

Please see the MHRA [website](#) for further information.



Useful Links

- [Gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) provides a central hub of resources for the transition period
- You can sign up to email alerts about the transition period on GOV.UK at this [link](#).
- Sign up for Home Office email updates about developments on the status of EU citizens in the UK after we leave the EU and the next steps for EU citizens in the UK at this [link](#).
- Access the 'Check How to Export Goods' tool [here](#) for the information you need to export goods out of the UK market.
- Click [here](#) for more information and advice on exporting.
- Click [here](#) for updated information on the Covid-19 response from the Department for Health and Social Care and Public Health England.
- Click [here](#) for a list of Business Representative Organisations and Trade Associations you can speak with to get advice.
- Specific information for businesses and employers in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#) is available. In England, [Growth Hubs](#) can advise on local and UK Government business support.
- COVID 19 key contact details:
 - General offers of help from industry: gcfccovid19enquiries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk, or visit [this](#) webpage.
 - To offer your support producing ventilators please contact the Business Support Helpline for England on 0300 456 3565 or ventilator.support@beis.gov.uk.
 - If you have already offered to assist on the ventilators project but not received a reply, please contact existing.ventilators@dhsc.gov.uk.
 - Share the impact COVID-19 is having on your organisation with intel@beis.gov.uk
 - To provide feedback on MHRA engagement please contact engagement@mhra.gov.uk
 - To call the Business Support Helpline in England please dial **FREEPHONE 0800 998 1098**, Scotland 0300 303 0660, Business Wales 0330 060 300 and Invest Northern Ireland 0800 181 4422