

# Covid-19 SME Toolkit

What's in place	Detail applicable in NI
<b>DCSDC Get your Business Online Programme</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free Get Your Business Online Programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 remote workshops</li> <li>2 days of bespoke remote mentoring (<i>for new participants to the Business Boost Programme</i>)</li> <li>1 day of bespoke remote mentoring (<i>for existing/previous participants of Business Boost Programme</i>)</li> </ul> <p>Eligible businesses must be based in the DCSDC areas and employ less than 50 people. Contact Jacqui at Full Circle – <a href="mailto:jacqui@fullcircle.eu.com">jacqui@fullcircle.eu.com</a> to express your interest by Thursday 9th April at 12noon</p>
<b>The Business Resilience Programme</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Series of free workshops and one-to-one mentoring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initially to 15 local companies - 4 remote workshops</li> <li>- Building personal resilience in tough times</li> <li>- Leading others in crisis situations</li> <li>- Looking after your mental health</li> <li>- Managing time and managing projects</li> </ul> <p>Eligible businesses must be based in the DCSDC areas and employ less than 50 people. Contact Jacqui at Full Circle – <a href="mailto:jacqui@fullcircle.eu.com">jacqui@fullcircle.eu.com</a> to express your interest by Thursday 9th April at 12noon</p>
<b>Webinar - Navigating the Coronavirus Financial Support Interventions</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Join a range of professionals on Friday 27th March (1-2pm) as they guide you through the available supports for SME's</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This webinar will provide an overview of the financial support that has been released to date. It will look into each of the initiatives announced to date and the type of companies that it will (<i>and won't</i>) work for. The panel will also touch on how companies should plan in difficult times and the obligations that a company's board has. <b>To register visit - <a href="http://wearecatalyst.org/events">wearecatalyst.org/events</a>.</b> This event is run by Catalyst</li> </ul>
<b>Chamber of Commerce</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 will be the biggest challenge many of us will ever face but Chamber is here to support all our members throughout this crisis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chamber will ensure we are available and accessible to offer advice, guidance and any support and help businesses navigate their way through this emergency</li> </ul> <p>Chamber can be reached by email or directly on mobile <b>07548210653</b> <a href="mailto:mairead@londonderrychamber.co.uk">mairead@londonderrychamber.co.uk</a></p>
<b>25% Business Rates Reduction</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All NI businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available from 1st April '20</li> <li>Pay the 75% in instalments from July to March '21</li> <li>This means that no rates will be charged for April, May and June 2020</li> <li>For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/node/23006">https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/node/23006</a></li> </ul>
<b>Job Retention Scheme</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government grants will cover 80% of the salary of retained workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to a total of £2,500 (€2,721) a month, while businesses are shut down.</li> </ul>
<b>Statutory Sick Pay Rebate (SMEs)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cover up to 2 weeks SSP per employee who has been off work due to Covid-19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employers with less than 250 employees</li> <li>Employers should maintain records of staff absences</li> <li>Employees will not need to provide a Doctors fit note</li> <li>Waiting on advice from government on the system for how employers can reclaim this</li> </ul>



<b>Business Interruption Loan Scheme (BILS)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loans up to £5m, guaranteed by government Government to cover first 12 months interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available from Monday 23rd March</li> <li>Accessible through main banks in NI and a number of programme and sector specific lenders – see full list here: <a href="https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils/accredited-lenders/">https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils/accredited-lenders/</a></li> <li>Will be much easier if you can deal with a bank where you have an existing relationship</li> </ul>
<b>Grants to small businesses eligible for Small Business Rate Relief - £10,000</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A grant of £10,000 will be provided to all small businesses who are eligible for the Small Business Rate Relief Scheme on their premises That is all businesses with a NAV up to £15,000</li> <li>A £25,000 grant to retail, hospitality tourism and leisure businesses operating from smaller premises, with a rateable value over £15,000 and below £51,000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Account NI are starting to pay eligible businesses for whom they have bank details from Monday 23rd March. Businesses don't need to do anything. If Account NI do not have bank details they will be asked to upload bank details and the link will be promoted via <a href="http://www.nibusinessinfor.co.uk">www.nibusinessinfor.co.uk</a></li> </ul>
<b>HRMC “Time to Pay” Support</b>	
Businesses can call <b>HMRC Helpline: 0800 0159 559</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For those who are unable to pay due to coronavirus, HMRC will discuss your specific circumstances to explore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- agreeing an instalment arrangement</li> <li>- suspending debt collection proceedings</li> <li>- cancelling penalties and interest where you have administrative difficulties contacting or paying HMRC immediately</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Deferred VAT payments</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government will be automatically deferring business payments for Valued Added Tax (VAT) from 20 March 2020 until 30 June 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All UK businesses are eligible. This is an automatic offer with no applications required. Businesses will not need to make a VAT payment during this period. Taxpayers will be given until the end of the 2020 to 2021 tax year to pay any liabilities that have accumulated during the deferral period. VAT refunds and reclaims will be paid by the government as normal.</li> </ul>
<b>Income Tax Payments</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income Tax payments for the Self-Employed have been deferred until 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Income Tax Self-Assessment, payments due on the 31 July 2020 will be deferred until the 31 January 2021.</li> <li>Automatic offer, no applications required</li> <li>No penalties or interest for late payment</li> </ul>
<b>Universal Credit Allowance</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government is increasing the Universal Credit and Tax Credits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The standard rate in Universal Credit and Tax Credits will be increased by £20 a week for one year from 6 April.</li> </ul>
<b>Companies House Filing Extension</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 month extension period to file accounts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From Wednesday 25 March 2020, businesses will be able to apply for a 3-month extension for filing their accounts.</li> <li>Companies must apply for the extension before their filing deadline. A direct link to the application page is <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-more-time-to-file-your-companys-accounts">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-more-time-to-file-your-companys-accounts</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>FAQs &amp; Advice through Invest NI</b>	
Invest NI are updating a useful FAQ and signposting facility on their website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/covid-19-managing-staff-health-pay-leave-and-absence">https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/covid-19-managing-staff-health-pay-leave-and-absence</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/covid-19-managing-business-operations">https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/covid-19-managing-business-operations</a></li> <li><a href="https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/covid-19-managing-business-finance-tax-rates-and-insurance">https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/covid-19-managing-business-finance-tax-rates-and-insurance</a></li> </ul>
Invest NI Business Support Line now advising and signposting on Covid-19 related issues	<b>0800 181 44 22</b>



<b>Further Grants and Announcements</b>	
<b>Lloyd's Banking Group – Social Entrepreneurs Programme</b>	<p>Support programme to help social entrepreneurs start and scale up social enterprise, community projects and impact-led organisations across the UK</p> <p>There are several strands of funding available; Start Up, Trade Up and Scale Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start Up - projects in planning stages but ready to start, or less than two years old. The project must make between £0 and £15,000 per year</li> <li>• Trade Up - projects that were established at least a year ago, and has at least one paid member of staff. It makes at least £15,000 a year</li> <li>• Scale Up - projects that were established two or more years ago, and has two or more paid members of staff. It makes at least £75,000 a year</li> </ul> <p>For more info <a href="https://www.the-sse.org/our-courses/programmes/lbsep/">https://www.the-sse.org/our-courses/programmes/lbsep/</a></p>
<b>The Facebook Small Business Grants Programme</b>	<p>Facebook is offering approximately £84 million in cash grants and advertising credits on its ad platform for up to 30,000 eligible small businesses</p> <p>The funding is intended to help firms in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covering operational costs</li> <li>• Helping with rent costs</li> <li>• Connecting with more customers</li> <li>• Maintaining a strong workforce</li> </ul> <p>Further information on eligibility criteria and how to apply to be announced</p> <p>For more information <a href="https://www.facebook.com/business/boost/grants">https://www.facebook.com/business/boost/grants</a></p>
<b>Facebook Business Hub</b>	<p>Previously a resource limited to Facebook employees and health experts, this will now be available for all businesses to access</p> <p>The company has also pledged to create new 'virtual training' to support businesses operating during the coronavirus outbreak</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/business">https://www.facebook.com/business</a></p>
<b>Banks</b>	
<p>Most of our local banks have now set up dedicated teams to help business customers deal with the effects of Coronavirus. Most are offering immediate working capital and some flexible arrangements in terms of managing cashflow.</p> <p>* Please see latest links from local banks but please get in touch with your bank relationship manager to receive an update bespoke to your requirements</p> <p>* We hope to include other banks as we receive updates so please keep an eye for updates</p>	<p><b>Ulster Bank:</b> <a href="https://digital.ulsterbank.co.uk/business/support/service-status/coronavirus.html">https://digital.ulsterbank.co.uk/business/support/service-status/coronavirus.html</a></p> <p><b>Bank of Ireland:</b> <a href="https://bankofirelanduk/covid-19-update/">https://bankofirelanduk/covid-19-update/</a></p> <p><b>Danske Bank:</b> <a href="https://danskebank.co.uk/important-information/coronavirus-information">https://danskebank.co.uk/important-information/coronavirus-information</a></p> <p><b>Santander:</b> <a href="http://www.santander.co.uk/persona;/coronavirus?icid=php-hero-Coronavirus-0320">www.santander.co.uk/persona;/coronavirus?icid=php-hero-Coronavirus-0320</a></p> <p><b>HSBC:</b> new measures to help its internationally trading business customers facing supply chain disruption <a href="https://www.about.hsbc.co.uk/news-and-media/hsbc-uk-announces-package-of-support-for-customers-affected-by-covid-19">https://www.about.hsbc.co.uk/news-and-media/hsbc-uk-announces-package-of-support-for-customers-affected-by-covid-19</a></p>
<b>Other Support</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism NI COVID-19 business Support Helpline</li> <li>• TECH Nation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism NI strongly encourages people to get in touch with any queries - call 028 9592 5313 for help and advice</li> <li>• Tech Nation will be providing regular updates regarding policy interventions the government is making to support businesses For further information visit <a href="https://technation.io?">https://technation.io?</a></li> </ul>

