

## **BIZ BUZZ CRISIS UPDATE 06-04-2020**

**Money to help businesses is filtering through. Importing and exporting. Here are some links to guide you to the cash and inform you of the latest requirements and conditions. If you can, be patient and don't give up.**

**JOB RETENTION SCHEME.** HMRC have refreshed their guidance as a result of upsets from biz. Look at [employer guidance](#) and [guidance for employees](#). These cover detailed info on scheme eligibility; information on how to calculate a claim; clarification of what constitutes wages.

**BUSINESS RATES AND GRANTS FROM BRECKLAND** Funding for these from Government to Local Authorities is coming through BUT local councils are all taking slightly different approaches as to how to issue it to recipients. The Norfolk Chambers of Commerce have compiled a list of the differences across the region tho' remember changes keep happening, so check the latest on line. NCC links: Call on 01603 625977 Email [hello@norfolkchambers.co.uk](mailto:hello@norfolkchambers.co.uk) <https://www.norfolkchamber.co.uk/news/coronavirus>

**Here's the deal with Breckland:** The grants will be paid out based on the business occupying the relevant property on 11 March 2020. Any business caught falsifying their records to gain additional grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back. If you think you may be entitled to a grant, please complete their online form

**Business Rates Holidays** Government have introduced a business rates holiday for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England for the 2020 to 2021 tax year. Businesses within these industries do not need to do anything and will be applied to your next bill for April 2020. However, local authorities may have to reissue your bill automatically to exclude the business rate charge

**<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/article/14041/Business-Rates-and-Grants>**

**NEED FREE BIZ ADVICE?** The New Anglia Growth Hub is one of 38 hubs across England. They're supported by Government, are impartial and can offer fully funded biz advice and guidance in Norfolk & Suffolk. The team says, " If you're in need of business support or just need a friendly voice to talk through your business worries with, get in touch." They've created this useful toolbox. [New Anglia Growth Hub Help](#) There's a phone line too: 0300 333 6536 email: [growthhub@newanglia.co.uk](mailto:growthhub@newanglia.co.uk)

### **HOW ARE YOUR PRODUCTS GETTING IN AND OUT OF THE COUNTRY?**

Global logistics/Freight forwarders, Unsworth, <https://unsworth.uk/> have compiled a useful advice document based on their clients' queries over what's happening now and how to prepare for the end of the crisis.

**SHIPPING DELAYS:** Carriers are still operating shipping lanes as usual, with some disruption to vessel schedules. Some carriers are choosing alternative routes for slightly extended transit times which allows additional "on-water warehouse" space.

**SHOULD YOU CONTINUE TO SHIP?** In order to take advantage of high capacity and low demand in the Ocean Freight market right now, you should absolutely continue to ship products into the UK if you have that option. Once the lockdown ends, high demand for Ocean Freight will spike prices and introduce significant delays. If your inventory is already in the UK, you'll be able to resume trading with no shipping lag.

**AIR FREIGHT.** Airline closures have mainly affected passenger flights and airlines are increasing cargo capacity rapidly by re-purposing passenger planes to handle commercial loads. That rise in demand is engendering an equal rise in demand to keep critical supplies moving. Thus, while there is space available at short notice, it does have a premium.

**WAREHOUSING.** A letter from the Department for Transport released to all logistics professionals this week says they have a duty to keep supply chains moving. From the guidance, it is clear that this applies to all sectors, not just critical infrastructure and supplies.

If you need advice on these issues speak to Martin Carter, Head of operations:  
mc@unsworth.uk or email hello@mail.unsworth.uk or Phone 020 8539 8899

**OTHER USEFUL LINKS:**

The Federation of Small Businesses [FSB latest](#)

Breckland's "Regeneration Unit" is handling the Covid-19 business matters.

<https://www.breckland.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-guidance>

[regeneration@breckland.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@breckland.gov.uk)

Govt Support <https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/self-employment-income-support-scheme/>

**All Biz Buzz crisis updates are to be found on [www.np4nb.online](http://www.np4nb.online)**