



**BIZ BUZZ CRISIS UPDATE 24-09-2020
(1400)**

New Govt. help for businesses. VAT reduction for hospitality and tourism is extended. New Job Support Scheme gives wages support for companies hit by Covid over the next 6 months.

Job Support Scheme...to support VIABLE jobs.

It will target firms who need it most. All small and medium sized businesses are eligible. Larger businesses will only be helped when their turnover has fallen through the crisis. From 1st November, for the next six months, the Job Support Scheme will protect viable jobs in businesses facing lower demand over the winter months due to Covid-19.

To be eligible employees work a minimum of 33% of their hours

For the remaining hours not worked the govt and employer pay one third of the wages each.

So employees working 33% of their hours will receive at least 77% of their pay. The Government's contribution is capped at £697.92 per month. There's a good explanation of the scheme here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-52135342>

The existing self employed grant is to be extended for 6 months too.

Pay as you Grow similar to the Bounce Back Loans for small businesses :

Loans can now be extended from six years to ten years. This nearly halves the average monthly repayment. Businesses which are struggling can now choose to make interest only payments or, even suspend repayments altogether for up to six months. No business which takes up Pay As You Grow will see their credit rating affected.

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans will continue and the Govt guarantee on these loans will be extended for up to ten years, so it's easier for lenders to give people more time to pay.

Deferred tax bills for businesses Nearly half a million businesses deferred VAT payments until March 2021. Now the Govt will allow businesses to spread the VAT bill over 11 smaller repayments with no interest to pay.

Deferred tax bills for self assessed income tax payers. They can now extend their outstanding tax bill over 12 months from next January.

Hospitality and Tourism In this sector VAT rates have been temporarily reduced to 5% but were due to return to 20% on January 13th 2021. That move is now cancelled and the 5% VAT rate will extend until 31st March 2021

See the full details here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/winter-economy-plan>

CAN YOU HELP WITH KICKSTART? Norfolk Chambers of Commerce are helping to operate the Government's Kickstart Scheme intended to help get youngsters (aged 16-24 & on Universal Credit) into 6 month work placements. The funding covers 100% of the National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week, plus the associated employer National Insurance contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions. **If your business is interested in creating a fully funded placement for a young person, contact: Nova.fairbank@norfolkchambers.co.uk All the details are here:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/kickstart-scheme>

Anyone in Norfolk who is experiencing Covid-19 symptoms should book a test. See the details here:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/

If you need to get information, advice or need to apply for loans from **Breckland District Council** here is the link: www.breckland.gov.uk/coronavirus

All Biz Buzz crisis updates are to be found on www.np4nb.online