

# Special PMG covid-19 bulletin

Edition #002 – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

*This is the second in a series of special editions of the PMG newsletter in light of the current covid-19 situation. The purpose is to either share with you or to signpost you to useful information and tell you about fellow member's queries and questions. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.*

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## I News from Central & Local Gov't & Other Agencies

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### Latest advice for manufacturers from MAKE uk – published 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020

1. Following the Prime Minister's statement last night the country has been asked to take additional and very significant measures to slow the spread of coronavirus\covid-19. It is vital that manufacturers follow this advice and our sector takes every step possible to support the Government and reduce the burden on the NHS.



Equally, it is important to note that the Prime Minister has not asked all businesses to close. Government advice is primarily focused on closing non-essential retail and leisure facilities. Other employers are now mandated to make sure that anyone who can work from home is now doing so. Clearly, all businesses should also consider their responsibilities to wider society and reducing the impact on the NHS by slowing down the spread of the virus and removing opportunities for the infection to spread.

We recognise that as well as seeking advice on the processes that they should put in place for managing their operations, some companies are also seeking guidance on whether or not to remain open and productive. Overall, the Government has asked every UK citizen to do everything it can to reduce the movement of people to help slow the spread of covid-19 and minimise pressure on the health service – please bear this in mind when making your decision. However, as stated above, the Government has not asked all businesses to cease operations – it has only asked those sectors of the economy that encourage large gatherings of people or create environments where social distancing is impossible, to close.

On that basis, if you are considering impacts for your business, in the first instance please consult the Gov.UK website and review all relevant guidance to help guide you. Documents you should consider include: [here](#) and [here](#)

Should you still need further information, Make UK suggest that manufacturers also undertake this self-assessment to help inform your decision:

- *Can you run your operating environment ensuring that all staff can work whilst also maintaining social isolation guidelines – maintaining a 2m minimum separation from colleagues and others at all times, including time on the shop floor, in recreation areas, bathrooms, in briefing meetings and when entering and exiting the premises;*
- *Can you operate whilst also ensuring staff can take all relevant precautionary measures, including steps such as frequent handwashing, and can you provide relevant additional PPE equipment such as gloves where necessary;*
- *When applying these measures can you also operate safely and maintain the high standards necessary for usual operation;*
- *Can your staff travel to and from work safely and in a manner that allows suitable space for social distancing; and*
- *Have you ensured that all staff who can work from home are doing so.*

The full text from MAKEuk is available to view - [here](#)

## **Plymouth factories seek urgent clarification on staying open**

2. Prior to the news from MAKEuk being received, as featured above, the Plymouth Herald ran the story below highlighting the PMG's efforts through MAKEuk to find greater clarity following the PM's address to the nation on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

*Plymouth's factories are seeking urgent advice from the Government on whether they should be working during the coronavirus pandemic amid public fears that staff are being put at risk.*

*The majority of the city's manufacturers are up and running, with many of them fulfilling much needed orders.*

*But there are concerns about whether staff are putting themselves and others at risk from COVID-19 by turning up at work.*

*Prime Minister Boris Johnson, in announcing draconian measures to keep people at home, expressly closed businesses in some sectors, but he did not tell factories to shut.*

*This has led to confusion among bosses and the manufacturers' organisation Make UK and Plymouth Manufacturers Group (PMG) are seeking an urgent explanation from ministers.*

*Firms such as Babcock International, Princess Yachts, Rittal-CSM, Barden Corporation, Kawasaki Precision Machinery, Bandvulc, Alderman Tooling, BD and Plessey Semiconductors, are still operating. However, luxury bed manufacturer ViSpring has temporarily shut its vast Ernesettle factory.*

*Some of these companies are engaged in vital medical, defence and logistics work, essential in the current crisis. Others, however, may not be, adding to confusion over who should be operating.*

*Princess Yachts, in particular, has come under immense public pressure for continuing production during the pandemic, with some people claiming it is only engaged in production of a non-essential item.*

*PMG also wants clarification on other recent announcements, including who qualifies as key workers and how the Job Retention Scheme, which guarantees laid off workers 80% of salaries, works for manufacturers.*

*Steve Gerry, PMG secretary, said firms are trying to do the best they can to keep their workers safe but need guidance on whether to keep operating, and stressed: "Everybody is treating the health and wellbeing of people extremely seriously – they want to do what's right.*

*"So we are seeking clarification from the Government following the Prime Minister's announcement. Everything we have read seems to imply manufacturing can continue but we are waiting further clarification."*

*He added that some firms wanted to know what constitutes a key worker, details about statutory sick pay and availability of grants, and said: "There's also lack of clarity over furloughing."*

*But he stressed: "Firms have heightened hygiene arrangements and maximised the number of people that can work from home."*

*Meanwhile, the crisis has interrupted a period of relative stability for manufacturers following the turmoil surrounding the UK's Brexit from the EU.*

*Mr Gerry said most firms' stocks of materials have not run down yet, with some having stockpiled in case of a Brexit problem.*

*And he said trade had been good, pre-coronavirus, though the relaxation of restrictions in China now meant "encouragingly there are orders from China coming back into the system".*

*But he said: "People are seeing longer term problems on the horizon. We are taking it one shift at a time."*

The original article first appeared - <https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/plymouth-factories-seek-urgent-clarification-3978969>

### Covid-19 Series of announcements to date by Government

3. Here is the latest announcements from Government since the last bulletin.

- PM statement on coronavirus: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
*'turn the tide within the next 12 weeks'.  
'ramping up daily testing from 5000 a day to 10,000 to 25,000 and then up to 250,000'.*  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-coronavirus-19-march-2020>
- PM statement on coronavirus: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
*'reducing unnecessary social contact'*  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-coronavirus-20-march-2020>
- Chancellor announces workers' support package 20<sup>th</sup> March (plus see below) -  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-announces-workers-support-package>
- PM statement on coronavirus: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020  
*'Shielding the vulnerable and social distancing'.*  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-coronavirus-22-march-2020>
- PM address to the nation on coronavirus: 23 March 2020  
*'people will only be allowed to leave their home for the following very limited purposes'.*  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-to-the-nation-on-coronavirus-23-march-2020>
- Guidance: Further businesses and premises to close  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874732/230320 - Revised guidance note - finalVF.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874732/230320 - Revised guidance note - finalVF.pdf)



### COVID-19: support for businesses

4. The Chancellor has set out a package of temporary, timely and targeted measures to support public services, people and businesses through this period of disruption caused by COVID-19.

This includes a package of measures to support businesses including:

- a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- deferring VAT and Income Tax payments
- a Statutory Sick Pay relief package for SMEs
- small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief
- the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank
- a new lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms, helping them bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through loans
- the HMRC Time To Pay Scheme

Details - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses#support-for-businesses-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

The HM Treasury has prepared a document to guide businesses on how to access government financial support if you or your business has been affected by COVID-19. - [here](#)

### Interpretation of this announcement including local legal firms-

MAKEuk - [here](#)

Ashfords' Employment Bulletin – [here](#)

Foot Anstey - Coronavirus Job Retention Letters Employee FAQs - [here](#)

### Plymouth City Council to defer business rates for two months

5. In recognition of the current severe impact on business cash flow, Plymouth City Council is immediately deferring payments of business rates for 2 months so that businesses can pay their normal bills over 10 months rather than 12. This short term emergency measure will enable businesses time to plan their cash flow and immediately prioritise payments to staff. More - [here](#) and [here](#)



### Covid-19 and support for businesses from the Bank of England

6. *We're mindful that many businesses and households are struggling, that circumstances are changing fast, and some of you have asked where to find information. This may not be comprehensive but we have tried to collect together the most obvious places where you can check what support is available and how it will be delivered. There is now updated information, with some new links. In particular, the government has a new page and we have a new webpage for our corporate financing facility (CCFF). As ever, more information is becoming available regularly on the various schemes – please check the relevant websites.*



Government: The announcement on the Gov.uk website lists the various measures available and who is administering them.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

There is a new page for schemes that are going live:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-business-support-to-launch-from-today>

Two schemes involving the Bank of England:

\* The measures on 11th March included a term funding scheme delivered via the banks (with additional incentives to support SMEs:

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/boe-measures-to-respond-to-the-economic-shock-from-covid-19>. Ask your bank about support.

\* The Bank has taken significant steps to support banks' capacity to lend.

\* Another scheme for larger firms via the Bank of England

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/hmt-and-boe-launch-a-covid-corporate-financing-facility>.

\* the Bank has published a dedicated webpage for corporates seeking to use the CCFF:

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/the-covid-corporate-financing-facility>

To access the CCFF, firms do not have to have previously issued commercial paper or currently have a credit rating but they do need to be investment grade firms as of 1 March – please take a look at what steps can be taken in order to participate.

The Association of British Insurers have issued a statement on business insurance cover here<<https://www.abi.org.uk/news/news-articles/2020/03/statement-on-business-insurance-and-coronavirus/>> and have a COVID-19 Q&A here<<https://www.abi.org.uk/products-and-issues/topics-and-issues/coronavirus-qa/>> which includes business insurance, trade credit, income protection and pensions and investments.

And again, thank you for the feedback we've had so far – particularly when you have so much else to deal with.

If you can, and wish to, please feel free to continue to tell us how things are progressing for your business, either by email to [southwest@bankofengland.co.uk](mailto:southwest@bankofengland.co.uk) or by telephone.

We're also very interested in feedback on support measures, including those which have been most helpful.

Malindi Myers, Agent

Bank of England, Agency for the South West St Brandon's House, 29 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5QT Tel 07920 008235

## II PMG Members' News

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### Princess Yachts announce controlled shutdown

7. *In light of the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday (23rd March 2020) and in compliance with the latest Government guidelines, we would like to update you on the steps that Princess Yachts will now be taking to respond to the current Covid-19 pandemic.*



The health and safety of our employees is of paramount importance and is our main priority, along with our network, suppliers and international clientele. We also take our role and responsibilities within the local community very seriously. In light of the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday (23rd March 2020) and in compliance with the latest Government guidelines, we would like to update you on the steps that Princess Yachts will now be taking to respond to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

- There will be a safe and orderly 'controlled shutdown' of all sites, starting with immediate effect.
- In accordance with Government guidelines a significant majority of our employees will be classified as 'furloughed' for the foreseeable future of which the terms and conditions will be communicated to the relevant individuals in due course. If classified as a furloughed worker this means that the employee will be on the Princess payroll and will remain employed, rather than being laid off. In compliance with this scheme, employees should not undertake work while they are furloughed.
- Princess Yachts is a vertically complex manufacturer, as such during this period, a very limited number of employees will be performing critical safety operations in order to complete a safe and isolated shutdown. Strict social distancing protocols will be in place and stringently adhered to during this short period.
- We have been in regular communication with the Works Committee and they have agreed to the actions that we are taking.

It's worth noting that since the initial remote working initiative was advised by the government, all Princess employees able to work from home and able to perform in their roles are currently doing so.

We champion the government's efforts in response to the covid-19 pandemic and encourage all staff to comply with Public Health England (PHE) advice to ensure we can eventually return to normal operations after these challenging times.

### The Undercover Success Story with Luminati

8. Luminati has worked very closely with the NHS for a number of years, working on various bespoke projects, including the renowned Patient Pump Bridge®. More recently, we have started working alongside the Peninsular Heart Clinic, a relatively new department at Derriford Hospital.

With the current COVID-19 crisis sweeping the globe, The Peninsular Heart Clinic made contact with us regarding a design we had been looking at in the background with them several months previously. The design was an innovative patient transportation device designed to offer protection to the patient, equipment and staff whilst undergoing transportation to and from a remote clinic, and potentially to and from the hospital Helipad.



It was quickly identified that this conceptual design would be a fantastic asset to those working at the front line of the COVID-19 crisis. The Peninsular Heart Clinic got in touch with our team to express their urgent requirement for a prototype of this design.

After discussions between the PHC and Luminati's dedicated project manager, we quickly got our team together to run through the design and manufacturing process. From this we were able to provide them with a clear timeline from drawing to approval.

By detailing and agreeing to such a strict schedule we were able to produce a test frame, to ensure the sizing was correct, and then a fully functional cover inside of a week!

This could not have been done without having such a skilled and responsive team to call upon. To be able to produce something so bespoke and functional for a topic that is so important to everyone in the world right now is testament to the team here at Luminati.

The product itself is designed to retro fit onto the trolley and hang on the wall when not in use. It offers protection to the patient and staff by enclosing the patient in a clear "tunnel", in order to make it fit for a hospital environment we used FDA approved materials.

We are extremely grateful for the hard work and dedication from all of our NHS workers in these unprecedented times, and are pleased to be able to offer a product that we hope offers additional protection to both staff and patients against the fight against COVID-19, and all other types of possible cross contamination.

This creative concept is brand new to the market and completely unique to Luminati.

As with our standard bespoke design service, we presented 3D realistic renders to our client in order for them to be able to visualise the design before it went to manufacture, which can be seen in the attached images.

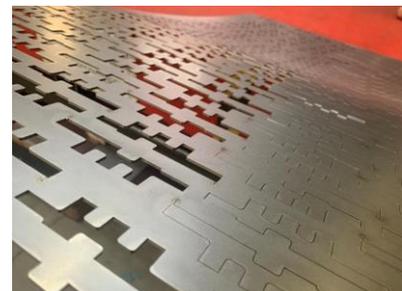
For more information about this product and all the other items in our medical / hygienic range get in touch with our specialist team today on 01752 698720 or visit [www.luminati.co.uk](http://www.luminati.co.uk)

### Other reports from our members

9. The following updates, which have already been published on social media, have been received during the course of this week from our members ...

*Being part of the Alderman's team who have been requested to work from home, I would like to thank my colleagues who are at the factory still producing essential components and parts. The components are required in sectors that include healthcare, transport and the I.T. industry, all of which are essential to our country at present.*

Damon Edhouse, Aldermans – *LinkedIn* - [here](#)



*We are pleased to announce that all of our services are still fully operational. We continue to monitor the situation daily while taking the necessary precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and customers.*  
[#Teignbridge](#) [#Covid19](#)



**Teignbridge**  
@TeignbridgeProp

*I have issued the attached letter to Pyropress employees, which may be used if challenged by police or other valid authorities whilst making journeys to and from work.*  
Stephen Burns, Managing Director, Pyropress Limited

**To Whom it May Concern**

**Precautionary employer confirmation for pandemic restrictions**  
March 2020



Pyropress Limited produces specialist industrial instruments for the measurement of pressure, temperature, level and flow, suitable and certified for use in explosive atmospheres and harsh industrial environments.

Our end users are almost exclusively in the energy supply chain and utility markets. They are in oil and gas, from exploration, production and refining, through to distribution and dispensing, as well as power generation including nuclear and waste to energy. The ATEX and IECEx certification allows the products to be used safely in the hazardous atmospheres often encountered in these applications, allowing people and assets to operate safely.

Our products and services are bespoke and offered by a very limited range of companies within the UK, and even globally, and end users rely on them.

Our production processes cannot be undertaken at home, we require production, stores, and Quality Control to operate within the facility. Office based staff have been instructed to work from home wherever possible.

Whilst at work, we have strong segregation protocols in place to ensure the staff working in the facility are protected with physical separation between work groups and cleaning routines as products move through production processes.

The person holding this letter is a key worker within our shop floor and support teams and is therefore required to continue to come to work.

Name: Stephen Burns

The employee confirms they work for Pyropress in the UK. For further information please contact our Office:

Pyropress Limited  
Bell Close  
Plympton  
Plymouth PL7 4JH, UK  
Tel: 01752 333 939  
[www.pyropress.com](http://www.pyropress.com)

Yours sincerely,  
**Stephen Burns**  
**Managing Director**

## Covid-19 Question & Request Corner

*Two dozen Questions asked and more importantly answered on the MAKEuk website - [here](#)*

- *If employees self-isolate, are they entitled to be paid?*
- *Is SSP now payable from the first day of absence?*
- *What if an employee does not have symptoms, but wishes to stay away from work because they are worried about getting Covid-19?*
- *What is the position for pregnant employees – should they still attend work?*
- *What if an employee who has symptoms (new continuous cough, or high temperature) is refusing to self-isolate and insists they are fit for work?*
- *Must employers pay contractual sick pay to employees who are self-isolating?*
- *What if an employee ignores Covid-19-related hygiene rules?*
- *Can an employer restrict an employee's personal travel?*
- *What if someone with Covid-19 comes to work? Do we need to close the workplace?*
- *Can we require employees to have their temperature tested before allowing them into the workplace?*
- *What are the data protection implications if an employer needs to gather information on which of its employees are at a high risk in relation to Covid-19 for business continuity planning purposes?*
- *What if an employee's child's school has closed due to Covid-19?*
- *What if an employee is looking after a child or other relative who has (or may have) the virus?*
- *What if we need to temporarily close our business and send staff home, e.g. because of supply chain disruption, or reduced demand for products or services?*
- *What about if public health advice is to close businesses?*
- *What legal obligations should employers keep in mind when making decisions relating to Covid-19?*
- *If an employee contracts Coronavirus at work does the case need to be reporting under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations)?*
- *Does this change due to Covid-19 being deemed a "notifiable disease"?*
- *What support for business was there for Statutory Sick Pay?*
- *Are Business Rates being adjusted to help businesses cope with the impact of Covid-19?*
- *Is there any direct funding available for businesses for 2020-21 to mitigate the impact of Covid-19?*
- *What if my business has outstanding tax liabilities that I may not be able to pay in due time because of Covid-19 related business disruption?*
- *My business is struggling to access finance due to Covid-19's impact on lender confidence, is there any new government help with financing?*
- *Can I claim on my company's insurance for any disruption and/or loss of earnings as a result of Covid-19?*



### Members Questions:



- *What video conferencing software/packages are people using – especially that which is suitable for small firms?*
  - *Does anyone have a policy or guidelines to share for remote working?*
  - *What resources might members want to share – including staff?*
  - *How about sharing transport/deliveries?*
  - *What if we have to implement reduced working hours?*
- Contact [stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com) if you want to respond.

## III Business to Business

### Professional Services communications received over the course of this week

10. The following communications from professional services firms and other specialist support bodies have been received since the last bulletin. Also see page 3 above and the previous edition of the bulletin.

#### COVID-19 Fully-funded support for manufacturers

From financial and HR support to pro-active supply chain management and strategic planning, we want to help SME manufacturers throughout these unprecedented and challenging times.

As the UK and the rest of the world attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19, nothing is more important than the safety of each and every one of us.

We are all having to make significant changes to day-to-day activities, and the social and economic impact of this coronavirus will continue to affect us all for many months to come.

All businesses are going through a period of adjustment as they try to minimise the impact this pandemic will have on their workforce and operations. To help, we have pulled together the following practical advice to help manufacturers successfully navigate their way through these uncertain times...

This fully funded business support is available for eligible SME (small/medium enterprise) manufacturing companies based in the South West, subject to completion and receipt of SME and De Minimis Declarations to confirm eligibility.

Contact information :

[www.swmas.co.uk](http://www.swmas.co.uk)

[info@swmas.co.uk](mailto:info@swmas.co.uk)

01278 767 010

More -

<https://www.swmas.co.uk/business-support/covid-19-support-manufacturers>



Funded by



European Union  
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HM Government

#### Deloitte UK 'Responding to COVID-19: Updates and practical steps' webinar

COVID-19 has quickly emerged as a shock to global activity. Each week a panel of Deloitte experts are assessing the latest health, business and economic developments and discussing how organisations can navigate the emerging challenges. This Thursday's webinar details are as follows:

Date: Thursday 26 March 13:00 GMT, the webinar will last 45 minutes To join, logon to:

<https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/2236261/205AB242C502B596F079BFB95578079B>

#### South West Business Council

For any business across the South West, or anywhere in the UK, check out the South West Business Council #COVID-19 Taskforce. You'll find links to a growing list of firms there to help you and provide free advice, plus links to a range of FAQs for business. We'll be updating frequently, so keep checking in. Details - [here](#)

#### Other sources of advice, articles and blogs:

Public Health England – Coronavirus (COVID-19) resources - [here](#)

David Draffan, PCC Service Director Economic Development, Covid 19 – Business Blog

No 1 - Monday 23/3/2020 - [here](#)

No 2 – Tuesday 24/3/2020 - [here](#)



## V Events on hold or cancelled ...

### Big Bang Fair South West

11. Following the Government's decision to close all schools and colleges from 20<sup>th</sup> March, CSW Group is sorry to announce that the @Weston Big Bang Fair, that was due to be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> and the Big Bang Fair South West in Exeter on June 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> have both been cancelled.

We have been actively monitoring and following advice about the novel coronavirus Covid-19 over the past weeks. The unique nature of The Big Bang Fair – an indoor, hands-on interactive event for hundreds of young people from the local area- means that we feel this is the most appropriate decision to take at this time. We wanted to announce this decision as soon as we could to give as much notice as possible

The Big Bang Fair is only possible thanks to the support of sponsors, exhibitors, activity providers, teachers and volunteers. We hugely appreciate this continued support for our mission to inspire more young people to consider a career in STEM.

We are very disappointed not to be in a position to go ahead as planned. We know that cancellation of the event will be disappointing for the visitors who had booked to attend as well as the exhibitors and we hope to see them all in 2021.

If you have any questions or queries please contact us on [bigbang@cswgroup.co.uk](mailto:bigbang@cswgroup.co.uk) or call Verity French on 07810 656033.



### Plymouth Business Awards 2020

12. I'm getting in touch to let you know that as a result of the spread of coronavirus and the latest Government advice we've made the decision to postpone the Plymouth Business Awards 2020, which were due to be held at Plymouth Pavilions on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

We have been working with the Pavilions on an alternative date and are now pleased to inform you that the awards will now go ahead on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020**, due to this postponement, we have also **extended the entry deadline until Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**.

We apologise for the postponement but it is the only course of action in the current climate. I'd like to thank our Event Partners, University of Plymouth and City

College Plymouth, and our category sponsors BD Diagnostics, YGS Landscapes, Plymouth Science Park, Rittal-CSM Ltd along with Plymouth Pavilions for their support and understanding.

We look forward very much to seeing you later in the year as we toast the best of the best from Plymouth's business community.

Herald | PlymouthLive | Western Morning News

# PLYMOUTH Business AWARDS 2020

Event Partners

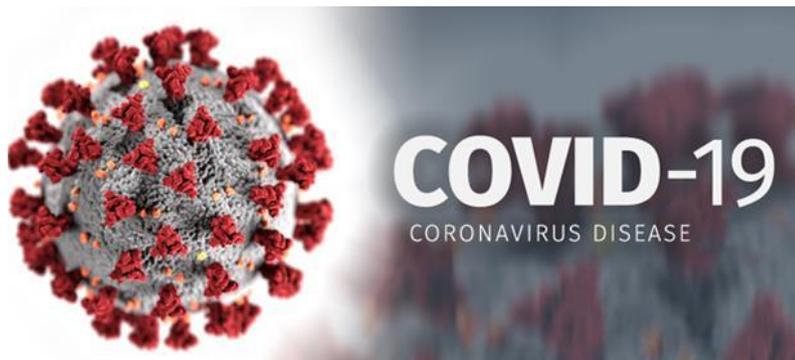


UNIVERSITY OF  
**PLYMOUTH**  
Research and Innovation



## Covid-19 Most Useful websites for information

Here is a selection of government; local government; employment advisory bodies and private sector business websites that can be relied on to be frequently updated with the latest Covid-19 news for employers and businesses. As you can imagine, most include duplicate material.



If you are a PMG member and you can't find what you are looking for, please contact [stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com)



**HM Government COVID-19: support for business**

<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/>

## Heart of the SW LEP Growth Hub

*The LEP is working hard with key partners in Government, Local Authorities, Business Representative Organisations and other agencies to support businesses through the unprecedented health and economic shock we are facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.*

*The Heart of the South West Growth Hub is being promoted as a single point of contact for all advice and guidance, and its website is continually update as new information comes in about the measures and support packages that are emerging from Government.*



*Details on specific financial packages, eligibility and processes for applying are still being developed. At the same time local and free support and assistance is being offered by local partners and we are including details and links to these schemes on the Growth Hub website.*

*The Growth Hub team have capacity and interim support has been put into place by LEP partners to ensure increased volumes of enquiries can be managed. Longer term capacity is also being reviewed considering the budget announcement of more funding for Growth Hubs.*

*Updates and communications on latest advice will also begin shortly from the Growth Hub and businesses can sign up to receive this service. In the meantime, the Growth Hub's contact details are:*

Website: [www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/](http://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/)

Email: [info@heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk](mailto:info@heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk)

Phone: 03456 047 047

**Plymouth City Council (Invest Plymouth site) –**

<https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/invest/business-support/covid-19>

**PCC are also producing a regular covid-19 newsletter**

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKPCC/bulletins/281cbe5>

Subscription point - here: <https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/invest/news/newsletter-link>

**InvestPlymouth**  
Driving Growth in Britain's Ocean City

**PCC Business News** - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKPCC/bulletins/282b048>

This is packed full of lots of useful information including:

- *Business rates bills and payments*
- *Business interruption loan scheme*
- *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support Measures*
- *Job Retention scheme*
- *Temporary changes to Plymouth City Council's Building Control services*
- *ACAS coronavirus advice for employers and employees*
- *Resources for self-isolation*
- *Digital Tools & Useful Information to support during Covid-19 & Remote working*
- *Remote Working Webinars*
- *Free courses to develop Digital and Technical Skills*

**South Hams & West Devon district councils have their own bulletin**

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSWDEVON/bulletins/282ddc4>

## Devon County Council



<https://www.devon.gov.uk/document/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/#section-4>

## Business West

Business West is the largest Chamber of Commerce in the SW. It is a not-for-profit company with 200 staff and a turnover of £10 million.

*'We provide guidance & support on Coronavirus (COVID-19) for businesses, employers and employees in the region. We're working urgently to clarify how businesses can access the new measures announced by government – and will convey this to businesses as quickly as possible through the hub'.*

<https://www.businesswest.co.uk/trading-through-coronavirus>



## MAKEUK



The Manufacturers' Organisation

<https://www.makeuk.org/coronavirus>

*All PMG members are eligible to become affiliate members of MAKEUK (formerly known as The Engineering Employers Federation). If you want to join contact*

[stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com)

## ACAS

ACAS is the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

*We work with millions of employers and employees every year to improve workplace relationships. We're an independent public body that receives funding from the government.*

This site is particularly strong on employment related issues including statutory sick pay.

<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>



**This information is also available on the PMG website.**

### Credits:

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**If you want to read what some people are saying about this newsletter please see [here](#) and scroll down towards the bottom of the screen. All comments are unsolicited. Please send me your own if you wish!**

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