

Special PMG covid-19 bulletin

Edition #06 – 20th April 2020

This is the sixth 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.

I Covid-19 News

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – Open for applications TODAY

1. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is now open for application. Employers can now claim online for a grant for 80% of their furloughed employees' salaries, up to a maximum of £2,500 per employee. [Click here](#) to make a claim.

HMRC have produced this [step by step guidance](#) on how to make a claim. There is also a [calculator](#) to help you work out your claim. The system can process up to 450,000 applications per hour and employers should receive the money within 6

working days of making an application. To receive payment by 30 April, you will need to complete an application by 22 April. Please keep a note or print-out of your claim reference number as you won't receive a confirmation SMS or email.

The Chancellor has also announced one [month extension](#) to the scheme (also read more below).

This means that the scheme will now be open until the end of June, to reflect continuing lockdown measures.

HMRC are holding live webinars providing an overview of the scheme to help employers and employees deal with the economic impacts of coronavirus. Register for a live webinar [here](#).



HM Revenue & Customs

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) predicts Coronavirus lockdown to deliver large (but hopefully temporary) shock to the economy and public finances

2. *In addition to its impact on public health, the coronavirus outbreak will substantially raise public sector net borrowing and debt, primarily reflecting economic disruption. The Government's policy response will also have substantial direct budgetary costs, but the measures should help limit the long-term damage to the economy and public finances – the costs of inaction would certainly have been higher. This note describes one illustrative economic scenario and its consequences for the public finances. In this scenario, real GDP falls 35 per cent in the second quarter, but bounces back quickly. Unemployment rises by more than 2 million to 10 per cent in the second quarter, but then declines more slowly than GDP recovers. Policy measures support households and companies' finances through the shock.*



OBR coronavirus analysis - [here](#)
Chancellor's reaction to the report - [here](#)
Press coverage - Rishi Sunak 'deeply troubled' by OBR warning of 35% fall in UK GDP
UK chancellor says way to bounce back from coronavirus crisis is to reboot growth across regions - [here](#)

Chancellor extends furlough scheme to end of June

3. On 17 April the Government announced that its Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is to be extended by one month to reflect continuing social distancing measures.

The government's unprecedented furlough scheme that is keeping millions of people in jobs will be extended for a further month, the Chancellor confirmed today.

*Following on from yesterday's announcement to keep the social distancing measures in place, Rishi Sunak said the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) would **now be open until the end of June** – providing businesses with the certainty they need.*

The scheme, which allows firms to furlough employees with the government paying cash grants of 80% of their wages up to a maximum of £2,500, was originally open for three months and backdated from the 1 March to the end of May.

However, the Chancellor said he would keep the scheme under review and extend it if necessary.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, said:

We've taken unprecedented action to support jobs and businesses through this period of uncertainty, including the UK-wide Job Retention Scheme. With the extension of the coronavirus lockdown measures yesterday, it is the right decision to extend the furlough scheme for a month to the end of June to provide clarity.

It is vital for people's livelihoods that the UK economy gets up and running again when it is safe to do so, and I will continue to review the scheme so it is supporting our recovery.

The government has taken unprecedented action to help the economy and society bridge a period of national emergency so that as many people as possible can get back to work as the situation improves.

This week the Office for Budgetary Responsibility said the CJRS is limiting the impact on employment.

Future decisions on the scheme will take into account further developments on the wider measures to reduce the spread of coronavirus, as well as the responsible management of the public finances. More

- [here](#)



Billion pound support package for innovative firms hit by coronavirus

4. UK businesses driving innovation and development will be helped through the coronavirus outbreak with a £1.25 billion government support package, the Chancellor announced today (20 April 2020).

Rishi Sunak said the targeted and tailored help would ensure firms in some of the most dynamic sectors of the UK economy – ranging from tech to life sciences – are protected through the crisis so they can continue to develop innovative new products and help power UK growth.

The comprehensive package includes a new £500 million loan scheme for high-growth firms, called the Future Fund, and £750 million of targeted support for small and medium sized businesses focusing on research and development. More - [here](#)



Chancellor expands loan scheme for large businesses

5. The Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme has [been expanded](#) to cover all viable firms. All firms with a turnover of more than £45 million will now be able to apply for up to £25 million of finance, and up to £50 million for firms with a turnover of more than £250 million.

The scheme, which launched today (20/4), will be available through a series of accredited lenders, which will be listed on the [British Business Bank website](#).

This complements existing support including the [Covid Corporate Financing Facility](#) and the [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme](#) for small and medium sized businesses.

Covid-19 Series of announcements to date by Government

6. In addition to the announcements set out previously in this bulletin, here is the latest news from Government since the last (fifth) bulletin.
 - **Coronavirus business support hub** - A new Coronavirus Business Support Hub is now available at www.gov.uk/business-support The hub brings together key information for businesses including on funding and support, business closures, your responsibilities as an employer and managing your business during coronavirus. More - <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>
 - **Foreign Secretary's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 16 April 2020** - The Government announced today that the current social distancing measures will remain in place for at least the next 3 weeks until 7 May. More - [here](#)
 - **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – extended eligibility** - An important change has been made to the scheme extending employee eligibility: Employers can now claim for employees that were employed and on their PAYE payroll on or before 19 March 2020. More - [here](#)
 - **Specification for ventilators to be used in UK hospitals** - This guidance sets out the clinical requirements based on the consensus of what is 'minimally acceptable' performance in the opinion of the anaesthesia and intensive care medicine professionals and medical device regulators. An updated version of the specification has been published. More - [here](#) & [here](#)
 - **Chancellor extends furlough scheme to end of June** - 17 April 2020 - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme extended by one month to reflect continuing social distancing measures. More - [here](#)
 - **Business Secretary's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 17 April 2020** – included - Government launches Vaccine Taskforce to combat coronavirus. A new Vaccine Taskforce will drive forward, expedite and co-ordinate efforts to research and then produce a coronavirus vaccine. More - [here](#)
 - **Billion pound support package for innovative firms hit by coronavirus** - UK businesses driving innovation and development will be helped through the coronavirus outbreak with a £1.25 billion government support package, the Chancellor announced today 20/4/20. More - [here](#)

Offer coronavirus (COVID-19) support from your business

7. Use this service to tell us how your business might be able to help with the response to coronavirus.

The support needed includes things like:

- medical testing equipment
- medical equipment design
- protective equipment for healthcare workers, such as masks, gowns and sanitiser
- hotel rooms
- transport and logistics, for moving goods or people
- manufacturing equipment
- warehouse or office space, for medical use or storage
- expertise or support on IT, manufacturing, construction, project management, procurement or engineering
- social care or childcare

You'll be asked some questions about the type of support you can give. You'll then be contacted as soon as possible if your support is needed.

You'll need your company number if you have one.

[Start now](#)



**Make UK Coronavirus (Covid-19) update:
17 April 2020**

Welcome to this week's round-up of resources to help your business during the current crisis, together with information about what we've been doing on your behalf.

Visit www.makeuk.org/coronavirus or call us on 0808 168 5874 for information and support.

Please continue to feedback on the issues you're facing, and whether the Government support schemes are working, through your usual Make UK contacts – this is critical to ensuring you get the support you need.

We are in daily dialogue with government to unlock the support UK manufacturers need and to provide you with the latest Coronavirus information and guidance.

Your input has led to changes and clarifications to these schemes:

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

The Treasury has provided detailed guidance to HMRC on how the Job Retention Scheme will operate and some of the technical detail on how employers will need to calculate pay before they make their claims. The HMRC portal, that employers will need to use, is scheduled to open on 20 April and it is expected that employers will receive their first payments by 30 April. Make UK will provide all members with further guidance as soon as it's available.

We've updated [our expert advice \(FAQs\)](#) on our website to reflect this.

Latest MAKEUK PowerPoint from Tim Figures – [here](#)

Tax deferment

We've already explained that VAT payments due between 20 March and 30 June have been automatically deferred by HMRC. But did you know that HMRC are also willing to consider flexibility for PAYE payments as well? This is at their discretion, but if this would help ease cashflow challenges then it's worth contacting your local HMRC office to discuss.

Preparing for recovery

While we will keep pressuring the Government to resolve outstanding issues with the existing business support schemes, we're also thinking about how we can best support you through the recovery phase. Please do let us know what would be most helpful – in terms of what we can offer, but also the things you'd like us to be asking the Government to do.

Please keep your feedback and questions coming and we will respond to them as quickly as we can.

Question & Request Corner

Recyclable Cardboard Face Shield

COVID-19

Recyclable Cardboard Face Shield

Briefing paper for PMG

16 April 2020



Attached [here](#) is a briefing document regarding a Recyclable Cardboard Face Shield we are designing in response to Covid19. The newly conceived idea is for a **CARBOARD** face shield as an **eco-alternative** to the 3D printed versions in production all over the City. It is designed to be made from **LASER CUT** sheet cardboard – the see-through shield is an A4 acetate sheet, but could be substituted with a **bio-degradable** version.

This could be a **quick to make** shield for key workers at City Bus / Supermarkets / etc

We are also presenting the idea to a food retail consortium today – Friday 17/4.

In the spirit of the new Partnership Bond, would you be able to make the following proposal to PMG please? We are seeking a sponsor to do an initial trial of the face shield with Plymouth based private and public sector workers. Companies nominate their preferred beneficiary. Logos can be printed on shield etc. Could you present this opportunity to PMG members please?

Best wishes

Rich Adams | Business Engagement Manager

Research and Innovation, University of Plymouth, 2nd Floor Marine Building, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 8AA

T: +44 01752 588919

M: 07703886918

E: richard.adams@plymouth.ac.uk



Share the impact coronavirus is having on your organisation - Let BEIS know how the outbreak is impacting your business. Please send your intelligence to intel@beis.gov.uk. Commercially sensitive information will be treated accordingly. Please note that this inbox is only for receiving intelligence and does not provide business advice.

Manufacturing process optimisation - I was forwarded your details by one of my colleagues here at the University of Exeter, as I'm currently supporting one of our Data Science academics with his EPSRC fellowship proposal around 'manufacturing process optimisation' – which may be of interest to one of the PMG partners?

He is looking for one manufacturing company to support his proposal (mainly through provision of data), who will in turn benefit from being able to test/implement the solution he creates. We are not looking for financial input.

Happy to set up a call with the academic to discuss everything in more detail if that would be helpful?

Korneel Verhaeghe

K.Verhaeghe@exeter.ac.uk

Other news:

PMG lends its support to local lobby to ‘plug the gaps’ for support for small businesses

8. The PMG along with other local business representational bodies has been giving its support to the City Council’s lobby on behalf of SME businesses which have, to date, fallen outside of the eligibility criteria for covid-19 grants.

Winner announced of the PMG-sponsored Young Enterprise Quality Award

9. As befitting the times, this year’s *Young Enterprise* company that won the PMG-sponsored *Quality Award* received notice of their success by video. Congratulations to *Phoenix*. Good luck to them at the Devon & Somerset finals. Thank you Stephanie Anderson, Young Enterprise Area Manager for Plymouth, West Devon & Cornwall for making the award on the PMG’s behalf (pictured right). Phoenix are behind an initiative entitled ‘*Footsteps of food*’ see -



<https://www.facebook.com/footstepsoffood/>

produced ‘*an interactive recipe book carefully designed to inspire young children to learn about the journey of the food they eat from our planet to their plate! They also gain an understanding about the importance of locally sourced ingredients, food miles and the eat well plate whilst having fun with growing their own fruit and vegetables at home!*’ More - [here](#)

This award forms part of Young Enterprise’s *Company Programme* which empowers young people to set up and run a student company under the guidance of a business volunteer. Students make all the decisions about their business, from deciding on the company name, managing the company finances and selling to the public. Participants gain practical business experience and key skills.

II PMG Members' News

PMG Members' covid-19 News

Princess Yachts says Government loan scheme safeguards 18k workers

10. The following article appeared in the Plymouth Herald on 9th April 2020. The UK's largest luxury yacht maker says the Chancellor's new loan scheme for mid-sized businesses has secured its future and protected nearly 18,000 workers around the country.

Princess Yachts has welcomed Rishi Sunak's announcement to help businesses with revenue between £45million and £500million saying it will bolster the firm during the coronavirus pandemic.

Although Princess Yachts has furloughed the vast majority of its workforce in Plymouth, where all its boats are made, and ceased production, the firm said Mr Sunak's announcement would protect these jobs and 13,500 supply chain posts around the UK.

Antony Sheriff, chief executive of Princess Yachts, said: *"We applaud the efforts made by the Chancellor and the Government to date and we are thankful that our concerns were taken seriously and listened to."*

Mr Sheriff was reportedly disappointed by Mr Sunak's initial efforts which would have meant firms such as Princess Yachts having to access costly commercial loans.

The Treasury acted following fears that medium-sized businesses were missing out because they were too big to apply for the Government's Business Interruption Loan Scheme and too small for a Government debt-buying programme for larger companies.

The new Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS) will provide a Government guarantee of 80%. This will enable banks to make loans of up to £25million to firms with an annual turnover of between £45million and £500million.

Princess Yachts said the Chancellor's shake-up of support arrangements was *"warmly received"* and it was delighted the Government had responded to the situation at Princess Yachts, where it was in a *"challenging position"*.

Although it has cash in the bank and can withstand months of lockdown, the firm is understood to be concerned about re-start costs, especially of materials have gone up in price. Full article can be read - [here](#)

Babcock team up to produce face shields

11. The Babcock International Group Additive Manufacture Team at Devonport have teamed up with businesses from across Plymouth to provide 3D-printed face shields to frontline key workers dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Alongside Plymouth Science Park Ltd, University of Plymouth, Plymouth College of Art, the Royal Navy and independent 3D printing enthusiasts, the team are coordinating the local effort, using state-of-the-art technology to create face shields, before delivering to key workers across the city. Andrew McMinn, Chief Procurement Officer at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust, said: *"This situation is unprecedented, but has led to amazing shows of community support for all frontline health and social care staff. The equipment donated by this consortium will be distributed to GPs, care homes and police across Plymouth and help to protect them as they go about their vital work in our city."* Mike Homer, C.Eng FIMechE, MD at Devonport Royal Dockyard, said: *"This is a critical time for the country as a whole, and for the NHS in particular. Together the consortium have been able to react quickly, using our experience to deliver innovative solutions, and we're delighted to be able to work with the community to support the NHS to save lives."* More - [here](#)



Brief news from other PMG Members

- **Apprentice recruitment at Princess Yachts continues** - Despite our manufacturing being on pause, our Apprentice recruitment for September 2020 continues. We have had over 300 applications for approximately 50 positions ranging from Business Administration to Fabricating and Welding. Our current first and second year apprentices are assisting with conducting video interviews with shortlisted applicants as well as completing their own coursework and taking part in morning tutorials with their tutors who are also available throughout the day via video call.
- **Teignbridge Propellers to 3D-print face shields for frontline workers in pandemic** - Teignbridge Propellers has partnered with South Devon College, both based in the UK, to 3D-print face shields for the UK's National Health Service (NHS) staff and key workers to combat the spread of the Covid-19 virus. More - [here](#)
- **Kawasaki Precision Machinery** - Production has re-started at our Plymouth factory after a 2-week shutdown period. We have done our utmost to put in place enhanced safety measures to ensure the well-being of our employees, over and above the UK Government guidelines. Most office staff will continue to work from home, continuing to offer support to our customers and suppliers during these challenging times. More – [here](#)

Other non-covid-19 news from PMG Members

Babcock plans a two-year construction spree to rebuild dry dock and surrounding buildings

12. The following article appeared in the Plymouth Herald on 10th April 2020. Devonport Dockyard is to undergo a huge redevelopment which will start with work to allow the newest nuclear submarines to be refitted in Plymouth – and create more than 600 jobs in the process.

Babcock International Group Plc wants to start by rebuilding the 10 Dock Facility at the yard, including the demolition and construction of buildings, to support the maintenance programme for “new and existing classes of submarine” such as the new Dreadnought-class ballistic missile subs due to arrive in service in the 2030s.

A report submitted to Plymouth City Council said the redevelopment of 10 Dock, and buildings near it, is one of “a number of projects associated with a major infrastructure refurbishment of the nuclear licensed docking and berthing facilities at the dockyard”.

Initially, work would be carried out to make the 2.61-hectare dock narrower, with strengthened walls and a higher barrier to prevent flooding in case sea levels rise due to climate change.

There would also be a new floor to the dock, one of four dry docks south of 5 Basin, and dockside buildings would be demolished and replaced with new ones, and new cranes would be built too.

The staged work would take two years and would start and end sometime between 2021 and 2025, with 650 construction workers needed on-site.

Babcock estimates the peak construction time would be between late 2022 and the start of 2025.

Documents submitted to the council say the dockyard employs 5,500 people and generates about 10% of Plymouth’s income.

Full story - [here](#)



III Business to Business

Online Short Business Courses

13. Get Ahead with CMN's

Business Courses! Details – [here](#)

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Back by popular demand, CMN's great range of Short Business Courses, tailor made to your needs.

Ask us about funding opportunities!

Bethany Allen

Cornwall Marine Network Ltd

Visit our COVID Business Support Hub for up to date information and resources and links

Maritime Business Centre, Unit 7b, Falmouth Business Park, Bickland

Water Road, Falmouth TR11 4SZ www.cornwallmarine.net T: 01326 211382



STEM Graduates into Business

14. *I wanted to reach out as we are currently in discussions around how our project could support businesses in light of the current situation and respond to changing demands. We appreciate that recruitment probably isn't at the top of an SMEs to-do list at the moment, but we know there are businesses who are responding to the call of support from the government by diversifying their outputs such as producing PPE for frontline workers/NHS etc. that may require extra staffing. **We are looking***

at potentially tweaking our offer to allow short term internships with an increased grant incentive. I wanted to know if you are aware of any PMG members that may be in this situation or what the demand might be from a business in this current climate?

Rhys Barnes-Smith

Project Manager: STEM Graduates into Business

University of Plymouth

Mobile: 07788 806 650

Skype: Rhys Barnes-Smith

Email: rhys.barnes-smith@plymouth.ac.uk

www.plymouth.ac.uk/stem-grad



Are you concerned about not receiving payment from your international customers?

15. *If you are striving to continue exporting your goods and services but concerned about not receiving payment from your international customers, UK Export Finance (the Government's export credit agency) has just announced the expansion of its [Export Credit Insurance Policy](#) to now include UK transactions with the EU, Australia, Canada, Iceland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and USA with immediate effect. I remain available to assist with anything export related should you require it, so please just call me if necessary.*

Steve Southcott MIEEx | International Trade Adviser

Department for International Trade | Leigh Court | Abbots Leigh | Bristol BS8 3RA

Mobile: +44 (0)7469 391223 | Tel: +44 (0)1275 370944 | E-mail:

steve.southcott@mobile.trade.gov.uk

Spotlight on a PMG Network Member: Tooltech

16. With all the uncertainty in the world at the moment, and the disruptive impact that is having on supply chains, we thought that it was high time we reminded you of the amazing businesses that we have amongst our Network Members. This edition, we're featuring: **Tooltech**.

Mark Newcombe, MD, Tooltech says, *'If there are any PMG members who are currently struggling because the engineering companies who normally supply tooling and repairs have furloughed their staff and are not*



operating at the moment, then you might care to know that Plympton-based Tooltech are still open, due to the critical sectors we work in, and if companies in Plymouth are having problems, we would be pleased to be able to help and support their manufacturing requirements'.

Mark Newcombe, MD, Tooltech: 01752 345993 or 07976 559649 marknew@tooltech.co.uk



COVID-19: A message from the Department for International Trade

17. As the UK goes through this unprecedented period, the Department for International Trade is committed to standing behind businesses and is asking businesses to do their best to stand behind their workers.

We understand that as a business owner or employee, you may be concerned about the impact of coronavirus (Covid-19) on your business, your colleagues and employees.

The Government is supporting businesses and employees through a package of measures to help manage the impact of coronavirus (Covid-19).

These measures include financial support packages for businesses and support for employees' wages. UK Export Finance (UKEF) has also expanded the scope of its [Export Insurance Policy \(EXIP\)](#) meaning UK businesses will now be eligible to secure export insurance cover to all major markets.

You should now:

- Visit the [Business Support website](#) for more information about these and additional measures and support available to your business. This website will continue to be updated with the latest information.
- Pay particular attention to the [guidance for employees, employers and businesses](#) which is being updated regularly with the latest advice
- Read the guidance for [UK businesses trading internationally](#).
- Take [steps to protect yourself and others](#).

Professional Services communications received over the course of this week

18. The following communications from professional services firms and other commercial bodies have been received since the last bulletin.

- **Ashfords' Coronavirus/COVID-19 weekly bulletin – 17/4 - [here](#)**
- **CIPD – COVID-19: expert-led guides and webinars to support you through the coronavirus - 14/4 - [here](#)**
- **Foot Anstey COVID Response Team - Response to Coronavirus: Employment issues - the next phase – This webinar Thursday 30 April 2020 at 11:00 am will address a range of employment issues relating to the next phase in the Government's response to coronavirus. The focus will be on the planning for a return to operational health and getting ready for the challenges that may arise. – [here](#)**
- **Lambert Smith Hampton – online resource hub – 15/4 - [here](#)**
- **Pinsent Masons 18/4 - [here](#)**
- **Stephens & Scown - Stephens Scown recognises that businesses will be forced to make quick decisions to help them survive. When acting quickly, there is a risk that businesses will make short-term decisions which ensure their immediate survival but which potentially create long-term risks for their business. We want to help you to avoid these risks. To do this, we have built a support package to help businesses ensure that the decisions they make will help now and in the future. More – [here](#) & [here](#)**

Other sources of advice, articles, videos and blogs:

- *As governments fumbled their coronavirus response, these four got it right. Here's how* – CNN – [here](#)
- *Centre for Cities – Coronavirus - Nowhere is feeling the economic and social impact of Covid-19 more than UK's cities and largest towns. From a public health perspective, Coronavirus has touched every part of the UK, but its economic impact will be bigger in some places than others. More* - [here](#)
- *COVID-19 Response: Big Decisions for CEOs Right Now—and Urgent Questions About the Time After* – BCG - [here](#)
- *David Draffan, PCC Service Director Economic Development, Corvid 19 – Business Blog No 7 - Thursday 9/4/2020* – [here](#)
- *Email from - Johnny Mercer MP- 16/4 -* [here](#)
- *Every UK manufacturer helping to produce PPE and equipment for NHS workers* – The Manufacturer – [here](#)

IV Events

Please spread the word about City College's virtual open day

19. To all our partners and friends,

We hope this e-mail finds you well.

Like businesses and organisations across the country, we at City College are having to find new ways to engage with students and prospective students.

Student recruitment is as vital as ever, but with schools and the College closed, we have lost these means of promoting everything City College has to offer school-leavers in the area.

As you might be aware, the College is in the process of organising a virtual open day, which is due to take place on Saturday 25 April. Throughout the day, prospective students are invited to sign up to an online talk with various faculty members, who will be presenting some of the best aspects of their courses.

We are asking for you to please consider promoting this crucial event with your members and partners in a bid to engage with as many 15- to 18-year-olds as possible. Alternatively, we ask if you would consider sharing this event via your social media. I have included the link to this event here: <https://www.cityplym.ac.uk/>.

City College would be incredibly grateful for your support at this time. If you would like any further information about this event, please get in touch. Thank you for your time and we look forward to seeing you all again.

*The very best of wishes to you all,
From all at City College Plymouth*

VIRTUAL OPEN DAY
Saturday 25 April

Event schedule:

10.00am	Childcare, Health & Social Care
10.45am	Sport & Public Services
11.30am	Catering, Hospitality, Travel & Tourism
12.45pm	Science
1.30pm	Construction
2.15pm	Automotive, Engineering & Marine
3.00pm	Hair & Beauty
3.45pm	Performing Arts, Dance, Music & Live Events
4.30pm	Games Development & Computing
5.15pm	Business, Media, Art & Design

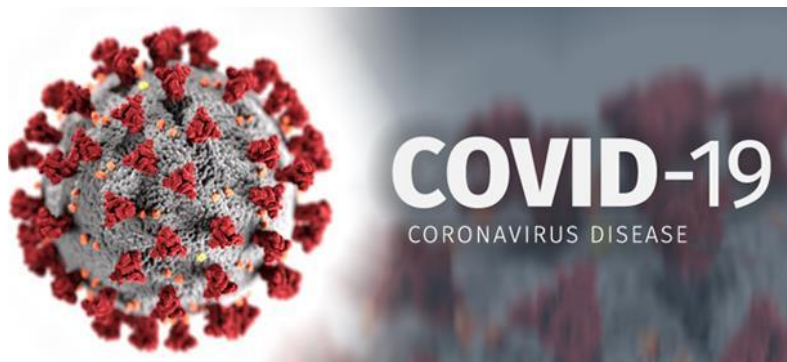
city college plymouth

A VITAL PART OF PLYMOUTH FOR
130 YEARS

Visit [cityplym.ac.uk/](https://www.cityplym.ac.uk/) events to secure your invitation.

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



HM Government COVID-19: support for business

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

NB: This is being updated regularly with the latest advice. It may have changed since you last looked. Subscribe to bulletins - [here](#)

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/

Email: info@heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk

Tel: 03456 047 047

Covid-19 newsletter – 15/4 - <https://mailchi.mp/heartofswgrowthhub/growth-hub-newsletter-8th-april-4394223?e=b920e7bfa5>

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/284566b>



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

South Hams & West Devon district councils have their own bulletin

17/4 - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSWDEVON/bulletins/286c97e>

Devon County Council

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



17/4 update - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/286ff9a>

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



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

The Manufacturers' Organisation <https://www.makeuk.org/coronavirus>

Webinar 25/3 - Our policy experts guide you through the new measures including the job retention scheme, the process, eligibility and what it means for you. Along with the new rules on SSP and childcare for key workers.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=2R6Xtn40tNo&feature=emb_logo

South West Business Council

In response to the challenges facing businesses around the region, SWBC has launched a COVID19 Taskforce to help mitigate the impact on businesses as far as possible. We have brought together firms of lawyers and accountants, in addition to banking, corporate real estate, PR & Communications companies and HR specialists to respond to business questions and short term requests for support. More -

<https://www.southwestbusinesscouncil.co.uk/2020/03/24/covid19-taskforce/>



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:

The Editor of this bulletin is grateful to various news sources for stories contained either herein or in previous editions, including: The [Plymouth Herald](#) and the Financial Times.

Image credits:

HM Government; Young Enterprise; Babcock Int x 2 and City College Plymouth.

NB: Some weblinks are only accessible temporarily until the release of the next edition of this newsletter. Pl. contact the editor if you cannot access the link you require. stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com

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!

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this special bulletin is for general information purposes only. The information is provided by the PMG and while we endeavour to keep the information up to date and correct, we make no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability or availability with respect to the information, products, services, or related graphics contained here for any purpose. Any reliance you place on such information is therefore strictly at your own risk.

In no event will the PMG be liable for any loss or damage including without limitation, indirect or consequential loss or damage, or any loss or damage whatsoever arising from loss of data or profits arising out of, or in connection with, the use of products or services referred to within this newsletter. Throughout this newsletter you are able to link to websites which are not under the control of the PMG. We have no control over the nature, content and availability of those sites. The inclusion of any links does not necessarily imply a recommendation or endorse the views expressed within them.

The editor's contact details are as follows:

Steve Gerry

Secretary to Plymouth Manufacturers' Group
23 Nursery Close,
Tamerton Foliot,
Plymouth PL5 4QG

☎: 01752 795034

📞: 07585 445 346

✉: stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com

🌐: www.mypmg.co.uk

🌐: <http://stevegerryconsulting.co.uk/>



Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City

