

Special PMG covid-19 bulletin

Edition #09 – 12th May 2020

This is the ninth in a series of special editions of the PMG newsletter in light of the current covid-19 situation. The purpose is to share or signpost you to useful information. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

I Covid-19 News

PM address to the nation on coronavirus: 10 May 2020

1. The PM said that his aim was to ‘... *provide the first sketch of a road map for reopening society. ... a conditional plan. ... Our priority is to protect the public and save lives.*



We now need to stress that anyone who can't work from home, for instance those in construction or manufacturing, should be actively encouraged to go to work.

And to ensure you are safe at work we have been working to establish new guidance for employers to make workplaces COVID-secure.

Full address - [here](#)

On 11th May the government followed up the PM's address with, *Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy*. This document describes the progress the UK has made to date in tackling the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, and sets out the plans for moving to the next phase of its response to the virus.

The strategy sets out a cautious roadmap to easing existing measures in a safe and measured way, subject to successfully controlling the virus and being able to monitor and react to its spread. The roadmap will be kept constantly under review as the epidemic, and the world's understanding of it, develops. Download - [here](#)



Commenting on Boris Johnson's announcement, Stephen Phipson, Make UK chief executive, said:

"We are pleased that the Government are advising us that we are now through the peak of this pandemic - but we have not forgotten that many manufacturing firms have lost valued colleagues and friends over the last few weeks. They will not be forgotten.

"The Government are encouraging those manufacturers who have not continued to operate to return to business. We cautiously welcome this. However, it is critical that there is clear advice on how to do that, and an understanding that firms will be helped to comply as we navigate uncharted waters, and not punished for inadvertent errors. In many parts of manufacturing people will need to work much more closely than 2 metres apart.

Make UK's Manufacturing our road to recovery - the 3 point plan. Download - [here](#)

This paper sets out our 3 point plan:

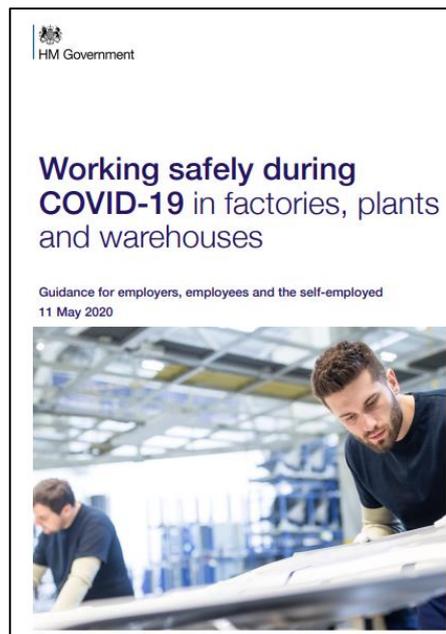
- *Boost economic confidence*
- *Ensure a safe return to work*
- *Build resilience*

It includes a series of policies to support the manufacturing sector, stimulate recovery and help place the UK economy in the best position to deliver a digital, global and green future

New guidance re working safely during COVID-19

2. The Government has issued (11th May) new guidance re working safely during COVID-19 in factories, plants and warehouses. A copy can be downloaded here: [here](#)

This is one of 8 guides covering a range of different types of work. Many businesses operate more than one type of workplace, such as an office, factory and vehicles. You may need to use more than one of these guides as you think through what you need to do to keep people safe. All 8 guides can be found - [here](#)



Chancellor extends furlough scheme until October

3. The government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will remain open until the end of October, the Chancellor announced today (Tuesday 12 May 2020). Extract from a government press release:

In a boost to millions of jobs and businesses, Rishi Sunak said the furlough scheme would be extended by a further four months with workers continuing to receive 80% of their current salary.

As we reopen the economy, we need to support people to get back to work. From the start of August, furloughed workers will be able to return to work part-time with employers being asked to pay a percentage towards the salaries of their furloughed staff.

The employer payments will substitute the contribution the government is currently making, ensuring that staff continue to receive 80% of their salary, up to £2,500 a month.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak said: Our Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has protected millions of jobs and businesses across the UK during the outbreak – and I've been clear that I want to avoid a cliff edge and get people back to work in a measured way.

This extension and the changes we are making to the scheme will give flexibility to businesses while protecting the livelihoods of the British people and our future economic prospects.

New statistics published today revealed the job retention scheme has protected 7.5 million workers and almost 1 million businesses.

*The scheme will continue in its current form until the end of July and the changes to allow more flexibility will come in from the start of August. **More specific details and information around its implementation will be made available by the end of this month.***

The government will explore ways through which furloughed workers who wish to do additional training or learn new skills are supported during this period. It will also continue to work closely with the Devolved Administrations to ensure the scheme supports people across the Union.

The Chancellor's decision to extend the scheme, which will continue to apply across all regions and sectors in the UK economy, comes after the government outlined its plan for the next phase of its response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Full wording of the release - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-extends-furlough-scheme-until-october>



The Bank of England reports on Manufacturing

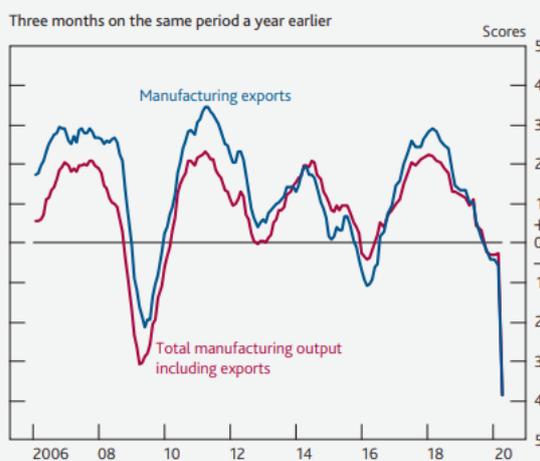
4. Extract from the latest Bank of England Monetary Policy Report –

In manufacturing, demand was generally weak, in particular for contacts supplying the automotive, aerospace and house building sectors. Export demand was also weak (Chart B opposite). However, many contacts in sectors such as food, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and electronic components reported operating at or around normal levels. Some companies had closed temporarily because of concerns from employees and unions around the ability to work under social distancing rules. However, after making adjustments, a growing number of companies, for example in automotive, heavy industry and construction materials plan to resume production over the coming weeks, albeit at lower volumes initially.

Contacts reported an improvement in the delivery of supplies from China and the Far East, following Covid-19-related disruption earlier in the year. However, some were now having difficulty obtaining supplies from India. Imports from Spain and Italy were also subject to delays. In addition, lower freight capacity and international travel restrictions were putting pressure on the supply of inputs, as well as on exports. Full report is available - [here](#)

Chart B Manufacturing output and exports fell sharply, but demand varied between sectors

Total manufacturing output and manufacturing exports



Resurgam – PMG engaged in City’s Economic Recovery

5. Plymouth City Council leader Tudor Evans has pledged to lead from the front the city’s economic recovery programme out of the COVID-19 lockdown. He has announced plans to help Plymouth’s businesses get



back to work through Resurgam - a programme to oversee recovery across all sectors. The name is Latin for ‘I shall rise again’ and the word became part of Plymouth’s history when it appeared on a wooden sign over the bombed out St Andrew’s Church during the Blitz.

Councillor Evans said: “This is the biggest economic challenge this city has faced since the Blitz, but I am certain we can rise to the challenge.

“Over the last few years we have made huge strides in creating and sustaining jobs and prosperity.

We have great partnerships across the city. We need to harness the energy and expertise that we have built up - not just from within the Council - but across key business organisations and companies to work together to make sure Plymouth is ready to emerge from the lockdown.

“We will be working closely with the Plymouth Growth Board and all of our brilliant sector partnerships over the coming weeks to build a series of sector action plans that tailor our support specifically to the needs of each sector.

Over the past few weeks the Council’s role as ‘Economic First Responder’ has helped soften the blow of the lockdown. Its business team has worked directly with the 3,800 businesses which have benefited from the business grants schemes. So far it has helped get over £37 million out to the city’s businesses. The Council has also been heavily involved in lobbying for extra support alongside the Devon Chamber of Commerce, The Federation of Small Businesses and Plymouth Manufacturers’ Group (‘PMG’).

Offer coronavirus (COVID-19) support from your business

6. 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](#)

Other recent Covid-19 and business related announcements made by Government

7. In addition to the announcements set out previously in this bulletin, here is the latest news from Government since the last (eighth) bulletin.
- **Guidance for passengers on how to travel safely** – This guidance provides advice on how passengers should make journeys safely. The advice sets out that if people who cannot work from home and have to travel for work, they should first consider alternatives to public transport. More - [here](#)
 - **Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020 in England** – [Guidance](#) is available on how educational and childcare settings should prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020, including information on year groups in first phase of wider opening, the latest science, and managing risk and rate of transmission of coronavirus.
 - **Business rates revaluation postponed** - A [revaluation of business rates](#) will no longer take place in 2021 to help reduce uncertainty for firms affected by the impacts of coronavirus. The Government is continuing work on the fundamental review of business rates, with the key aims of reducing the overall burden on businesses, improving the current business rates system, and considering more fundamental changes in the medium-to-long term. The call for evidence for the review will be published in the coming months.
 - **Guidance for businesses seeking to help voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak** - How businesses can offer services, funds and volunteers to civil society during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Find out more information [here](#).

Other covid-19 news

- **Over 60 lenders approved for CBILS** - [here](#)
- **Manufacturing PMIs across Europe** – Data from Markit showed that the German manufacturing PMI dropped to a low of 34.5 in April down from the previous 45.4. Similarly, the PMI dropped to 31.5 in France and 31.1 in Italy. In the eurozone, data showed that the PMI dropped to a record low of 33.4 from the previous 44.5. While the numbers were bad, Markit said that activity would improve in May barring any second wave of the disease. Other weak PMIs were from Switzerland, Norway, South Africa, and the United States.
- **Over 69,000 loans approved in the first day of the Bounce Back Loan Scheme** - More than 69,000 Bounce Back Loans worth over £2 billion have been approved during the first 24 hours of the scheme, the Chancellor has announced. Find out more - [here](#).
- **The Bank of England has warned that the UK economy is heading towards its sharpest recession on record.** The coronavirus impact would see the economy shrink 14% this year, based on the lockdown being relaxed in June. More - [here](#)

Other news

Quality of courses and links to employers praised by Ofsted

8. City College Plymouth has been praised by Ofsted for creating an environment in which students are able to reach their potential thanks to the extensive knowledge and experience demonstrated by teaching staff.

Following an inspection in March this year, Ofsted has announced that the College continues to be a 'good'

provider with outstanding features, and the inspectors were particularly impressed with the quality of the teaching, which they described as "highly relevant to the jobs, careers and education to which learners aspire".

The report also highlighted the levels of care and support shown throughout the College, commenting that students felt safe and it was evident that the wellbeing of students and staff was at the heart of the College's culture.

During the two-day inspection, the inspectors were also impressed by the close links between local employers and the College.

The report said: "*Learners gain an insight into the industries they want to move into because teachers and leaders have built excellent relationships with local employers. This ensures the content of courses reflects current practice.*"

More - [here](#)



- **Darren Jones, Labour MP for Bristol North West MP**, has been elected as Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee. More - [here](#)

Question & Request Corner

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.



II PMG Members' News

PMG Members' covid-19 News

Kawasaki PM UK Back to Work – Covid19 Safety Measures

9. On 14th April 2020, our Plymouth factory re-started production after a 2-week shutdown period. In preparation for our employees to return, we did our utmost to put in place the following safety measures to ensure we keep them safe and follow the UK Government guidelines.

All employees are given a 'Site Return to Work Induction' on arrival at their first day back to inform them of these guidelines.

Employees are given staggered shift start times to avoid a rush at peak times and any unnecessary close contact to each other.

In the car park, every other space has been painted with an orange spot. Only these spaces maybe used to ensure cars are at a safe distance apart.

There is now only one main access route into and out of the building to create a one-way-system. This has been marked out with orange dots 2-meters apart to help maintain social distancing.

Upon entry of the factory, there is now a sanitising station which includes hand sanitiser, wipes, and facemasks. Employees are requested to use these before using the clocking machine to avoid cross contamination.

Following that, all employees then have their temperature taken.



Throughout the factory the one-way system is mapped out with red (on grey lanes) and yellow (on green lanes) arrows for easier identification.

All high-volume access doors are wedged open to prevent any unnecessary interaction.

In the toilets, certain basins and urinals have been taped up to enforce safe distancing.

Access to the canteen is now also one-way, barriers have been put in place to implement this.



Access to the smoking area has been restricted to one path. The area has been extended to allow for social distancing and the return path to the factory has been marked out with yellow arrows which connects to the one-way system within the factory.

A one-way system has also been set-up to access and exit the offices.

Additional hand sanitisers have been placed in various other areas throughout the factory to ensure employees are using it regularly, especially before and after breaks.

Some of the canteen tables have been marked as 'out of use' and employees have been asked to sit one per table to ensure safe distancing during lunch and breaks.

PPE has been supplied and must always be worn. This consists of safety glasses, hearing protection where mandatory, face mask and face shield.

Posters reminding employees of social distancing rules, increased hand washing, and surface cleaning have been placed on various notice boards around the factory.

In addition, all non-mandatory site visits have been cancelled and delivery drivers arriving on site have been provided with temporary external toilets.

We will continue to ensure the safety and well-being of all our employees during these challenging times and look forward to welcoming back more of staff members when it is safe to do so.

Full article and more photos - [here](#)

Not just a billionaire's toy

A myopic view of the superyacht industry is potentially damaging to thousands of livelihoods and families...

10. (The following article about Princess Yachts first appeared in *SuperyachtNews*)

No one would argue that a superyacht is an essential item. Indeed, the industry itself often comments on the fact that no one needs a yacht, especially when comparing superyachts to other luxury asset classes, such as private jets and real



estate. However, when one considers the economic impact of superyacht manufacturing, as well as the many thousands of people that are employed throughout shipyards and other businesses, the notion of being non-essential must be challenged, or else thousands of workers risk losing their jobs.

“At Princess we took the decision to optionally shut down our manufacturing temporarily,” starts Kiran Haslam, chief marketing officer at Princess Yachts. “The government’s briefing explained that, unless it is essential, everyone should stay at home during lockdown, unless you are unable to work from home. It is important to note that the government has never called for a halt to manufacturing. Quite the opposite, it has encouraged businesses to continue manufacturing in order to aid the economy and its eventual recovery. Those businesses that were required to close down completely were those that had been identified as key hot spots for the transmission of viral infection, such as pubs, clubs, cinemas and so on.”

Nevertheless, Princess Yachts temporarily shut down manufacturing across its five sites in order to ensure that, as and when it began manufacturing once again, it was able to comply with the government health and safety guidelines and, indeed, surpass them as a means of protecting the employees within their care.

“We are a large workforce of over 3,000 employees, so our first concern was the safety of those individuals,” continues Haslam. “Therefore, we did a controlled shutdown, which is an incredibly hard thing to do some 55 years after the business had originally opened. We have never had a full shut down ever before. We retained around 2 per cent of our employees ‘unfurloughed’, accounting for 79 individuals. We also asked everybody at the company, from the Chairman down, to take a considerable pay reduction, the reason being that we felt that it was a financial requirement for the company and because we simply did not know what direction the market was moving in. So, we reduced the number of employees on site to 79 people over the last few weeks and aligned all employees in acts of solidarity, safety and caution – in equal measure.

The complete article can be read - [here](#)

Also, Princess have produced a video for employees regarding the return to work and new safety measures. <https://vimeo.com/415102342/716e630ee3>

Other PMG Members' News

- **RCR Industrial Flooring/ Permaban** - Even in Mozambique, Permaban Signature AR and RCR Industrial Flooring are protecting floors and allowing smooth operation. [here](#)
- **Collins Aerospace, Plymouth** - supplier of hardware including inertial measurement systems, gyroscopes, accelerometers and terrain-based navigation systems, named as BAE Systems Survivability, Targeting & Sensing Solutions Supplier of the Year. More - [here](#)
- **Oakmount Control systems** – At Oakmount Control Systems Limited we have design & manufacturing resource available to help shops and factories manufacture bespoke plastic guards to ensure their employees and customers maintain social distancing and stay safe. More - [here](#)

III Business to Business

International trade support for your business

11. Over the last few weeks, the Department for International Trade have been working to ensure practical support solutions are available to the UK's exporters and investors trading internationally.

With our team of International Trade Advisers (ITA's) across the South West, we want to help you overcome your barriers to trade and ensure your export strategy stays on track during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We've launched a [COVID-19 webinar series](#) to help UK SMEs of all sizes and sectors. Experts will provide practical advice to help guide your business and respond to the challenges and potential disruption caused by COVID-19. A full list of webinars is included below.

To keep up-to-date with the latest COVID-19 advice and signposting to Government support, access the latest guidance for [UK businesses trading internationally](#).

We hope you continue to stay safe at home, and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our team in the South West. More - [here](#)



Momentum South West

12. Furlough Personal Development Group to support businesses and employees during this tricky time. Our commitment is to provide free personal development opportunities to members of staff who are (or have been) on the Government furlough scheme. The scheme allows staff to engage in training whilst on furlough, which you can read about - [here](#)



Find coronavirus financial support for your business

13. Coronavirus (COVID-19) support is available to employers and the self-employed. You may be eligible for loans, tax relief and cash grants. Use this business support finder to see what support is available for you and your business - [here](#)

Online Short Business Courses

14. Get Ahead with CMN's Business Courses! Details – [here](#) and [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



Serco's Skills Support for the Workforce – free online courses

15. We are pleased to be able to offer a revised provision within the following topic areas in the Heart of the South West (HotSW) Region.

- *Leadership and Management (a variety of courses from First Line Team Leading to Senior Management)*
- *Health & Social Care (short courses with specific subjects to full Level 2 Care qualifications)*
- *Digital IT (Microsoft Office courses for beginners to intermediate levels, WordPress, Digital Promotion for Business and other similar topics)*
- *Construction, Marine and Engineering (a variety of technical qualifications)*
- *HR, Business and Marketing (Managing Performance, Policies and Compliance for Small Businesses alongside other courses)*



Skills Support for Redundancy

We are offering bespoke packages of training aimed at supporting individuals into employment, further learning or an apprenticeship. Individuals are eligible for **Skills Support for Redundancy** if they have been made redundant within the last three months.

Courses will be delivered remotely through Skype, Zoom, Microsoft Teams etc with the exception of some construction courses which will still be delivered but adhering to the social distancing guidance. Businesses and individuals who are interested in undertaking training can enquire via our website: [here](#) and [here](#)

New free online learning platform to boost workplace skills

16. A new [online learning platform](#) to help boost the nation's skills while people are staying at home, has been launched today by Education Secretary Gavin Williamson.

Free courses are available through [The Skills Toolkit](#). The new platform gives people access to free, high-quality digital and numeracy courses to help build up their skills, progress in work and boost their job prospects.

These are the skills which are highly valued by employers and sought after in a wide range of jobs.

With more people expected to be working and studying remotely in the coming months, the platform offers a great opportunity to learn new skills to help to get ahead online and gain the knowledge we'll all need for the future. The platform also offers employees who have been furloughed an opportunity to keep up their skills development while they are at home.

Courses on offer cover a range of levels, from everyday maths and tools for using email and social media more effectively at work to more advanced training. Individuals will be able to access courses helping them to create great online content developed by the University of Leeds and the Institute of Coding, to understand the Fundamentals of Digital Marketing from Google Digital Garage and to learn how to code for data analysis from the Open University. All courses are online and flexible, so people can work through them at their own pace. Find out more information [here](#).



Upcoming webinars ...

17. **HMRC – Coronavirus COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme – various dates** - <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/3667545685723120643?source=May-HMRC-DCS-SSP-Agents-1>
HMRC - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme – How to make a claim – various dates – <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/87281838429017601?source=May-HMRC-DCS-JRSHT-Agents-1>

18. **SA Partners - Business continuity planning has become critical** given the current environment, and to help organisations adapt and hopefully thrive during the weeks ahead, we will be delivering a series of free webinars where we will be talking you through some of the critical issues, but will also be available for questions through a Q&A session. More - [here](#)

We also have two certified virtual Lean Awareness courses coming up that may be of interest. The course is delivered by our experienced facilitators over two days (2 hours each day); it is supported by self-study and group discussion. Every candidate will receive 1:1 coaching support from their facilitator. Available dates:

- o **19 & 20 May 2020: [White Belt - Lean Awareness](#)**

Costs & To Book:

- o £340 plus VAT per person
- o 10% discount for Onsite Host Companies
- o Email: ailsa.carson@sapartners.com
- o Follow link above which will take you to Eventbrite.

Providing Training/Personal Development during Furlough

I am conscious that many colleagues may be on furlough, government guidelines have said that it is OK to undertake training during furlough - so a great opportunity to provide some personal development for employees.

Please do email me if you would like to discuss this or any other virtual training.

Ailsa Carson

Partner & Programme Director - Events

M. +44 783 222 3453

ailsa.carson@sapartners.com

19. **Offshore Wind in the UK, China, USA, Japan and South Korea: Synergies, Opportunities and the Future**

Thursday, 14 May 2020 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

This event will be live streamed via webcast

Overview - To help UK businesses become truly global enterprises through strategic collaboration, Innovate UK launched its Global Expert Missions in October 2017

Delivered by the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN), the Missions provide an expert-led evidence base to strengthen Innovate UK's global investment strategy: how and where it should invest to create UK business opportunities in partnerships with key economies. More - [here](#)

Others

- o **Dale Carnegie – online courses** - [here](#)

Resources from past events

This HMRC webinar provides a step-by-step guide on how to make a claim through the Coronavirus Retention Scheme, including essential information needed before you start, how to work out your claim and what happens after submitting your claim. View - [here](#)



A selection of past DIT webinars are now available to view. To view, choose a webinar from the list below, and complete the registration form to view the recording. View - [here](#)

Professional Services communications received over the course of this week

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

- Ashfords' Coronavirus/COVID-19 weekly bulletin – 7/5 - [here](#)
- BCR Assocs – 5 ways to maximise cyber security whilst employees work from home – 7/5 - [here](#)
- CIPD – COVID-19: supporting you during COVID-19 and beyond – 7/5 – [here](#)
- Foot Anstey - What's New in Employment Law Apart From Coronavirus? - 5/5 [here](#)
- Pinsent Masons 7/5 - [here](#)

Other sources of advice, articles, videos and blogs:

- David Draffan, PCC Service Director Economic Development, Corvid 19 – Business Blog No 10 - Thursday 7/5/2020 – <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/david-draffan-covid1-blog-no10-david-draffan/?trackingId=B2lxlv%2F9SzeFOkyYK2wyzA%3D%3D>

IV Requests

PPE - Request from Lord Deighton's Office

21. Make UK have been asked by Lord Deighton's office to respond to the government's urgent request for high volume providers of PPE. We are told that each company and product will need to be evaluated separately as there are a number of steps that need to be taken to ensure PPE is safe, legal, and protects the wearer in the correct way. We have been asked to help by organising the offers, and your support would be appreciated. The government are looking for the following types of PPE: Aprons, FFP2 / FFP3 Face Masks, IIR Masks, Gowns, Hand Sanitiser, and Visors. There is no limit to the quantity the government will contract for and manufacturers are asked to based their offers on legitimate capacity.

Government guidance for [New High-Volume Manufacturers of PPE](#) provides details safety requirements and standards as well as the obligations on manufacturers; we would encourage them to read through this before making an offer.

If you think you can help, please get in touch with stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com

Tomorrow's Engineers Zone

22. EngineeringUK is looking for engineers to join the [Tomorrow's Engineers Zone](#). This is part-funded by EngineeringUK as part of *I'm an Engineer, Stay at home*.

I'm an Engineer is a series of online STEM activities connecting students, teachers and engineers. They are running a special *Stay at home* version to help people while the coronavirus pandemic continues to restrict normal life for many of us. All that is needed is some of your time. It's free to take part, and everything happens remotely, on your computer, tablet or smartphone. You don't need to do any preparation, or even leave your house. All you have to do is answer questions from schools and students for less than an hour on careers and topics in STEM.

Here is what other engineers who have previously taken part had to say:

"I got much more out of the activity than I could have imagined. Some questions really challenged me, and made me think twice about what I do and why I do it." Chris, satellite engineer

"I'm an Engineer was an excellent opportunity to hear what kids concerns are and the areas that they are curious about." Connor, civil engineer

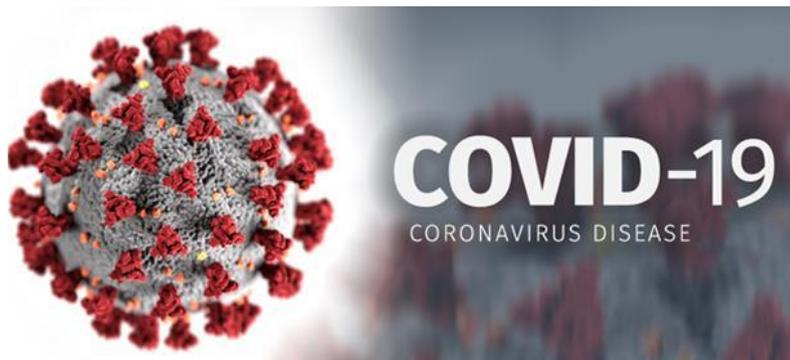
The online activity runs from 20th April to 20th July.

If this is something that you would like to participate in, please visit the website to find out more and sign up: <https://imanengineer.org.uk/stayathome/engineer-signup/te/>



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 – 6/5 - <https://mailchi.mp/heartofswgrowthhub/growth-hub-newsletter-8th-april-4417276?e=b920e7bfa5>

April newsletter - <https://mailchi.mp/heartofswlep/hotsw-lep-march-newsletter-9392006?e=b002fd55ba>

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

11/5 - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKPCC/bulletins/28af21d>

6/5 - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKPCC/bulletins/289c74b>

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

South Hams & West Devon district councils have their own bulletin

12/5 - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSWDEVON/bulletins/28af2c1>

Devon County Council

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



6/5 update - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/28a3520>

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

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

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

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.

Special PMG covid-19 bulletin – 12th May 2020

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 Gov UK; Kawasaki PM UK and DfE.

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!

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Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City

