

# Coronavirus Advice for Business – 5 November 2020

## **SUPPORT FOR OR CERTAIN RETAIL, HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE BUSINESSES**

The Chancellor announced that all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses will not have to pay business rates for the tax year 2020/21. Businesses that received the retail discount in the 2019 to 2020 tax year will be rebilled by their local authority as soon as possible. Following the announcement on 23 March 2020 of further measures to limit the spread of coronavirus, the government confirmed that some of the exclusions for this relief, such as estate agents and letting agents, have been removed, so that retail, leisure, and hospitality properties that will have been forced to close as a result of the COVID-19 restriction measures will now be eligible for the relief. Guidance can be found [here](#):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-rates-retail-discount-guidance>

From November 2020, shops, pubs, clubs, theatres, cinemas, music venues, restaurants and any other businesses in the hospitality, leisure and retail sectors (under the expanded list) with a rateable value of property will also receive a cash grant of up to £1,500 per fortnight of closure, depending on the rateable value of property:

- Properties with a rateable value of £15,000 or under will receive grants of £667 per fortnight of closure;
- Properties with a rateable value between £15,001 and £51,000 will receive grants of £1,000 per fortnight of closure; and
- Properties with a rateable value over £51,001 will receive a grant of £1,500 per fortnight of closure.

For businesses which do have a policy that covers pandemics, the government's action is sufficient and will allow businesses to make an insurance claim against their policy.

All enquiries on the eligibility for, or provision of, the reliefs should be directed to the relevant local authority. Please note reliefs are not currently the same for businesses in Scotland.

Guidance on the scheme can be found [here](#), or please contact our corporate finance team for assistance with your claim or eligibility queries.