

# [Homes England Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Updates](#)

This page will be updated regularly when more information becomes available. Please check back regularly and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for more updates.

**12/5/2020 update**

**The Housing Secretary set out the government's plan to re-start housing market.**

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Housing Secretary, [Robert Jenrick announced](#) that the government has launched a 'Safe Working Charter' with The Home Builders Federation, enabling home builders to return to work safely.

**1/5/2020 update**

**Our Chief Executive Nick Walkley told Estates Gazette about how we are engaging with the industry to inform our strategic response to COVID-19.**

[You can read the article here via LinkedIn.](#)

The piece was originally published by Estates Gazette online on 24th April 2020 and in print on 30th April 2020.

**We have released information for Help to Buy: Equity Loan customers during Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

We understand that coronavirus (COVID-19) is worrying and that things still feel very uncertain. There are many questions about what coronavirus means for Help to Buy: Equity Loan customers and we aim to answer some of these on our [Information for Help to Buy: Equity Loan customers during Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Frequently Asked Questions Page](#)

**15/4/20 update**

**Homes England ramps up development pipeline to support the housing market**

We have acquired 19 sites in the last financial year worth £180 million, with the capacity for 5,000 new homes across the country.

We're taking a long-term view of housing demand to develop a strong pipeline of projects to support the recovery of the housebuilding sector from COVID-19.

[You can read our full press release here](#)

**8/4/20 update**

## **Homes England End of Year Statement from Nick Walkley**

At this unusual and challenging time for us all, our Chief Executive, Nick Walkley has made a statement on the end of the financial year 2019/2020.

For Homes England, it's a moment to reflect on what we have achieved with partners across the housing sector and remember how much can be achieved by working creatively in partnership.

[You can read Nick's full statement here](#)

**17/3/20 update**

## **Changes to Homes England's ways of working**

Following guidance from the Prime Minister to avoid non-essential travel, from 17th March 2020 we will be working remotely as an organisation with staff working from home until further notice.

As part of business continuity protocols, we have been thoroughly testing our technology & are confident we can continue to operate fully. We have also withdrawn from upcoming conferences & other business engagements.

As an outward-facing national agency, we are taking these steps to protect both our staff & partners & are grateful for everybody's continued support.

We are determined to support the government at this time. The most important contribution we can make is to continue working with our partners to complete transactions & continue building the pipeline to support housebuilding.

## **Contact information**

Colleagues will be contacting partners regards current business priorities. If you need to speak to us, contact us on:

Email: [enquiries@homesengland.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@homesengland.gov.uk)

Phone: 0300 1234 500

We will be providing updates on any further operational changes but our clear message at this time is Homes England is fully operational & determined to continue doing business.

We wish you and your organisation well. Please do get in touch if we can be of assistance.

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## [Goods exports in all 4 UK nations increased in 2019](#)

Goods exports from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland increased in 2019, according to new figures published today (Tuesday 17 March) by [HMRC](#).

- England grew 2.0% to £254.0bn
- Scotland grew 4.4% to £33.6bn
- Wales grew 3.0% to £17.7bn
- Northern Ireland grew 2.2% to £9.1bn

Demand for UK goods is increasingly coming from countries outside the EU bloc.

In 2019, the number of businesses exporting goods from the UK to the world totalled 160,400, an increase of 2.6% on 2018.

Notes to editors: All figures quoted are for 2019. [Source: HMRC Regional Trade Statistics: Q4 2019]

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## [Coronavirus update](#)

The Parole Board is continuing to carry out planned hearings at this time. Members of the Parole Board have been provided with updated guidance to ensure the wellbeing of everyone in the parole system is the top priority.

We are continuing to keep a close eye on government advice and are looking into ways to continue to fulfil our workload.

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## [Coronavirus advice for Companies House customers, employees and suppliers](#)



At Companies House, our priority is to protect the welfare of our employees.

In response to the potential spread of the virus, we're following Public Health England guidelines. The situation is dynamic and could change quickly, so we're preparing for a number of scenarios.

## **Access to our offices**

There are restrictions to public access to our offices and the delivery of paper documents.

If you're filing documents with us, it's quicker and easier to use our online services. You can:

### **Edinburgh**

Our Edinburgh office is now closed to the public. Please deliver any paper documents to the Companies House letterbox next to the office building.

### **London**

Our London office will close to the public from 5pm today (Tuesday 17 March 2020). There is no letterbox at the office – you must send all mail directly to our Cardiff office:

Companies House  
Crown Way  
Cardiff  
CF14 3UZ  
Cardiff

## **Same day services**

We will suspend all our same day services from 3pm today (Tuesday 17 March 2020) until further notice. Any orders currently being processed will be completed and posted out to customers.

## Suppliers

Do not send us paper invoices by post. You should email your PDF invoices to [accountspayable@companieshouse.gov.uk](mailto:accountspayable@companieshouse.gov.uk) – this will help us to continue processing your invoices while we're working remotely.

## Stay up to date

For the latest information and updates:

## More information

[Coronavirus: if your company cannot file accounts with Companies House on time](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): UK government response](#)

[COVID-19: guidance for employers and businesses](#)

Published 12 March 2020

Last updated 17 March 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 17 March 2020

Closures to Edinburgh and London office and same day services suspended.

2. 17 March 2020

Information for suppliers sending us invoices.

3. 12 March 2020

First published.

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## [Payment software deal cleared by CMA](#)

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has been investigating Bottomline Technology's completed purchase of the Experian Payments Gateway (EPG) business from Experian Limited.

Bottomline and EPG provide payments software used by businesses to submit direct debits, make payroll payments and pay suppliers. This software allows customers of both companies to make payments via the Bacs and Faster Payments Direct Corporate Access systems.

After completing its initial Phase 1 investigation, the CMA was concerned that the merger may reduce competition, leading to increased prices, reduced

product availability, or reduced investment in innovation. As such, the deal was referred to an in-depth Phase 2 probe.

Following this further analysis, carried out by an independent group of panel members, the CMA announced in February that it had provisionally found the deal would not negatively impact competition.

This is largely because EPG was no longer a strong force in the market and that, following the deal, there remains enough alternative companies competing with Bottomline for customers. The CMA also looked in detail at the possibility that, under alternative ownership, EPG would have become a more active competitor than it was before the merger, but determined that this was not the case.

Having consulted on this provisional finding, the CMA has now confirmed clearance of the deal.

For more information, visit the [Bottomline Technologies \(de\), Inc / Experian Limited merger inquiry case page](#).