

Ministers announce new grants for businesses affected by local lockdowns

- scheme provides a safety net to further protect jobs where a business is required to close
- comes in addition to billions of pounds of existing loans, grants and tax breaks as well as the Chancellor's Plan for Jobs

Ministers have today announced new funding to support businesses impacted by Covid 19.

Businesses in England required to close due to local lockdowns or targeted restrictions will now be able to receive grants worth up to £1,500 every three weeks, Chief Secretary to the Treasury Steve Barclay told MPs today. To be eligible for the grant, a business must have been required to close due to local Covid 19 restrictions. The largest businesses will receive £1,500 every three weeks they are required to close. Smaller businesses will receive £1,000.

Payments are triggered by a national decision to close businesses in a high incidence area. Each payment will be made for a 3 week lockdown period. Each new 3 week lockdown period triggers an additional payment.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury Steve Barclay said:

These grants provide businesses with a safety net as they temporarily close their doors to help save lives in their local areas.

As local economies eventually and carefully re-open after local interventions, our Plan for Jobs is there waiting to help businesses get back on their feet, protect jobs and thrive in the future.

Business Secretary Alok Sharma said:

No business should be punished for doing the right thing, which is why today's package will offer additional breathing space for businesses that have had to temporarily close to control the virus.

Through our wider Plan for Jobs, we will continue to back our innovators and job creators across the country who are playing a critical role as we build back better from the pandemic.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Barclay also reiterated the recent commitment to roll-out additional payments for people on low incomes who are required to self-isolate in areas with high levels of Covid-19.

Currently these payments are available in Blackburn with Darwen, Pendle, and Oldham as part of an ongoing trial scheme.

This targeted support is in addition to businesses eligibility for the Government's existing schemes of support to businesses which remain available to impacted companies. This includes the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which has supported the wages of 9.6 million people so far, government backed loans and business grants worth up to £25,000 per property.

This help will also support local jobs dependent on impacted businesses, complementing the Chancellor's Plan for Jobs.

Other measures announced to protect, support and create jobs include the Eat Out to Help Out scheme, cutting VAT for tourism and hospitality by 15%, a £2 billion Kickstart Scheme, which has opened for applications, and an £8.8 billion investment in new infrastructure, decarbonisation and maintenance projects.

Notes

- any businesses still closed at a national level (e.g. nightclubs), will not be eligible
 - if a business occupies a premises with a rateable value less than £51,000 or occupy a property or part of a property subject to an annual rent or mortgage payment of less than £51,000, it will receive £1000
 - if a business has a rateable value more than £51,000 or part of a property subject to an annual rent or mortgage payment of more than £51,000, it will receive £1500
 - Local authorities will also receive an additional 5% top up amount of business support funding to enable them to help other businesses affected by closures which may not be on the business rates list. Payments made to businesses from this discretionary fund can be any amount up to £1500, and may be less than £1000 in some cases.
 - Local authorities will be responsible for distributing the grants to businesses in circumstances where they are closed due to local interventions
 - further eligibility criteria may be determined by Local authorities
 - as with other Covid business grants, local grants to closed businesses will be treated as taxable income
 - The UK Government has guaranteed that the devolved administrations will receive at least £12.7 billion on top of their March Budget settlements to help them with their response to Covid-19 this year, with £6.5 billion for the Scottish Government, £4.0 billion for the Welsh Government and £2.2 billion for the Northern Ireland Executive. The Barnett formula will apply in the usual way to any additional funding provided to departments in relation to this intervention.
 - for further information on payments to individuals self-isolating please see [here](#).
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[DIO awards new cost price analysis contract](#)

The first Discovery and Design phase of the contract is worth approximately £2-million. The contract if fully taken would have a duration of 9 years and an estimated maximum value of £20-million.

The successful supplier is international property and construction consultancy Gleeds.

This new solution will also provide better delivery of estimated costs and cost intelligence for new build, operation, maintenance and refurbishment work on the Defence estate.

At present DIO goes to the market for information on costs. The new contract will bring this expertise in house. This will be more cost-effective way of gathering this knowledge and will ultimately provide better value for money for the taxpayer.

This change to ways of working will help DIO to provide better forecasts of costs, obtain better performance data from DIO suppliers, improve existing cost estimating abilities and ensure that DIO makes better informed investment decisions.

Nick Wilkinson, DIO Commercial Director, said: "This contract demonstrates how DIO wants to innovate and do things differently.

"This new way of working will ensure that DIO has access to the most comprehensive information and data. This will allow us to be as efficient and effective as possible when procuring suppliers and planning bespoke projects for Defence."

Ken Munro, Defence Director, Gleeds said, "We are very excited that Gleeds has secured the contract to deliver DIO's CPAC service. This is exactly the sort of digital future that we and our key supplier PwC have embraced and my team is delighted at the prospect of combining our subject matter expertise with DIO's deep knowledge of end user requirements to deliver this capability. This is a visionary step that has been taken by DIO and we are really looking forward to working with Nick and his team to realise the significant commercial and financial planning benefits that they have identified."

Further information:

Press enquiries to Becky Robinson, Communications Officer 07989 303297 or email rebecca.robinson137@mod.gov.uk

- DIO website: www.gov.uk/dio
- Twitter: @mod_dio

- Read DIO's [blog](#).

About DIO

DIO is part of the Ministry of Defence and is responsible for enabling defence people to live, work, train and deploy at home and overseas. Our key responsibilities include: planning and delivering major capital projects and refurbishments; providing utilities services and facilities management; allocating Service Families Accommodation; providing a safe place to train; procuring and managing routine maintenance and reactive repairs; advising on infrastructure planning; acting as a steward of the Defence estate and providing an unarmed guarding service.

About Gleeds

Gleeds (www.gleeds.com) is an international property and construction consultancy with over 130 years' experience in the property and construction industry. With 1900 dedicated staff across six continents and 71 offices, Gleeds prides itself on being a global business that is structured to act and think locally.

Working with clients in almost every sector, Gleeds services the entire project lifecycle and categorises its offering into the following core areas: programme and project management, commercial and contract management, property and asset management and advisory.

[Change of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Thailand: September 2020](#)

News story

Mr Mark Gooding OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand.



Mr Mark Gooding OBE has been appointed Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand in succession to Mr Brian Davidson. Mr Gooding will take up his appointment during summer 2021.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Full name: Mark Gooding

Married to: Dr Christopher Patrick McCormick

2018 – 2019 FC0, Director, European Union (Future Partnership), Europe Directorate

2017 – 2018 FC0, Deputy Director (Europe North), Europe Directorate

2014 – 2017 Beijing, Minister Counsellor – Political

2011 – 2013 Phnom Penh, Her Majesty's Ambassador

2008 – 2011 Colombo, Deputy High Commissioner and non-resident Deputy High Commissioner to Maldives

2006 – 2008 FC0, Private Secretary to the Secretary of State

2004 – 2006 FC0, Team Leader, EU Budget Team, Europe Directorate

2002 – 2004 Shanghai, Consul – Political, Economic and Press/Public Affairs

2000 – 2002 Full-time Language Training (Mandarin)

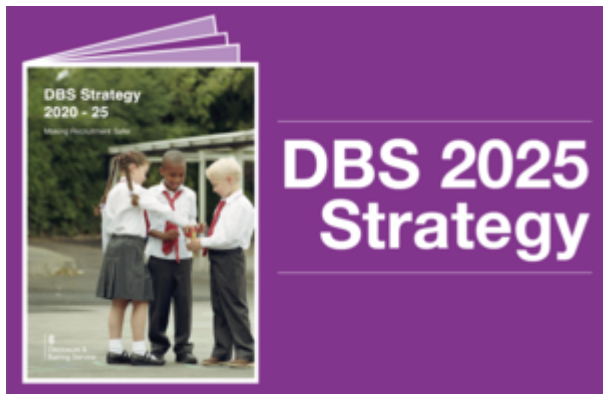
1999 – 2000 FC0, Desk Officer (Trade and Development), European Union Department (External)

Published 9 September 2020

[DBS launches new five-year strategy](#)

News story

The new five-year strategy focuses on our Profile, our People and Quality.



The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has launched its new five-year strategy, which details our ambitions for 2025, and focuses on three key elements: our Profile, our People and Quality.

The strategy, which can be found [here](#), details a number of actions that will be taken across the next five years.

Our work provides significant protection to the public, and the delivery of this strategy will enable us to develop as an organisation, improve the services we provide, and support the contribution we make within the safeguarding community.

Published 9 September 2020

[Training for Security Control Room Operators in Responding to Terrorist Incidents – We would like your views](#)

News story

A short survey for Security Control Room Operators



CPNI, in collaboration with NaCTSO, are developing new training programmes for security operators, to help in their response to terrorist incidents, including Marauding Terrorist Attacks.

The purpose of this survey is to get your views on what kind of training would work for you and your organisation.

This survey is intended for organisations that use a security control room. We invite responses from anyone who operates within a control room, including security officers, CCTV operators, supervisors and managers.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You may choose not to participate, and you may withdraw at any time.

The survey format is an online form that you can fill out on a computer, tablet or phone. It will take approximately 20 minutes and you do not need to complete every field. The questions will be about your role, your training to date, and the training you would like to see in the future.

The results of the survey will be used by CPNI and NaCSTO to inform the development of the training package for control room operators.

Your responses will be confidential, and we will not ask for identifying information such as your name, your organisations name, your email address or IP address.

[Link to the survey](#)

Published 9 September 2020