

DCMS Arts Sector
Coronavirus bulletin
12 February 2021
Arts and Libraries COVID-19 Response Mailbox
arts-and-libraries-covid19@dcms.gov.uk

1. Key updates

NEW [Register to order coronavirus tests for your employees](#)

- [An online portal](#) has been launched to make it easier for business in the private sector find out more about offering rapid testing in the workplace.
- NHS Test and Trace is working to support any business with more than 50 employees who have staff who have to leave their home for work.
- Testing is also being delivered locally by local authorities in England under the Community Testing Programme.

NEW [Mandatory hotel quarantine to be introduced from 15 February](#)

- From 15 February anyone travelling to the UK from a country on the UK's [travel ban list](#) will be required to quarantine in a government-approved facility for 10 days.
- Further details are due to be set out this week on how passengers will be able to book into the designated accommodation facilities.
- More information on how to quarantine is [available here](#).
- More information on the hotel booking service is [available here](#).

NEW [Bounce Back Loan – new payment flexibilities 08/02](#)

- Bounce Back Loan borrowers will now have the option to tailor payments according to their individual circumstances.
- [Pay as You Grow repayment flexibilities](#) now provide businesses with the following options to:
 - Extend the length of the loan from six years to ten
 - Make interest-only payments for six months, with the option to use this up to three times throughout the loan
 - Pause repayments entirely for up to six months
- The scheme is open to applications until 31 March 2021.

NEW [Developing your Creative Practice: Apply by 18 Feb](#)

- Round 9 of our Developing your Creative Practice (DYCP) fund, run by Arts Council England, closes at 12pm on Thursday 18 February.
- DYCP supports individuals who are cultural and creative practitioners and want to take time to focus on their creative development.

[Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on coronavirus: 27/01](#)

- Lockdown measures to be reviewed in mid-February.
- Week commencing 22nd February Government intends to set out the results of that review and publish the plan for taking the country out of lockdown.
- The PM hopes it will be safe to commence reopening schools from Monday 8 March, with other restrictions being removed then or thereafter as and when the data permits.

[Libraries Services Recovery Toolkit](#)

The Libraries Connected Toolkit has been revised to reflect the new national lockdown restrictions. Public libraries are able to offer:

- Home Library Service (doorstep delivery, no-contact service).
- School Library Service (doorstep delivery, no-contact service).
- Order & Collect services (on a no-or low contact basis).

- Digital and remote services including eLending, online events and activities and keep in touch calls.
- Certain types of education or training (as defined in the Regulations).
- Essential voluntary services or public support services, including digital access to public services, the provision of food banks or other support for the homeless or vulnerable people, blood donation services or support in an emergency.
- Public elections and related activities.

[Library staff regarded as key workers during lockdown](#)

Decisions about what services will be offered within each area is the responsibility of the relevant library authority (or organisation responsible for a public library in the case of community managed libraries), and should be based on robust risk assessments, involving those working in libraries and unions, with a view to ensuring the safety of both those providing the service and service users.

Cabinet Office has confirmed that people providing these library services can be regarded as key workers during this period. The Minister has provided a letter to confirm that library workers count as key/critical workers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This helps those delivering these frontline services to take advantage of school provision in an area; and also clarifies to those charged with enforcing the regulations that people travelling to operate these services are doing so legitimately.

2. Arts Reopening

[DCMS Guidance for Performing Arts - Training, Rehearsal and Performance](#)

3. Business support

[Business Support Homepage](#)

[The most recent official statistics on the **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\)** and the **Self Employment Income Support Scheme \(SEISS\) 25/11**](#)

[For Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\):](#)

- These time series include breakdowns by employer size and industry sector, country and region, employee gender, employee age and furlough type (full or partial).
- We have also included analysis and tables showing furloughing at 30 September.

[For Self Employment Income Support Scheme \(SEISS\):](#)

- This focuses on claims for the second grant and now covers the entirety of the second grant claim window.
- A comparison of the final figures for both the first grant and the second grant by parliamentary constituency and local authority has been added.
- A comparison of the characteristics of claimants that claimed either both grants, the first grant only or the second grant only has also been introduced.

Support schemes for businesses

Loans

- [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CBILS\)](#)
- [Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CLBILS\)](#)
- [Bounce Back Loans Scheme](#)

Grants and business rates

- [Small business grants; and retail, hospitality and leisure grants guidance](#)

- [Discretionary Grants Fund guidance for local authorities version 3](#)
- [Business rates: expanded retail discount](#)

Further support and guidance

Finance and procurement

- [Companies House support for businesses hit by COVID-19](#)
- [Tax helpline to help businesses affected by coronavirus](#) - 0800 024 1222

Construction

- [Responsible contractual behaviour guidance](#)
- [Construction Leadership council guidance](#)

Staffing

- [Holiday entitlement and pay during coronavirus](#)
- [Claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to your employees due to coronavirus: updated 29/05](#)

Other

- [Reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission during the pandemic](#)
- [Apply for a moratorium under the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act](#)

[Help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus: videos and webinars](#)

- How to make your workplace COVID-secure: [watch recorded sessions](#)
- For small businesses and changes to reporting, regulation and tax: [recorded webinars](#)

4. Employee support

- [Self Employment Income Support Scheme - third grant](#)
- [Plan for Jobs](#)

5. Health guidance

[Working from home](#)

- Office workers who can work effectively from home should do so over the winter.
- Anyone else who cannot work from home should go to their place of work. Extra consideration should be given to those people at higher risk.

6. Sector news, support and funding

[Theatres Trust Support and Guidance](#)

- Theatres Trust is providing free advice and support for theatres and local authorities in relation to the issues arising from Covid-19.

[The Reading Agency](#)

- [The Reading Agency's 'Read, Talk and Share' campaign](#) Enabled by a £3.5 million award by the DCM\S, the initiative is aimed at combating loneliness and promoting wellbeing through bibliotherapy, working closely with local libraries to reach struggling communities.

England

[Arts Council England Covid-19 support, including the Cultural Recovery Fund](#)

Wales

[Welsh government £18m support package for culture, creative and sport sector](#)

Scotland

Creative Scotland has launched a variety of funds for the Cultural and Creative Sector:

- [Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development](#): The £7.5m fund will support creative practitioners to develop work for up to 12 months with a maximum award of £50,000.
- As part of the £97 million in Barnett consequentials arising as part of the Culture Recovery Fund, [the Scottish government has distributed a range of funds](#)

Northern Ireland

- [NI Executive that £29m has been allocated to help the arts and cultural sectors in Northern Ireland](#)

Other funding sources

- [Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund](#) (To be updated in February 2021)
- [Art Fund](#)
- [Paul Hamlyn Foundation](#)

7. Sector information

- [Arts Council England: Coronavirus guidance](#)
- [Arts Council England: Open funding programmes](#)
- [Arts Council England: Support for organisations from Government and other sources](#)
- [Arts Council England: Support for individuals from Government and other sources](#)
- [UK Theatre](#) - UK Theatre is the UK's leading theatre and performing arts membership organisation.
- [Society of London Theatre \(SOLT\)](#) - works with and on behalf of its Members to champion theatre and the performing arts.
- [Association of British Orchestras](#) - Represents orchestras, youth ensembles and the wider classical music industry.
- [ACAS \(Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service\)](#) - COVID-19 advice for employers and employees.
- [One Dance UK](#) - The sector support organisation for the dance sector.

8. Key information sources

Check regularly for updates

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): UK government response](#)
- [Public Health England](#)
- [NHS guidance](#)
- [FCO Travel advice](#)

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- [NHS England](#)
- [UK Prime Minister](#)