



Following our webinar this morning here are some of the key points that were discussed.

- Check your insurance policy small print! Check cover on your property if it will be empty for a period. Check if you are covered for Business Interruption – many policies exclude pandemics such as this.
- If you have several vehicles that will not be used for a period, consider making a SORN declaration. This will enable you to claim a refund on the tax. The vehicles must be off the road (NOT on a public highway) , for example in a garage, on a drive or on private land. More information can be found at : <https://www.gov.uk/sorn-statutory-off-road-notification>
- Speak to HMRC sooner rather than later if you need to defer any payments. And remember, you will only be deferring payment – you will ultimately still be responsible for the money owing.
- Consider a rota basis for putting staff on furlough, so that all staff are impacted, rather than just a few. Minimum period must be 3 weeks.
- Think about what key tasks will still need to be carried out and ensure you have sufficient staff to undertake these i.e. don't put all your staff on furlough and then realise you have no-one to issue invoices!
- Employees holidays can be carried forward for the next 2 years to help manage your business once the lock down is over
- If you, or any of your staff are taking part in the NHS volunteer service, you should be covered on your car insurance – but worth checking with your insurers

The webinar has been very well received with over 120 of you watching. If you have any thoughts about future business topics please let me know.

[The webinar is now available to watch on the RDA TV](#)

Working from home may, unfortunately, present some staff with an increased risk of **domestic violence**. Below is a link to some guidance that has been produced for employers on how they can support their staff during the Covid-19 crisis. <https://www.eida.org.uk/covid-19-response>

In addition, the Council has its own domestic abuse web-pages [www.rochdale.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.rochdale.gov.uk/domesticabuse) which are updated on a regular basis. The pages include details of local services, safety planning advice, online support, national helplines and support for people worried about their own behaviour.

Please share as you see fit.

Do you have a **music licence** allowing you to play music to the public on your property (via the PPL PRS)? They have introduced some support measures which you may be interested in: <https://pplprs.co.uk/business-update/>

A message from **Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce:**

*Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce is offering all businesses who aren't currently members, free access to the GM Business Community to give you access to our network and the support system of the largest Chamber in the UK.*

*What will you get?*

- An update on the evolving situation, three times a week, with the most up to date and relevant information on support from the government, support from fellow members and access to ongoing news*
- Access to our digital MyGMCR platform – a mobile app where you can connect with and direct message fellow business users – an online networking platform*
- Access to any digital events hosted by the Chamber during this time*
- Online training and free workforce development*
- Complimentary token to access one of our local networking events, free of charge – when we're back (and we will be back) – we'll connect you with our wider network and generate new contacts*

*For more information and joining details see:: <https://www.gmchamber.co.uk/covid-19-coronavirus/gm-business-community/>*

The Business Growth Hub has established a dedicated **support page for manufacturers** to serve as a one-stop shop for all things manufacturing. Here you will find guidance for operating amidst the pandemic, additional resources, calls to action from government and industry, as well as the latest government guidelines.

<https://www.businessgrowthhub.com/coronavirus/resources/2020/04/coronavirus-support-for-businesses-guidance-for-manufacturers> It includes access to Make UK's HR advice line, where you can receive up to an hour's free advice.

The Government has today announced some new guidance in relation to **social distancing in the workplace**. There is good guide here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/social-distancing-in-the-workplace-during-coronavirus-covid-19-sector-guidance> . It breaks the advice down into different sectors, so you can see exactly what applies to you and your business.

Please feel free to share this newsletter and encourage others to sign up at <https://connect.investinrochdale.co.uk/email-updates>

Regards

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