



The Chancellor's **economic update** earlier this week included several new or extended schemes to support businesses. As and when more detailed information is available we will share it, but for the moment here is a summary:

Job Retention Bonus – the government will introduce a one-off payment of £1,000 to employers for every furloughed employee who remains continuously employed until the end of January 2021. Employees must earn above the Lower Earnings Limit (£520 per month) on average between the end of the Job Retention Scheme and the end of January 2021. Payments will be made from February 2021.

Apprenticeships - a new payment of £2,000 to employers for each new apprentice they hire aged under 25, and a £1,500 payment for each new apprentice aged 25 and over, from 1st August 2020 to 31st January 2021.

Traineeships - the government will fund employers who provide trainees aged 16-24 year old with work experience, at a rate of £1,000 per trainee.

VAT reduction - the government announced that it will reduce the rate of VAT to 5% (from 20%) for hospitality, accommodation and attractions from 15th July 2020 to 12th January 2021.

Eat Out to Help Out - a 50% discount of up to £10 per head on meals, at any participating restaurant, café, pub or other eligible food service establishment. Valid Monday to Wednesday during August. If you run a restaurant you can register from next week at : <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-your-establishment-for-the-eat-out-to-help-out-scheme>

As lockdown measures are relaxed again, there is further guidance available for the new sectors now allowed to open. This includes providers of grassroots **sport and gym/leisure facilities**: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/providers-of-grassroots-sport-and-gym-leisure-facilities>

The Government has also announced that **beauty salons, nail bars, tattoo studios, physical therapy businesses and spas** across England will be able to reopen safely from Monday 13 July. Proper guidance is expected on Monday but if you are in this sector, have a look at : https://www.gov.uk/government/news/beauty-salons-set-to-reopen-for-some-services-next-week-under-new-government-guidelines?utm_source=80a9eb15-0095-4056-bff4-aae1a5ceba1a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily

The **Recovery Advice for Business scheme**, supported by the government and hosted on the [Enterprise Nation website](#), will give small firms access to free, one-to-one advice with an expert adviser to help them through the coronavirus pandemic and to prepare for long-term recovery. The platform is now live.

Advice offered will include bespoke, specialist assistance from accountancy, legal, and advertising to marketing, recruitment and digital to help businesses adapt to difficult circumstances and to bounce back as the UK economy recovers. <https://www.enterprisenation.com/freesupport/>

Regards

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