



Hope you are all managing these difficult circumstances as best you can. Here at the RDA and Council we are working to support you as best we can in these strange times.

You should already be aware of the package of measures to support businesses announced over the last few days. These measures, which you can read about in detail [here](#), include:

- a 12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England
- small business grant funding of £10,000 for all businesses in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief
- grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000

If you qualify for the business rates holiday, the Council now has all the guidance from Government and is currently updating its IT system and will issue letters confirming there are no rates payable. This will take time (maybe a couple of weeks, so please bear with the team). In the meantime, you do not need to pay your next bill and direct debits will not be collected on 1st April. If you are unsure whether your business qualifies for the business rates holiday, please contact the Business Rates Team on 01706 926170.

The Council is still awaiting guidance from government as to how the grants will be administered. We will share this with you as soon as we have the information.

If you are in the construction sector, you may find this information useful: <https://www.kuits.com/insights/legal-updates/coronavirus-impact-construction-sector-contracts/>

As I have said on previous newsletters – please feel free to share this widely and encourage people to sign up to receive it direct at: <https://connect.investinrochdale.co.uk/email-updates/>