



GC Business Finance (part of the Business Growth Hub) is a partner of **Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)**. They understand that business owners may be concerned about the challenges and impact COVID19 may bring and are there to support SME's with a quick and responsible approach to finance.

CBILS is a new scheme, announced by The Chancellor at Budget 2020, that can provide facilities of up to £5m for smaller businesses across the UK who are experiencing lost or deferred revenues, leading to disruptions to their cash flow.

We know that at least 2 local businesses have been successful in receiving funding through the CBILS scheme, and the feedback from them has been around being honest and having clear plans and forecasts in place. For more information please see:

<https://businessfinance.growthco.uk/funding/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils/>

I have had a further offer of free support from a local **accountancy** practice :

Helen Frazer at Frazer Waite Desmier Accountants 01706 627127

The University of Manchester and the Economic and Social Research Council, in collaboration with Code-Switch Consultants, are launching Collaboration Labs: Business Challenges - a funded programme of activities to support businesses with research expertise tailored to their specific needs.

Given the current Coronavirus crisis, they hope to support a range of businesses with dedicated research teams that will co-design solutions to rise to the present challenge or to develop the business in new directions. Businesses will receive 20-40 days (FTE) of dedicated research support from an interdisciplinary team of researchers (two to four members, doctoral and post-doctoral researchers) who will receive full funding as well as professional training and coaching throughout the project lifecycle, from project ideation to completion.

The call for partners to submit project proposals is open until 1 May 2020. Selected projects will be developed in June-July 2020 and delivered in August-October 2020.

More information and how to apply is [available here](#). If you have any questions about this, please contact : [hellen.parraflorez@codeswitchconsultants.com](mailto:hellen.parraflorez@codeswitchconsultants.com)

You may recall that last week I told you about Inktech Innovation having a supply of ethanol for the production of hand sanitiser. Whilst many of you did take up their very kind offer – they do still have some stock left if you still need some. If you would like to get in touch, please use this dedicated email address [sanitiser@inktechinnovation.co.uk](mailto:sanitiser@inktechinnovation.co.uk)

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Short notice I'm afraid but HMRC are running 2 webinars tomorrow (Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April about the **job retention scheme/furlough**. Details can be found [here](#).

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This morning the Government announced a new coronavirus business support finder tool, which will help businesses and self-employed people to quickly and easily determine what financial support is available to them:

<https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder>

Our next Ambassador webinar is taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> April at 8.30am. With a seismic shift to homeworking over the last few weeks we are speaking to two experts Dave Brereton, MD of IT company Myson Pages who will look at cyber security relating to home working and how to make your company and your staff more secure. We will also be joined by Danny Simpson MD at MID Communications. A veteran of homeworking he will share his top tips for getting the most out of your day. The call will be held via Zoom and you do need to register:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_635EjNNgSSKLbdriUa4qUg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_635EjNNgSSKLbdriUa4qUg)

Regards

*Carol and the RDA Team*

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