



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2020/0076, 24 June 2020

Debate on e-Petitions relating to the support for UK industries in response to Covid-19

By Georgina Hutton,
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Summary

On Thursday 25 June 2020, there will be a debate in the House of Commons on a number of e-petitions relating to support for UK industries in response to Covid-19. The subject for the debate was determined by the Petitions Committee. Theresa Villiers MP, will open the debate.

Below are the associated e-petitions submitted to the Petitions Committee:

[Government to offer economic assistance to the events industry during COVID-19 – E-petition 301186](#)

[Provide financial help to zoos, aquariums, & rescue centres during the pandemic – E-Petition 308733](#)

[Give UK nurseries emergency funding if they have to close down amid COVID-19 – E-petition 301836](#)

[Support the British aviation industry during the COVID-19 outbreak – E-petition 303081](#)

[Offer more support to the arts \(particularly Theatres and Music\) amidst COVID-19 – E-petition 320711](#)

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

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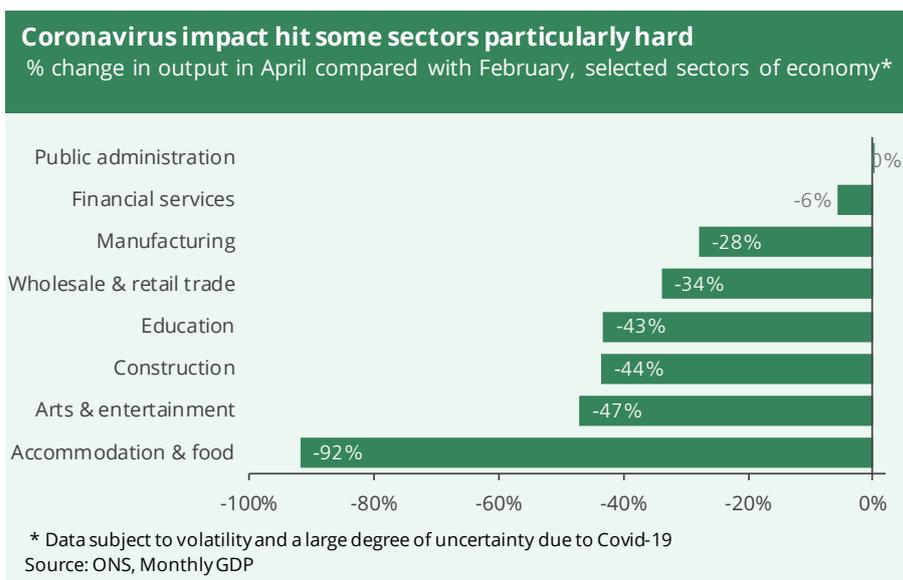
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1. Impact of COVID-19 on UK industries

1.1 COVID-19 impact on the economy

The coronavirus outbreak has led to a decline in business activity and revenue across many industries causing a [large negative shock to the economy](#). In April 2020 GDP was [25% lower compared to February](#) – the biggest decline since official monthly records began.¹

While the decline in economic activity has been broad across the economy, some sectors have been hit worse than others. The largest decline has been in the accommodation and food sector, with output 92% lower in April compared with February. Output in the arts and entertainment sector dropped by 47%, in construction it was 44% lower.



For a full discussion of the broad economic impacts of coronavirus, see the Library briefings:

- [Coronavirus: Record GDP fall in April](#), Commons Library Insight, 12 June 2020
- [Coronavirus: Effect on the economy and public finances](#) (CBP8866)

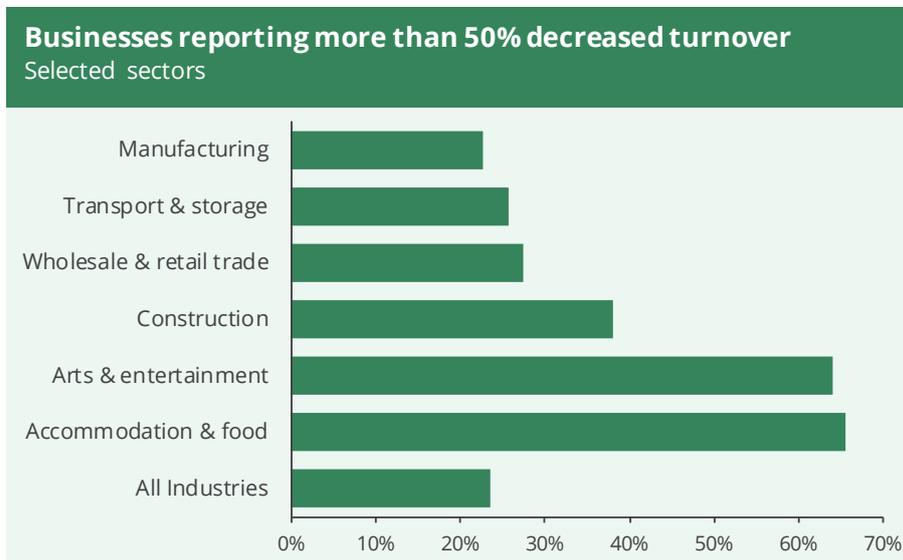
1.2 Covid-19 impact on business activity

Similar trends for highly impacted sectors are seen in surveys that have monitored business trading status, turnover and cash reserves through the lockdown period. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported that between 18-31 May 2020, 84% of responding businesses were

¹ ONS, [GDP monthly estimate. UK: April 2020](#), 12 June 2020.

continuing to trade and 16% had temporarily closed or paused trading.² The accommodation and food service (65%) and arts, entertainment and recreation sectors (70%) reported the highest percentage of businesses that had temporarily paused trading. These sectors also showed the highest percentage of businesses stating they did not intend to re-start trading in the next two weeks. A small number of businesses (less than 1%) responded that they had permanently ceased trading in the period.

Of the businesses that continued to trade, 65% reported that their turnover had decreased, with 24% reporting that turnover had fallen by more than 50%. The largest falls in turnover were in the accommodation and food services, with 66% of businesses reporting turnover decreasing by more than 50% (see the chart below).



Of businesses continuing to trade, 4% said they had no cash reserves and 43% said they had less than 6 months cash reserves. The accommodation and food sector and arts, entertainment and recreation sector reported the most businesses with no cash reserves (9% and 7% respectively).

² ONS, [Coronavirus and the economic impacts on the UK: 18 June 2020](#); ONS, [Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey \(BICS\) Wave 6](#), 7,245 businesses (35.3%) responded to the survey. The data is unweighted (each business assigned the same weight regardless of turnover or size). Figures shown here are rounded to the nearest percent.



Source: ONS, [Business Impact of Coronavirus Survey](#), Wave 4.

1.3 Use of Government schemes

Of businesses that had not permanently stopped trading, 81% had applied for at least one government financial support scheme (see Section 3 below). The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) was the most highly used scheme, with 81% of responding business applying to the scheme.

The accommodation and food sector had the highest proportion of employees furloughed under the CJRS as of 31 May 2020, with 59% (approximately 1.4 million) employees furloughed. 48% (357,000) of employees in the arts, entertainment, recreation and other services sectors were furloughed and 46% (679,600) of employees in the construction sector were furloughed.

For data on the number of business using Government schemes, see the Library briefing paper: [Coronavirus business support schemes: statistics](#) (CBP8938)

For more detailed data the CJRS, see the Library briefing paper [Coronavirus: Impact on the labour market](#) (CBP8898)

1.4 Support for UK industries

Economic activity is expected to improve through the second half of the year as the lockdown is eased and businesses re-open.³ However, many economists expect that a slow return to pre-virus economic levels is more likely than a fast “V” shaped recovery.⁴ Many industries are calling for longer-term, bespoke support from the Government to help

³ HM Treasury, [Forecasts for the UK economy: May 2020](#), 20 May 2020

⁴ For example, The Resolution Foundation, [The Macroeconomic Policy Outlook Q2 2020](#), 28 May 2020.

businesses through the recovery period, particularly as existing support measures, such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) are scaled back. Industry groups in the hospitality and tourism sectors for example are concerned about lost summer revenue and argue that businesses need support to see through to 2021.⁵

Some examples of recent calls and campaigns from industry associations and trade bodies include:

- [UK Hospitality](#), “Fair 4 Hospitality” campaign.
- [Visit Britain](#), “Helping the tourism industry recover from COVID-19” paper
- [Aerospace Defence and Space](#), “Restart and Recovery: Five Priorities From ADS”
- [Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders](#), “UK Auto calls for restart support as Covid crisis threatens one in six jobs”
- [MakeUK](#) “Immediate stimulus package for manufacturers should lead measures to boost investment and save jobs”
- [Music Venues Trust](#), An Open Letter to the UK Government
- [British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums](#) Zoos to start to reopen in England from June 15 (10 June 2020 press release, explains campaign so far and calls for support)

Existing Government support schemes

Most existing Government financial support schemes are open to businesses from all sectors, including:

- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)
- Business loan schemes and finance agreements
- Business rates relief and small business grant funding
- VAT deferrals

Some sector specific support initiatives in England include:

- Business grants for the hospitality industry (retail, hospitality and leisure grant fund)
- Business rates relief for nurseries
- A [support funds for zoos and aquariums](#)
- [Support for tourism destination management organisations](#) in England (such as Cumbria Tourism and Visit Kent),
- [Arts Council emergency funding](#) in England.

For information on existing Government support schemes for businesses, see the Library briefing papers:

- [Coronavirus: support for businesses](#) (CBP8847)

⁵ • UK Hospitality, [Fair 4 Hospitality campaign](#); Visit Britain, [Helping the tourism industry recover from COVID-19](#), April 2020.

- [Coronavirus business support schemes: statistics](#) (CBP8938)
- [Coronavirus: Impact on the labour market](#) (CBP8898)
- [Coronavirus: Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#) (CBP8879)
- [FAQs: Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) (CBP8880)
- [Coronavirus: Businesses without premises and the Small Business Grant Scheme](#) *Library Insight*
- All coronavirus content is collated on the Library [Coronavirus research hub](#)

Devolved Administration resources

Scotland:

- Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) briefing: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Constituency support](#) – updated daily
- Scottish Government, [Coronavirus advice for businesses in Scotland](#)

Wales:

- Welsh Government, [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): support for businesses](#), 5 May 2020.
- Senedd Research (Welsh Parliament research service) blog post [Coronavirus: business support](#) (11 June 2020) and [resources on coronavirus support in Wales](#).

Northern Ireland:

- Northern Ireland, [COVID-19 Guidance: Information for NI Businesses & Employers](#) (gov.uk)

2. Press articles

[What 9/11 can teach us about aviation's post-coronavirus future: Aviation bosses at the time of the attacks expect passenger confidence to return slowly](#)

Michael Skapinker

Financial Times, 23 June 2020

[Coronavirus: Car industry warns one in six jobs at risk: The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders says there is a "critical need" for help as the furlough scheme comes to an end.](#)

John-Paul Ford Rojas

Sky News, 23 June 2020

[Covid-19 is an existential threat to Britain's theatres: They must survive with little to no income until audiences return](#)

The Economist, 22 June 2020

[Steel industry needs help in days not weeks, Kinnock says](#)

Ione Wells

BBC, 21 June 2020

[Aerospace firms lobby Treasury to accelerate military spending plan: Bosses say money is needed to help steer aviation companies through coronavirus crisis](#)

Jasper Jolly

Guardian, 21 June 2020

[UK creative industries risk 'cultural catastrophe' without support: Revenues forecast to drop by £74bn in 2020 amid bleak outlook for the arts, study finds](#)

James Pickford

Financial Times, 17 June 2020

[Labour calls for full emergency summer Budget and stimulus: Shadow chancellor Anneliese Dodds says Britain has been slow to react to effect of pandemic compared to other nations](#)

Jim Pickard and George Parker

Financial Times, 16 June 2020

[UK manufacturers call for business rates break to aid recovery: A holiday on levy would be quickest way to aid industry after plunge in output, poll finds](#)

Michael Pooler and Daniel Thomas

Financial Times, 15 June 2020

[More than 1m locked out of UK coronavirus support schemes: Treasury committee urges help for those who have 'fallen through cracks' such as those in hospitality and freelancers](#)

Delphine Strauss and Laura Hughes

Financial Times, 15 June 2020

[Coronavirus: Report suggests arts industry faces 'ruinous losses'](#)

BBC 2 June 2020

[Coronavirus: Nurseries facing struggle to survive under new COVID-19 rules: The National Day Nurseries Association is calling for a transformation fund to help them adapt to new ways of working](#)

Dan Whitehead

Sky News, 2 June 2020

[UK live music and festival sector at risk of collapse due to coronavirus: Independent festivals group says 98% of its members are uninsured for outbreak-related cancellations](#)

Rhian Jones

The Guardian, 13 May 2020

[Coronavirus: London Zoo faces 'perilous future'](#)

BBC, 7 May 2020

[Coronavirus risks downward spiral for events industry: As conferences are cancelled around the world, some are questioning their value](#)

Alice Hancock

Financial Times, 5 March 2020

3. Parliamentary Material

3.1 Written Questions

[Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Arts Festivals: Coronavirus: 60863](#)

Asked by: Janet Daby (Lewisham East)

Asked on: 17 June 2020

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment his Department has made on the effect of the covid-19 on the financial sustainability of independent festivals.

Answered by: Caroline Dinenge

Answered on: 23 June 2020

In order to support the sustainability of the Arts sector, including independent festivals, DCMS has worked closely with Arts Council England (ACE) to provide a tailored package of financial support. In March, ACE announced a £160m emergency response package to complement the financial measures already announced by the Government, and provide financial support for Arts organisations and individuals so they can better sustain themselves, and their work, in the coming months. More than 9000 individuals and organisations have been successful in applying for this emergency funding.

The Secretary of State, myself and officials continue to consult the sector extensively to ensure we fully understand the financial impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on the sector. On the basis of that engagement, DCMS and ACE are continuing to work closely to consider the additional measures that are needed to ensure the long-term recovery and growth of the cultural sector.

Alongside this, I chair the Cultural Renewal Taskforce which is supported by 8 ministerially-chaired working groups that include representatives from key sector bodies and organisations. The working groups will produce sector-led guidance for the safe reopening of events and businesses across the arts and creative industries sectors.

Membership of the Entertainment and Events Working Group, chaired by the Minister for Digital and Culture, includes the Association of Independent Festivals and the National Outdoor Events Association.

[Department for International Trade: Manufacturing Industries: Government Assistance: 60866](#)

Asked by: Lee Anderson (Ashfield)

Asked on: 17 June 2020

To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, whether Government bailouts during the covid-19 outbreak of foreign automotive and aerospace companies located in the UK will be

conditional upon those companies increasing their supply chain spending to UK manufacturing companies.

Answered by: Graham Stuart

Answered on: 22 June 2020

The Government has put in place unprecedented levels of support to help all businesses get through this crisis. Separate to this package of support, but to ensure the UK has resilient and diverse supply chains, the Department for International Trade is leading work across Government (Project Defend) to look at our trading relationships with a range of international partners. As part of this work, we have consulted widely with stakeholders across the advanced manufacturing sectors. We continue to champion free trade and the benefits that brings, across the economy, and to the automotive and aerospace sectors in the UK.

[Treasury: Airports: Coronavirus: 59775](#)

Asked by: Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston)

Asked on: 16 June 2020

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what support he is providing to airports in England and Wales in response to the economic effects of the covid-19 pandemic.

Answered by: Kemi Badenoch

Answered on: 22 June 2020

The Government recognises the challenging times facing the aviation sector as a result of COVID-19 and firms experiencing difficulties as a result of COVID-19 can draw upon the unprecedented package of measures announced by the Chancellor, including schemes to raise capital, flexibilities with tax bills, and financial support for employees.

As the Chancellor set out in his letter to the aviation sector, should individual firms still find themselves in difficulty after exhausting all other options, the Government is willing to enter discussions with them as a last resort. Any intervention would need to represent value for money for taxpayers.

[Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Aerospace Industry: Government Assistance: 59788](#)

Asked by Gavin Robinson (Belfast East)

Asked on: 16 June 2020

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how much financial support his Department has allocated to the aerospace sector since the start of the covid-19 lockdown; and what plans he has to provide further support to that sector.

Answered by: Nadhim Zahawi

Answered on: 22 June 2020

Aerospace companies have benefitted from the Government's extensive financial support package, on top of existing support measures for the sector.

The UK's aviation and aerospace sectors can expect to benefit from over £6 billion of support through UK Export Finance, the Bank of England's Covid Corporate Finance Facility, research and development grants, and other measures.

We will continue to support the UK aerospace industry to get back on its feet to protect jobs across the UK.

[Department for International Trade: Music: Coronavirus: HL5508](#)

Asked by: Lord Clement-Jones

Asked on: 10 June 2020

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the UK music sector remains internationally competitive (1) during, and (2) after, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Answered by: Lord Grimstone of Boscobel

Answered on: 22 June 2020

The Department for International Trade consistently champions the British music industry and the incredible talent which makes the sector such a great success story for the UK.

The Government has put in place unprecedented support for businesses and workers to protect them against the economic impact of COVID-19. In 2020/21, the Government is providing export support of around £1 million to UK music companies. Most of this is grant support offered to the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the UK's music sector through the International Showcase Fund and the Music Export Growth Scheme.

During the pandemic, the Government has provided support for digital events so music companies can continue to do business with international customers. The Government is working closely with the Creative Industries Trade and Investment Board, which includes music representatives, to develop a creative industries trade and investment recovery strategy which will enable the UK music sector to maintain its strong international position.

[Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Hospitality Industry and Tourism: Coronavirus: 58685](#)

Asked by: Henry Smith (Crawley)

Asked on: 11 June 2020

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of the 14-day

quarantine period on the (a) tourism, (b) travel and (c) hospitality sectors.

Answered by: Nigel Huddleston

Answered on: 19 June 2020

We remain in regular contact with stakeholders, including UKHospitality, UKInbound and the ABTA, to closely monitor COVID-19's impact on the tourism, travel and hospitality sectors. No impact assessment has been made by my Department.

The Home Office commissioned Her Majesty's Treasury to assess the economic impacts of the mandatory 14 day self-isolation requirement. The Department for Transport fed into this analysis and ensured that the significant impact of the policy on the transport sector was reflected.

We appreciate that the quarantine measures will present difficulties for these sectors. The quarantine policy will be reviewed regularly and the first review will take place in the week beginning 28 June. We are also working with the transport industry to see how we can introduce agreements with other countries when safe to do so, so people from the UK can go abroad and tourists can come here.

Tourism and hospitality businesses and workers can access the Government's economic support package. These include the recently extended Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, loan schemes, as well as business rates relief and grants for eligible retail, hospitality and leisure businesses.

[Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Zoos: Coronavirus: HL5297](#)

Asked by: Lord Greaves

Asked on: 04 June 2020

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the future prospects for (1) Chester Zoo, (2) other major zoos and (3) small zoos; and what plans they have to secure the future of zoos and their animals.

Answered by: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park

Answered on: 17 June 2020

We recognise that zoos are working tirelessly during this challenging time to ensure the health and welfare needs of animal collections in their care continue to be met. We have been engaging regularly with zoos, including Chester Zoo, to gather information and supporting evidence to understand the impacts of coronavirus on the sector.

The £14 million Zoos Support Fund was opened on 4 May to help those zoos, safari parks, aquariums and eligible farm visitor attractions in severe financial distress due to the disruption caused by coronavirus. This Fund remains open for applications until 19 July 2020.

As announced by the Prime Minister on 10 June, outdoor areas of zoos and safari parks are now allowed to reopen, subject to appropriate social distancing measures being in place. Allowing zoos to reopen is an integral step towards supporting an early financial recovery.

Consideration of proposals for any longer-term support that might be needed for the sector is ongoing. With the help and support of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) we are working diligently to find the best way forward.

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy:
Businesses: Government Assistance: 58782

Asked by: Jane Stevenson (Wolverhampton North East)

Asked on: 11 June 2020

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what support he has made available for businesses facing closure as a result of the covid-19 outbreak; and if he will make a statement.

Answered by: Paul Scully

Answered on: 17 June 2020

The Government has introduced an unprecedented package of support for businesses to get through this incredibly challenging period. This includes:

- A Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme;
- Deferring VAT and Income Tax payments;
- A Statutory Sick Pay relief package for SMEs;
- A 12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England;
- Small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business 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;
- A Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund, with up to £617 million available to Local Authorities to support certain small businesses;
- The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank;
- The Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme offering facilities of up to £200 million through the British Business Bank;

- The Bounce Back Loan Scheme to help the smallest businesses access loans of between £2000 and £50,000;
- The Future Fund to provide government loans to UK-based companies ranging from £125,000 to £5 million, subject to at least equal match funding from private investors;
- A new lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms, helping them bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through loans;
- Extending the HMRC Time To Pay Scheme.

Many businesses have already benefitted from this support. As of 14 June, 1.1 million employers are utilising the Job Retention Scheme, over 900,000 businesses of all sizes have been able to access more than £38 billion of finance through our loan schemes, and more than £10 billion of Small Business and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants have been paid.

As well as this support, the Government is currently taking the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Bill through Parliament to make changes to insolvency and company law, to:

- introduce new corporate restructuring tools to give companies the breathing space and rescue tools required to maximise their chance of survival; and
- temporarily suspend parts of insolvency law to support directors in continuing to trade through the emergency without the threat of personal liability, and protects companies from aggressive creditor action.

Full details on the support available for businesses can be found on GOV.UK, or through contacting our business support line.

[Treasury: Hospitality Industry: Coronavirus: 57382](#)

Asked by: Daisy Cooper (St Albans)

Asked on: 09 June 2020

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of (a) reducing the rate of VAT on food and drinks, (b) reducing the rate of duty on beer and (c) extending business rates relief to support the re-opening of (i) pubs and (ii) the hospitality industry following the covid-19 outbreak.

Answered by: Jesse Norman

Answered on: 17 June 2020

The Government has announced unprecedented support for businesses to protect against the current economic emergency. The support available to individuals and businesses includes a business rates holiday, grants to smaller businesses and a package of Government-backed and guaranteed loans, which make over £20 billion of additional support available above an initial £300 billion of guarantees.

VAT is an important source of revenue for the Exchequer, raising £130 billion in 2019/2020, and plays an important part in funding the Government's spending priorities including hospitals, schools and defence. While all taxes are kept under review, there are currently no plans to extend VAT reliefs further. However, to support brewers and drinkers, at the Budget the Government froze beer duty for the third consecutive Budget.

[Treasury: Manufacturing Industries: Coronavirus: 56024](#)

Asked by: Dr Lisa Cameron (East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow)

Asked on: 08 June 2020

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he plans to take to (a) encourage and (b) support (i) Rolls-Royce and (ii) other similar manufacturing industries to help (A) retain their workforce and (B) prevent mass redundancies in response to the covid-19 outbreak.

Answered by: Kemi Badenoch

Answered on: 16 June 2020

The Government regularly speaks with automotive companies and has worked closely with Rolls Royce in response to COVID-19.

Rolls Royce is making use of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and has drawn £300m of short-term finance from the Coronavirus Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF).

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) has so far protected 8.9 million workers and 1.1 million businesses through this crisis (as at midnight 7th June 2020).

All UK employers can apply for a grant that covers 80% of furloughed employees' usual monthly wage costs, up to £2500 a month, plus the associated Employer National Insurance contributions and pension contributions.

This scheme is available to support 28.5m employees paid via PAYE across the UK.

This is a temporary scheme in place for 8 months starting from 1 March and ending at the end of October.

In addition, we are supporting businesses, by offering Government-backed finance through the Covid Corporate Financing Facility, Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loans, Coronavirus Business Interruption Loans, and the Bounce Back Loans scheme, depending on the size of the company.

Where firms make the decision that they cannot retain all of their staff over the longer run, we are ensuring that those looking for work are supported through a significant package of temporary welfare measures.

This includes: £20 per week increase to the Universal Credit standard allowance and Working Tax Credit basic element, and a nearly £1bn increase in support for renters through increases to the Local Housing Allowance rates for Universal Credit and Housing Benefit claimants. These changes will benefit all new and existing claimants.

Treasury: Arts: Coronavirus: 56018

Asked by: Daniel Zeichner (Cambridge)

Asked on: 08 June 2020

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with representatives in the arts sector on the continuation of the (a) Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and (b) Self-Employment Income Support Scheme for businesses that are unable to re-open as a result of Government guidance on social distancing during the covid-19 outbreak.

Answered by: Jesse Norman

Answered on: 16 June 2020

During this difficult time the Treasury is working intensively with employers, delivery partners, industry groups and other Government departments to understand the long-term effects of social distancing across all key areas of the economy. For example, on 11 June the Chancellor attended a roundtable with TUC and other unions, including Prospect and Equity.

The Government recognises the extreme disruption the necessary actions to combat Covid-19 are having on businesses and sectors like Arts and Creative Industries.

That is why the Chancellor introduced the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS).

On 12 May, the Government announced a major extension to the CJRS which will continue to the end of October, including more flexibility and employer contributions from August as people return to work. On 29 May, the Chancellor announced an extension to the SEISS, which continues to be one of the most generous self-employed Covid-19 support schemes in the world as the economy reopens. This extension means that eligible individuals whose businesses are adversely affected by Covid-19 will be able to claim a second and final grant when the scheme reopens for applications in August. Decisions on Government schemes are based on all available evidence, including the latest public health guidance.

The Treasury will continue to monitor the impact of Government support with regard to supporting public services, businesses, individuals, and sectors such as arts and creative industries, and welcome views from representatives.

[Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Service Industries: Coronavirus: 51718](#)

Asked by: Andrew Gwynne (Denton and Reddish)

Asked on: 01 June 2020

To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what plans his Department has to create a tailored support package for the events industry to support that sector during the covid-19 outbreak.

Answered by: Nigel Huddleston

Answered on: 05 June 2020

We are aware that COVID-19 has significantly impacted multiple aspects of the events industry. My officials continue to gather intelligence from the sector and I regularly engage with events stakeholders to monitor the situation through the Visitor Economy Working Group, the Events Industry Board, and the Tourism Industry Emergency Response Group.

Government support for the events sector is set out in the International Business Events Action Plan, which was published in June 2019. We will continue to engage with stakeholders to assess how we can most effectively support the sector's recovery from COVID-19.

Businesses and workers in the events industry can access the Government's comprehensive economic support package, including the recently extended the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, the Bounce Back Loans scheme.

[Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Hospitality Industry: Government Assistance: 49686](#)

Asked by: Chi Onwurah (Newcastle upon Tyne Central)

Asked on: 20 May 2020

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what support his Department is providing to businesses that provide meeting and event spaces and who have been affected by the covid-19 outbreak.

Answered by: Paul Scully

Answered on: 02 June 2020

We are aware that the business events industry has been significantly impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. The Government has engaged regularly with the sector over the last few months to continuously assess the situation.

Overall, Government has introduced a range of support for businesses across all sectors in the UK. At this time:

- 8.4 million jobs have been furloughed with £15 billion claimed so far through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS). 1million employers have used the Scheme.

- 2.3million Self-employment Income Support (SEISS) claims have been submitted worth £6.8 billion.
- The Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BLS) has seen 608,069 approved loans so far worth £18.49 billion.
- Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) has seen 43,045 loans worth £8.15billion approved so far.

The Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS) has seen 154 approved loans totalling £0.82 billion.

3.2 Oral questions

Covid-19: Support for Businesses

[HC Deb 16 June 2020 c 627-30](#)

4. Further reading

Arts

[The projected economic impact of Covid-19 on UK creative industries](#)

Oxford Economics

June 2020

[Arts Index](#)

Campaign for the Arts

June 2020

Aviation industry

[Coronavirus: Airlines brace for severe turbulence](#)

McKinsey

April 2020

[COVID-19: What it means for the aerospace and defence industry](#)

PWC

May 2020

Events industry

[The UK Events Report](#)

BVEP

May 2020

[Global Economic Significance of Business Events](#)

Events Industry Council, Oxford Economics

November 2018

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