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| **Furlough and loans schemes extended**The Chancellor has announced that two of the schemes introduced to support businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic have been extended.The Corona Jobs Retention Scheme (furlough) will now run until the end of April, whilst the government backed Covid-19 Business Loan Schemes will now be open for applications until the end of March, when a new scheme, to be announced in the budget will replace them.  |

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| [The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended until 30 April 2021. You can claim 80% of an employee’s usual salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month.](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme)You can claim for employees who were employed on 30 October 2020, as long as you have made a PAYE RTI submission to HMRC between the 20 March 2020 and 30 October 2020, notifying a payment of earnings for that employee. This may differ where you have made employees redundant, or they stopped working for you on or after 23 September 2020 and you have subsequently re-employed them.All employers with a UK, Isle of Man or Channel Island bank account and UK PAYE schemes can claim the grant. You do not need to have previously claimed for an employee before the 30 October 2020 to claim.Employers can furlough employees for any amount of time and any work pattern, while still being able to claim the grant for the hours not worked.You will need to pay for employer National Insurance contributions and pension costs ([employer contributions to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/calculate-how-much-you-can-claim-using-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme)).Full details of who can claim, how much can be claimed, and how to access the scheme can be seen [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme). |

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| The Application window for the government backed COVID-19 business loan schemes has now been extended to 31 March 2021.Small and medium businesses can apply for:[Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan (CBILS) - £250,000 to £5,000,000](https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils-2/for-businesses-and-advisors/)[Business Bounce Back Loan (BBLS) - £2,000 to £50,000](https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-schemes/bounce-back-loans/for-businesses-and-advisors/)Large business with a turnover in excess of £45m can apply for:[Coronavirus Large Business Interruption loan - up to £200,000,0000](https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-schemes/clbils/)Businesses that have been unable to access a Bounce Back Loan Scheme loan through their own bank may still be able to access one through the £10m [GM Bounce Back Loan Fund](http://businessfinance.growthco.uk/funding/bounce-back-loans/) managed by the GM Growth Company. |

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| As the end of the Brexit transition period approaches, businesses need to prepare for Britain's departure from the EU.At midnight on 31 December, British businesses will be operating under a different set of rules whatever the outcome of the ongoing trade deal negotiations.Support with preparing for this new environment is available from:[The Greater Manchester Business Growth Hub](https://www.businessgrowthhub.com/eu-exit) with a toolkit, ten steps to take and a dedicated team of advisors.[The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce](https://www.gmccbrexithub.com/) with a range of guidance, tools and international trade support, accessible through their Brexit hub.   |

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