

**COVID-19  
Weekly Roundup**

*22 May 2020*

BACKHOUSE  
JONES

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## Health & Safety

### Risk Assessments: What Do I Need to Do?

The Prime Minister's announced on 10 May that employees are to go back to work has been followed by Government guidance instructing employers how this is expected to be done whilst the pandemic is ongoing.

The overriding message to employers is the **need to carry out a COVID-19 risk assessment**.

Whilst the guidance provides generic assistance, unfortunately, it doesn't provide a template risk assessment, leaving employers to draft their own.

To assist employers, Backhouse Jones are providing:

- e-training on 26 May 2020 on how to draft your COVID-19 risk assessment, including providing a model risk assessment from which you can build your own to suit your business needs. Enrol on to our e-training [here](#).
- a COVID-19 Risk Assessment Starter Pack, which, for a fixed fee, provides you with a framework risk assessment for you to develop to your business needs.
- a COVID-19 Risk Assessment Bespoke Service where we work with you to draft a COVID-19 risk assessment specific to your organisation, taking away the guess work. Included in the Bespoke Service is one free place on our e-training session (subject to availability). Price available upon request.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/back-on-the-job-covid-19-risk-assessments-what-do-i-need-to-do/>

### PSV Operators – Get Help Keeping Your Distance

Considering screens as part of your COVID-19 risk assessment? We have been working with a manufacturer and installer of screens to protect both drivers and passengers with the aim of increasing your carrying capacity. The Government may be looking to reimburse the reasonable costs of fitting such screens.

Also as a PSV Operator, if you alter the vehicle in anyway (apart from replacing like for like parts), you will need to contact the DVSA for approval.

We can help you make this a streamlined approach so your modifications are approved (even if already made) as quickly as possible.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/psv-operators-get-help-with-keeping-your-distance/>

## Regulatory

### Reintroduction of LEZ, ULEZ and Congestion Charges

From 23 March 2020, TfL temporarily suspended all road user charging schemes across London in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, from Monday (18 May 2020), London's Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), Low Emission Zone (LEZ) and Congestion Charge have been reinstated as part of TfL's £1.6 billion bailout package from the Government.

Further, from 22 June 2020, the Congestion Charge is to be increased by 30% (to £15.00 per day) and it is believed the hours of operation are to be extended – charges normally only apply on weekdays between 07:00 and 16:00 hours but it is intended that this will be

extended to between 07:00 and 22:00 hours and will include weekends.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/reintroduction-of-lez-ulez-and-congestions-charges/>

## Finance Packages

### COVID-19 Grants – Is Your Business Eligible?

If you are confused about the COVID-19 grants available for your business, concerned that your business hasn't received any grants or the amount received is incorrect, let us take the burden off your BACK. Our team will review your eligibility and, if necessary, provide a solicitor's letter to your Local Authority for a fixed fee. **For a no-obligation initial call, email [marketing@backhouses.co.uk](mailto:marketing@backhouses.co.uk).**

## Commercial

### COVID-19 and the Ongoing Impact on Your Commercial Contracts

We are receiving numerous queries from operators regarding the impact of COVID-19 on their commercial contracts.

Let us review the small print for you to see what amendments may be required to adequately protect you in the event of contract performance difficulties.

We can provide a full review of relevant key clauses and suggest amendments tailored to your business and commercial situation for a fixed fee.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/expertise/products/covid-19-contract-issues/>

## Employment

### Pandemics and Sick Pay

With all the talk in the press currently surrounding 'furlough' and what it means, there is a danger of employers missing the changes and relief available for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP). HMRC have now released further guidance about the introduction of the Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme (SSPRS), **which will become available online from 26 May 2020.**

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/pandemics-sick-pay/>

## Backhouse Jones e-Training

Backhouse Jones have also adapted to the current pandemic and have developed a range of bespoke, sector specific e-Training packages.

### 26 May 2020 – BACK on the Job?

Backhouse Jones is providing operators with e-Training on how to draft the all-important COVID-19 risk assessment. The training will give you the tools to draft the risk assessment, including providing a model risk assessment from which you can build your own to suit your business needs.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/events/back-on-the-job/>

### 2 June 2020 – BACK against the Wall?

Paying lease charges for vehicles that are parked up? Receiving fuel in pre-fixed quantities that you can't use or store? Customers not paying and suppliers not delivering - on time or at all? Local authority payments that just don't add up?

These are just a few of the contractual conundrums COVID-19 has posed for operators but is your BACK really against the wall? Or is there more you can be doing - both

to improve your position now and to protect yourselves when it comes to negotiating future arrangements?

Join our eTraining at 10 am on 2 June 2020 when we will use case studies to highlight the considerations for operators when it comes to managing their relationships with both customers and suppliers.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/events/et-raining-back-against-the-wall/>

### **Furlough, Lay-Off and Redundancy**

This week, Backhouse Jones delivered our first e-Training session, which provided operators with an introduction to the staff management options available to them as we move through the roadmap to easing lockdown restrictions.

This included the process for returning staff from furlough, lay-off and redundancy (which is technical and needs to be carried out correctly to avoid claims) as well as the relevant timescales and common pitfalls to avoid when handling these sensitive HR matters.

We are delivering e-Training on this challenging subject again over the coming weeks so, if you would like to register, or if you want further advice on the options available to you, contact [marketing@backhouses.co.uk](mailto:marketing@backhouses.co.uk)

### **BHJ Support**

At Backhouse Jones, we are assisting, supporting and advising literally hundreds of operators each and every day of the crisis. We understand how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting transport businesses and have put together a range of support packages to help including **FREE telephone advice, FREE**

### **updating webinars and an online COVID19 Resources Hub:**

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/covid-19-support-packages-for-operators-from-bhj-2/>

### **Weekly Roundup – 15 May 2020**

Read BHJ's previous weekly roundup of all things COVID19:

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID19-Weekly-Roundup-15-May-2020.pdf>

**Please note: This publication does not constitute legal advice**

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