

COVID-19
Weekly Roundup

7 May 2020

BACKHOUSE
JONES

Finance Packages

New Loan Scheme for Private Landlords in Scotland

The Scottish Government has announced a new £5 million loan scheme for private rental landlords whose tenants are struggling to pay rent due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/new-loan-scheme-for-private-landlords-in-scotland/>

Business Rates Revaluation Postponed

A revaluation of business rates which was planned for 2021 has been postponed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/business-rates-revaluation-postponed/>

Bounce Back Loan Scheme Launched

A new Bounce Back Loan Scheme launched on 4 May 2020 to provide small businesses with loans of between £2,000 to £50,000. A lender can provide a six-year term loan from £2,000 up to 25% of a business' turnover. The maximum loan amount is £50,000.

The scheme is 100% backed by the government and there will be no fees or interest to pay during the first 12 months.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/bounce-back-loan-scheme-launched/>

Additional Funds Made Available for Small Businesses

Additional funds have been made available to provide support for businesses that previously fell outside the scope of the business grant funds scheme.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/additional-funds-made-available-for-small-businesses/>

Applications open for a new £100 million fund for businesses in Scotland

£100 million has been made available to provide support for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) and newly self-employed people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 Grants – Is Your Business Eligible?

The Government has made available the following grants to businesses of either £10,000 or £25,000:

- Small Business Grant
- The Retail, Leisure & Hospitality Grant

You may also be entitled to have your business rates discounted to zero for 2020/21 through the Expanded Retail Discount.

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.**

Driver Licensing

DVLA launches new trial process for acknowledging vocational driving licence applications

DVLA are trialling a new process from 4 May 2020 for acknowledging their receipt of vocational driving licence applications.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/dvla-launches-new-trial-process-for->

[acknowledging-vocational-driving-licence-applications/](#)

The DVLA document explaining how a driver can continue to drive whilst their licence application is being processed can be accessed here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/695575/inf188x6-can-i-drive-while-my-application-is-with-dvla.pdf

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

E-Training – Dealing with your Staff After COVID-19

With around 7 weeks left until furloughing comes to an end, you may be thinking about what to do next with your staff.

It is a sad fact that as well as bringing some staff back from being furloughed, this may

include temporarily reducing your workforce or making redundancies.

We are running a “Dealing with my staff after COVID-19” e-Training session to provide an overview of what you need to know at this difficult time. The session will consist of a presentation with interactive case studies and the opportunity to ask questions in a confidential forum where attendees are anonymous and cannot see or hear each other.

<https://www.backhousejones.co.uk/events/e-training-dealing-with-staff-after-covid-19/>

Coronavirus Testing for Key Workers

The Department of Health & Social Care has released a new set of frequently asked questions concerning the National Coronavirus Testing Program, which cover:

- Who can get tested
- Employer questions
- Regional Test Sites
- Care Home Testing
- Mobile Testing
- Home Testing
- Mega Laboratories

http://www.cpt-uk.org/_uploads/attachment/5079.pdf

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/>

Weekly Roundup – 1 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-1-May-2020.pdf>

Please note: This publication does not constitute legal advice

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