

BID4Oban COVID-19 Update 21 28th May 2020

We are keeping businesses updated with the latest information regarding the outbreak of Corona Virus.

As we enter another weekend of lockdown please see below the latest update:

- **Support** - We continue to support the business community by ensuring all those businesses that are open are receiving advertising in the Oban Times both in print and online. If you have reopened or require amendments to your advert please contact us directly info@bid4oban.co.uk
- **Scammers and Fraud** - We are being made aware of some businesses in the area being targeted by scammers pertaining to be from debt collections agencies, Government depts etc. Please remain vigilant. Please see link below to a website which has lots of useful information regarding scammers. <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/>
- **Reopening** - BID4Oban are in talks with Argyll and Bute Council's environmental health dept regarding business safety and the next phased steps for opening. We plan to host a webinar in the near future to offer direct advice to Levy Payers. In the meantime, if you have any questions in relation to PPE equipment or business support please contact us. We are also looking to purchase signage and safety materials that can be given to businesses for reopening.
- **Oban Town Directory** – We will be launching an online business directory soon which will advertise for free all businesses in Oban that are Levy Payers of the BID. This has been in planning for some time and given the current COVID – 19 situation we need digital information for our customers. The site will enable all businesses to highlight any offers and services as well as links to your business website. We have costs covered for the first year of this project after that time there may be a small additional administration charge.
- **Oban Business Club** - BID4Oban are working alongside Oban Business Club to create an online forum for the Oban and Lorn Business community. This is an opportunity to businesses to register free of charge to input into the recovery process post COVID-19. Please register for further information.
- **Scottish Government Guidelines** – The Government have issued their road map for easing lockdown. A lot of information contained in the document but key messages in pages 37 – 44. Link to document.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-framework-decision-making-scotlands-route-map-through-out-crisis/>

Latest Update from Argyll and Bute Council:

- The Scottish Government has today started releasing **sectoral guidance for returning to work**. The first two are Retail and Manufacturing.
 - **Retail guidance** - including staff and customer safety procedures and an operations checklist
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-retail-sector-guidance/>
 - **Manufacturing guidance** - including procedures to plan for and maintain.
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-manufacturing-sector-guidance/>
 - Other guides are expected to follow. The published UK guidance is available here:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- **Extension of business support schemes**. Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop yesterday announced that the Scottish Government will:
 - extend eligibility for the current small business, retail, hospitality and leisure grants to businesses that occupy **multiple premises with a cumulative value of more than £51,000** and businesses that occupy premises such as shared office spaces, business incubators and shared industrial units **where the landlord is the ratepayer**
 - work with local authorities to support small businesses that are not in the rates system and were not eligible to apply to the hardship scheme solely because they did not have a business bank account
- **Test and Protect - advice for employers** Scottish Government advice on helping staff who need to self-isolate [test-and-protect-advice-for-employers](#)
- **Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) Rebate** The online service to **claim back Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) is now available**. The Coronavirus Statutory

Sick Pay Rebate Scheme will repay employers the Statutory Sick Pay paid to current or former employees off work because of Coronavirus

- Scottish Enterprise has published a guide 'Getting back to work - How to thrive in a post-COVID-19 world'. It outlines the steps a company can take now to transition from survival to growth once COVID-19 lockdown measures are eased. This includes planning innovative ways of working to help employees return to work safely and how to adapt to the changing business landscape. [Guide](#)
- **Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund** - as at 26 May
 - 103 grants have been awarded
 - £206k has been awarded
- **Business Support Grant** – as at 26 May
 - 2672 grants have been awarded
 - Nearly £28.5m has been awarded

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