

TIER UPDATE 19 April 2021

May we draw your attention to the details of the Event Research Programme published today - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-about-the-events-research-programme-erp-paving-the-way-for-larger-audiences-to-attend-sport-theatre-and-gigs-safely-this-summer>.

Today's update is below, followed by a round-up of updates from last week.

In [his statement to the House of Commons today](#), Health Secretary Matt Hancock announced that India is to be added to the red list. From 04.00 on Friday 23 April, anyone who is not a UK or Irish resident, or a British citizen, cannot enter the UK if they have been in India in the previous 10 days. UK and Irish residents and British citizens who've been in India in the past 10 days before their arrival will need to complete hotel quarantine for 10 days from the time of arrival.

Round-up of updates

England moves to step 2 of the government roadmap

On Monday 12 April, England moved to step 2 of the roadmap, enabling outdoor hospitality venues and non-essential retail to open, some smaller outdoor events to take place, self-contained accommodation to open for overnight stays in England with household/support bubble were allowed, and personal care services and public buildings such as libraries could also reopen.

Find out more on the specific businesses that can open [here](#), and read the full guidance on what you can and cannot do [here](#)

Northern Ireland Executive announces relaxations to COVID-19 restrictions

Last week, the Executive agreed relaxations to occur on 23 and 30 April, as well as an indicative date of 24 May for further relaxations.

From 23 April outdoor visitor attractions including outdoor activity centres and close contact services can reopen.

From 30 April 15 people (from no more than 3 households) will be able to meet outside, retail can reopen, overnight stays in self-contained tourist accommodation will be allowed for one household, unlicensed premises can reopen, outdoors only, with a maximum of 6 people from 2 households per table, licensed premises, including social clubs, can reopen only outdoors, limited to 6 people from no more than 2 households, the curfew on takeaways and off licenses will be removed, and individual activities in gyms, swimming pools and other large venues – including with a carer and to allow 1-2-1 training/coaching with social distancing can take place.

Indicatively on **24 May** indoor unlicensed and licenses premises can reopen with mitigations, the remainder of tourist accommodation can open, indoor visits will be allowed in domestic settings, as well as indoor visitor attractions and indoor group exercise and training.

Read the full announcement [here](#).

Welsh Government announces relaxation of some COVID-19 restrictions

The Welsh Government announced that certain COVID-19 restrictions will be relaxed earlier than initially stated. On Monday 3 May (previously Monday 10 May):

- Gyms, leisure centres and fitness facilities can reopen. This will include individual or one-to-one training but not exercise classes
- Extended household will again allow two households to meet and have contact indoors

First Minister Mark Drakeford also confirmed that from Monday 12 April: all remaining shops and close contact services could reopen, travel restrictions on traveling into and out of Wales would be lifted (however, restrictions on travel to countries outside the Common Travel Area without a reasonable excuse, remain in place) and wedding 'show-arounds' by appointment would be allowed.

Read the full announcement [here](#).

Early easing of certain restrictions in Scotland

On 13 April, [First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced](#) that certain changes to restrictions in Scotland were to be brought forward. From **Friday 16 April**:

- Travel within Scotland for outdoor socialising, recreation and exercise is allowed. People must continue to Stay Local for other purposes such as non-essential shopping, and public transport capacity will continue to be limited.
- Outdoor meetings in groups of up to six adults from up to six households can take place, with under-12s not counting towards this limit. Socialising in homes is still not permitted.

Read more on the accelerated easing of restrictions [here](#).

Global Travel Taskforce publish their recommendations to support the safe return of international travel

The Global Travel Taskforce have [set out their approach to safely restarting international travel](#) in their latest report. A Green, Amber and Red traffic light system will be used to categorise countries and there will be different restrictions and requirements for each category. The list of which countries will be in which category will be published at the beginning of May, along with confirmation of whether or not international travel can resume on 17 May.

The full report is available [here](#).

Updates to working safely during coronavirus

The working safely during coronavirus guidance for [heritage locations](#) and for [performing arts](#) has been updated in line with step 2 of the government roadmap.

Consumer Sentiment Tracker wave 28 figures published

VisitEngland has published [wave 28 of their Consumer Sentiment Tracker](#) which covers fieldwork conducted between 6-10 April. The full report is attached to this update.

Although the proportion expecting 'normality' to return to their lives by the end of the year continues to decline, there is evidence that general levels of optimism are rising. Trip confidence is creeping up and the Appetite for Risk score has improved slightly, suggesting people's sense of unease is diminishing when it comes to participating in a range of activities, particularly those which are predominantly indoors.

Highlights from wave 28 include:

- 44% of adults expect 'normality' by end of this year – down another 6 points compared to last wave.
- The Appetite for Risk score climbs to 2.5/4.
- Almost half of adults anticipate taking more or the same number of overnight domestic trips between now and end of the year compared to normal. This compares with just over a quarter of adults with similar intent regarding overseas trips.
- Confidence edges up, with 38% fairly/very confident a trip booked for this June could proceed as planned (climbing 5 points)
- 14% anticipate taking an overnight trip this spring (Apr – June) rising to 35% during the summer (July – Sept) which is stable wave-on-wave. There has been significant uplift in intent from October 2021 onwards, however.
- Among those who are intending to take a trip this spring, 62% have reached the planning and 49% the booking stages of their trips, which is up from 50% and 44% respectively last wave.
- The South West remains the lead destination for spring trips with a commanding 26% share; 13 percentage points ahead of second placed North West.
- The leading destination type for spring trips is 'traditional coastal/seaside town' (30%) narrowly ahead of 'countryside or village' (27%).
- The accommodation types most likely to be used on overnight trips this spring are 'commercial rentals' (e.g. holiday cottages) on 40%, 'camping/caravan' (39%), 'Hotel/motel/inn' (37%) and a 'private home' (35%).
- Some 48% of UK adults intend to take a day trip to a 'traditional coastal/seaside town' or 'countryside or village' destination at some stage during this spring/summer. This compares with 25% intending to visit a 'large city'.

Other updates

- Phase 2 of the Cultural Recovery Fund in Wales application window will close tomorrow, 20 April at 5pm. The funding is available to businesses within the culture sector, including theatres, music venues, heritage attractions, galleries and independent cinema. The fund will cover the period from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021. Find out more information and check eligibility [here](#).
- The online service to claim the fourth Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will open from late April. The fourth grant covers 1 February 2021 to 30 April 2021. Find out more information about the grant and who can claim [here](#).
- Information about the Event Research Programme (ERP) has been published on GOV.UK. The guidance covers measures in place, information for attendees, how to travel to a venue safely and staying overnight. Find out [more information](#).

TOURISM ALLIANCE UPDATE 19/04

Local Authority Grant Allocations

BEIS has published updated data on the allocation of Restart Grants to each Local Authority in England as well as updating the data on how much of previous allocations each local authority has distributed to businesses in their area.

As you will remember for when the last figures were released for the period to 16th January, many of the local authorities had distributed very little ARG funding as they had been told by

Government that it would have to last until 1 April 2022 and that we encouraged them to distribute this funding as soon as possible.

The new figures, which are to the 1 March 2021, show that many local authorities have significantly increased the allocation of ARG funding. However, there are still a significant number of local authorities that had still not allocated most of their ARG funding. Some examples include:

- **Stratford upon Avon**
 - has distributed just 2% of the £3.8m that they have received from Government
- **Southampton**
 - has distributed just 3% of the £7.3m that they have received from Government
- **Kingston Upon Thames**
 - has distributed just 3% of the £5.1m that they have received from Government
- **Medway**
 - has distributed just 1.5% of the £8.0m that they have received from Government

While these local authorities could well have significantly increased their distribution of ARG funding since 1 March 2021, the fact that they have taken over three months to distribute just 3% of the funding that they have received suggests that these local authorities need to do more to ensure that they allocate their ARG allocations before the 30 June deadline.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-grant-funding-local-authority-payments-to-small-and-medium-businesses>

- **Revised ARG Guidance**

While we are on ARG guidance, BEIS has updated the guidance to Local Authorities. As you will be aware, the Government has stated that Local Authorities will only receive the next tranche of ARG funding if they distribute the funding from the first two tranches by 30 June 2021. To clarify this requirement, the guidance has been updated to define “spend” as all funding defrayed or where there has been a validated attempt to defray the funding - a “validated attempt” to distribute this funding being:

- Where a payment has been made to an incorrect bank account and has been rejected; the grant can be classed as a validated attempt as long as a further attempt to pay will be made immediately upon discovering the error
- Where an application has been approved and the payment has been made, but due to a technical error the payment did not process, this can be classed as a validated attempt as long as payment was made on discovery of the error
- Where a payment has been processed, but is on hold by the bank, due to verification checks being undertaken, this can be classed as a validated attempt to make payment
- Where a contract has already been signed to provide a service (prior to the date of this guidance being updated on 15 April 2021), such as for business support activity, even if that funding is not yet spent

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/978400/additional-restrictions-grant-la-guidance.pdf

- **Event's Research Programme**

The Government has published more information on the Events Research Programme, which is one of the four work streams established by Government to inform decisions on, certification, social distancing, International travel and restarting events. The aim of the research is to determine how a combination of testing and covid secure management can inform decisions on safely lifting restrictions at events.

The key points in the update are that:

- the first phase of 10-15 pilots are being held in April and May to inform decisions on the safe removal of social distancing from Step 4
- The pilots will be run across a range of settings, venue types, and activity types so that findings could support the full reopening of similar settings across multiple sectors
- The programme is overseen by an industry-led steering group co-chaired by Sir Nicholas Hytner and David Ross and working closely with national and local public health authorities.
- A Joint Programme Board will work across government to inform policy development on reopening sectors ahead of Step 4
- The ERP will look at a range of mitigating factors including test-on-entry protocols for use in determining how we can reopen larger venues safely
- The first pilot events are
 - B FA Cup Semi Final, Wembley Stadium
 - World Snooker Championship, Sheffield Crucible Theatre
 - Luna Cinema, Liverpool
 - League Cup Final
 - ACC Business Event, Liverpool
 - Circus Nightclub, Liverpool
 - FA Cup Final, Wembley Stadium
 - Outdoor gig, Sefton Park Liverpool
- Findings will be reported to the Prime Minister to feed into wider discussions around Step 4 of the lockdown restrictions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-about-the-events-research-programme-erp-paving-the-way-for-larger-audiences-to-attend-sport-theatre-and-gigs-safely-this-summer/guidance-on-the-events-research-programme>

- **Updated Events Guidance for Councils**

While on the subject of events, the guidance for councils on events that are able to take place has been updated to include a new section on organised sporting events. This section states:

Organised sports participation events include but are not limited to: organised running events, organised cycle races and rides, organised walks.

Organised sports including organised sports participation events are not subject to the capacity cap or social contact rules stated above. However, sporting events that are intended

to attract spectators (including ticketed events), or events that are likely to a significant number of spectators (e.g. a major marathon) should not take place in a public space, or on private land, until Step 3.

As with Step 1b, spectators are not permitted to attend grassroots or professional sporting events taking place on private land, other than for safeguarding reasons or for providing care or assistance to a person with disabilities participating in an organised sporting event or activity. They should maintain social distance and not mix with other households.

This does not prevent people from viewing recreational or organised sport that is taking place in a public space (e.g. a park) at Step 1b or Step 2, in groups of up to 6 people or 2 households.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-events-guidance-for-local-authorities/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-events-guidance-for-local-authorities>

- **Revised Covid Secure Notice for Businesses**

The Covid Secure notice that businesses can use in their workplace to show that they are abiding by the Government's Covid-Secure guidance has been revised to include a section on ventilation. This states:

We have taken all reasonable steps to provide adequate ventilation in enclosed spaces

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/978552/staying-covid-secure-poster-ventilation-step.pdf

- **Business Support Guidance Updated**

The guidance for businesses on what support is available has been updated to include a new video about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Job Retention Scheme and a webinar for Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-and-support-if-your-business-is-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19#self-employment-income-support-scheme-seiss--fourth-grant>

You can sign-up for the webinar, which is 1:45pm – 2:30pm on 28th April, on the following link

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/3667545685723120643?source=Apr-HMRC-GOV>

- **Self Isolation Compliance Checks**

The Government has updated the guidance on self-isolation compliance checks which are being increased to make sure that those people arriving into the country stay at quarantined for at least 10 days. The guidance now states that officials that are checking compliance will ask to see the person's driver's licence or passport to confirm your identity.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/self-isolation-compliance-checks-after-international-travel>

- **Visiting a Passport Office**

New guidance has been published to state that people should only visit a passport office if they have an appointment and should not do so if:

- they or someone they live with has coronavirus or coronavirus symptoms

- they have been told by the NHS Test and Trace service that they have been in contact with a person who has coronavirus
- they have recently returned to the UK from abroad and are quarantining

A friend or family member can attend on behalf of someone who cannot make the appointment but will need to take:

- the applicant's old passport
- a signed and dated letter from the applicant authorising them to attend
- the applicant's signed and dated application form if the appointment is to apply for the Fast Track service
- valid ID if the appointment is for the Online Premium service

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visiting-a-passport-office-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

EIF Update – 19th April 2021

New Festival Guidance - An interim guidance briefing note has been produced by the festival industry to help organisers in planning events. The guidance is available on the [Purple Guide website](#). In the meantime, the festival industry is continuing to work in collaboration with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Public Health England (PHE) on how music festivals can reopen with appropriate COVID-19 mitigation measures in place.

Drone Briefing - The National Outdoor Event Association is organising a free webinar to bring event organisers up to speed with the new UK drone. As part of this new legislation the 150m distance from crowds for drone users was abolished, so knowing how to deal with a drone incident has never been more important. Director of Operations Andrew Hamilton, who until July 2020 was the Civil Aviation Authority's Drone Unit Lead, will give a summary of the law changes and what organisers need to consider doing about it. The webinar takes place at 2pm on 30th April – you can register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1QWmgEvaQcmYXzjkynSTkw

Performing Arts Guidance Updated - Following the move to step 2 of the roadmap on 12th April, the [Performing Arts guidance](#) has been updated. Key updates include confirmation that venues that are permitted to open at Step 2 and can operate as hospitality venues (such as grassroots music venues) may provide ancillary performance activity, such as live music, for their seated food and/or drink customers outdoors at Step 2. There are also further details on workplace testing and a new section on ventilation which will be helpful for those venues looking to reopen in step 3.

Pilot Festival without Social Distancing - A pilot festival with live music and no social distancing has been announced. The [Liverpool pilot show](#) will have Blossoms headlining and offers a positive step towards getting festivals back on track this year.

EIF Supports Insurance Lobby - The Forum has supported a letter to Prime Minister Boris Johnson MP, organised by the LIVE group, urging the Government to underwrite insurance for live events.

Brexit updates

- Applications are now open for the SME Brexit Support Fund. Smaller businesses can get up to £2,000 to pay for practical support, including training or professional advice to adjust to new customs, rules of origin and VAT rules when trading with the EU. Find out more information on eligibility and apply [here](#).
- The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office will be hosting their next webinar for travel, insurance and business partners on Thursday 22 April. Focusing on the [new rules for UK travellers to the EU following the end of the Transition Period](#), experts from a range of government department will update on the latest changes and actions travellers need to take to be prepared. The session will also feature new rules for business travellers, and there will be the opportunity to ask questions. Sign up [here](#).