

TIER UPDATE 21/01

Northern Ireland lockdown to be extended until 5 March

In a statement this afternoon [First Minister Arlene Foster](#) announced that the current regulations will remain in place until 5 March 2021. They will be reviewed on 18 February 2021.

UK Government press briefing

[Priti Patel led this evening's conference](#), joined by Martin Hewitt from the police chief council, and Vin Diwakar from NHS England. The session focused on enforcement,

- Priti Patel was asked about whether England was considering extending lockdown until March 5th like Northern Ireland, she responded by stating that the numbers demonstrated the need for a lockdown and that it was too early to look at other measures yet.
- On the border, she said it is right that the Government does everything it can. She went on to list the measures implemented including negative tests, quarantine and flight bans. Dr Diwakar said they were beginning to see some signs of the lockdown helping numbers to fall, though it was not translating through to intensive care yet.
- Sam Coats from Sky asked if people should be booking a foreign holiday, and whether our borders would remain closed. Patel said it was far too early to speculate, thousands of people are still in hospital, and the advice is clear that people should be staying at home and not travelling if it is not essential.
- The Daily Mail asked if people should think twice about booking a holiday. Patel conceded that while people did want something to look forward to, it was just too early to think about relaxation of measures due to the number of deaths and people in critical condition – the vaccination programme should be the priority. Dr Diwakar also said that the data meant that you cannot look that far ahead.
- Asked about enforced hotel quarantine for those entering the UK, Patel said that this policy was speculative and moved on to talk about the measures already in place.

New Government guidance is now available on two coronavirus funding schemes for businesses in England - the Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSG (Closed) Addendum) and the Closed Business Lockdown Payment.

Tourism and hospitality venues in England that have been required to close, as well as businesses that operate primarily as an in-person venue, but which have been forced to close those services and provide a takeaway-only service instead may be eligible for one or both of these grants. Eligible businesses must occupy property on which they pay business rates and are the ratepayer.

For those required to close due to the national restrictions beginning 5 January 2021, the [Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment \(CBLP\)](#) supports eligible businesses based on the rateable value of the property on the first full day of restrictions.

- Businesses with a property with a rateable value of £15,000 or less, may be eligible for a one-off cash grant of £4,000.
- Business with a property with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000, may be eligible for a one-off cash grant of £6,000.
- Business with a property with a rateable value of £51,000 or above, you may be eligible for a one-off cash grant of £9,000.

Businesses that were open as usual, but then required to close due to national restrictions imposed by government (for each period) may be eligible for the [LRSG \(Closed\) Addendum schemes](#):

- From 5 January 2021 onwards
- Between 5 November and 2 December 2020

The grant will be based on the rateable value of the property on the first full day of restrictions.

For national restrictions from 5 January 2021

- Businesses with a property with a rateable value of £15,000 or less, you may be eligible for a cash grant of £2,001 for each 42-day qualifying restrictions period.
- Businesses with a property with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000, you may be eligible for a cash grant of £3,000 for each 42-day qualifying restrictions period.
- Businesses with a property with a rateable value of £51,000 or above, you may be eligible for a cash grant of £4,500 for each 42-day qualifying restrictions period.

For national restrictions between 5 November and 2 December 2020

- Businesses with a property with a rateable value of £15,000 or less, may be eligible for a cash grant of £1,334 for each 28-day qualifying restrictions period.
- Businesses a property with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000, may be eligible for a cash grant of £2,000 for each 28-day qualifying restrictions period.
- Businesses with a property with a rateable value of £51,000 or above, may be eligible for a cash grant of £3,000 for each 28-day qualifying restrictions period.

The grants are administered by local councils. Find your local council website

<https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Subsidy control and state aid update

The pages listed below have been updated to reflect the following information:

Following the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, there have been no changes to the conditions of this grant scheme. Your local council will set out the eligibility requirements for the scheme. Further guidance will be published in due course.

- [Christmas Support Payment for wet-led pubs](#)
- [Local Restrictions Support Grant \(for open businesses\)](#)
- [Local Restrictions Support Grant \(for closed businesses\)](#)
- [Check if your nightclub, dance hall or adult entertainment business is eligible for a coronavirus grant due to national restrictions](#)
- [Coronavirus Additional Restrictions Grant](#)

Limited Company Director's Support Scheme (Northern Ireland)

The Limited Company Director's Support Scheme (LCDSS) will provide an initial one-off taxable grant of £1,000 to eligible company directors who meet the [criteria outlined here](#). While applications are invited from individuals who hold more than one directorship, only one application is allowed per person.

The scheme, administered by Invest Northern Ireland on behalf of the Department for the Economy, will open to online applications today, Thursday 21 January 2021 at 6pm. The eligibility checker and link to the [application form will be published at 6pm](#).

New DCMS Sector Economic Estimates for employment Oct 2019 - Sep 2020

Headline Findings: In the period October 2019 to September 2020, there were 5.5 million jobs in DCMS sectors, accounting for 16.4% of all UK jobs. The Creative Industries had the most jobs with 2.2 million. This is followed by the Digital Sector (1.7 million) and Civil Society (984,000). The sector with the fewest jobs is Gambling at 73,000. The provisional estimates suggest that there were just under 1.6 million jobs in the Tourism sector. Tourism employment estimates are calculated using provisional estimates in the latest (2018) Tourism Satellite Account (TSA). This is a different methodology to the other sectors.

COVID-19 Situation update 21 January 2021

- To see the number of cases of COVID-19 in England and the UK visit the [UK COVID-19 dashboard](#).
- To see the number of cases globally see the [World Health Organisation dashboard](#).

TOURISM ALLIANCE UPDATE 21/01

- **ONS Economic Impact Data**

ONS has produced its latest research on the impact of Coronavirus on the UK economy. While there is nothing specific to tourism in this latest report it is worth noting that as at 10 January when the survey ended, 70% of businesses were currently trading while 27% were temporarily closed, a large percentage of which will be in the tourism and hospitality sector. This is important because these closed businesses account for 41% of all people on furlough and a very worrying 31% of these businesses have little or no confidence that they will be able to survive the next three months.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases/bulletins/coronavirustheukconomyandsocietyfasterindicators/21january2021>

- **Socio-economic Background of Employees**

DCMS has produced an analysis of the socioeconomic status of people working in sectors that are under its responsibilities. The analysis includes data on sector as such as museums and galleries, and heritage sites and attractions but, disappointingly, misses out tourism, which represents 44% of all employment under DCMS's responsibility. It seems that there is no real reason why this should be the case as it would be relatively easy to apply the Tourism Satellite Accounts ratios for tourism employment to the SIC codes that constitute tourism-related sectors.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/ad-hoc-statistical-analysis-202021-quarter-4>

- **REACT-1: Real Time transmission Assessment**

You will have seen on the news that the Initial findings from the 8th wave of the Imperial College London/ Ipsos MORI research on community transmission of Covid have shown that:

- infections increased by 50% from early December
- During the period 6 January to 15 January, SARS-CoV-2 virus was circulating with a higher prevalence than between 25 November to 3 December with 158 in 10,000 infected.
- There was no strong evidence for either growth or decay in prevalence averaged across the period 6 January to 15 January (ie., at the moment, the lockdown does not seem to be reducing the prevalence of Covid).

These findings, if they continue through the remainder of the lockdown period, will have implications for when we can expect to move out of lockdown and the Tier levels that will apply when we do.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/react-1-study-of-coronavirus-transmission-january-2021-interim-results/react-1-real-time-assessment-of-community-transmission-of-coronavirus-covid-19-in-january-2021>