

## **TIER UPDATE 26 January 2021**

[Prime Minister Boris Johnson](#) was joined by Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England and Sir Simon Stevens, Chief Executive of NHS England for this evening's press conference, following the number of deaths recorded due to COVID surpassing 100,000. He offered his condolences to anyone who has lost a loved one. The first question Johnson took was on lifting restrictions to allow business and travel between nations. He said all measures would be reviewed on the 15 February, but the rate of infection is still too high at this stage.

### **Deadlines for The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)**

There are now monthly deadlines for claims for the CJRS. [View the deadlines here](#). The [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme step by step guide](#) outlines information that employers need to provide to HMRC to make a claim.

### **Employment figures released by Office for National statistics**

The [Office for National Statistics](#) has released estimated employment-related statistics for the UK. Key points include:

- The number of people out of work in the UK continued to rise, with those aged 25 to 34 facing the biggest risk of losing their jobs.
- 1.72 million were unemployed and 418,000 more than in the same period the previous year.
- The number of payrolled employees fell by 2.7% compared with December 2019, which is a fall of 793,000 employees.

Other government updates:

- Scotland published their [vision for trade](#) – the blueprint of how Scotland will do business around the globe. Scotland's Vision for Trade sets out five principles which will guide all future decisions on international trade: Inclusive Growth, Wellbeing, Sustainability, Net Zero and Good Governance.
- Guidance on [COVID Visa Concession Scheme \(CVCS\)](#) updated to clarify how to treat those eligible for the scheme.

Industry news

- [Saga Holidays](#) has introduced the requirement that all customers must be fully vaccinated, having received their full two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination at least 14 days before travel as part of their holidays or cruise brands.

### **COVID-19 Situation update 26 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 26/01**

- **Covid Visa Concession Scheme**

The Home Office has published new guidance for their staff on how to treat people who had leave to enter or remain in the UK but have been unable to return to the UK to make an application for leave to remain (or indefinite leave to remain before their current leave expires). To be eligible for this scheme, the person must be abroad and all of the following must apply:

- they left the UK before 17 March 2020
- their leave expired and they were unable to return to the UK before its expiry due to COVID-19 travel restrictions
- they intend to return to the UK once confirmation they are eligible is given by UKVI, not less than 21 calendar days' notice of their date of travel, unless either:
  - they cannot travel because travel restrictions remain in place
  - they choose not to travel due to a COVID-19 risk to themselves or their family, for example, showing symptoms, a requirement to self-isolate or being high-risk and unable to travel

If an application made under the scheme is successful, a single entry 3-month entry clearance will be granted to allow the person to travel to the UK and submit an application for leave to remain. It should be noted that there is no guarantee that the application will be successful.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/955533/cvcs-guidance-v2.0ext.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955533/cvcs-guidance-v2.0ext.pdf)

- **Quarantine Hotels**

You will have seen on the news that the Government is set to announce a new quarantining system tomorrow whereby people entering the UK will have to stay in a hotel for the 10 day quarantine period rather than being allowed to do this at a place of their choice. There is uncertainty as to whether the requirement to use a quarantine hotel will apply to all people entering the UK or just to people entering the country from, or transiting through a list of "high risk" countries where there are new variants of the virus such as Brazil and South Africa. The expectation is that this requirement will be in addition the need for a test prior to departure and that the option to have a second test after 5 days in quarantine will remain.

I have attached a copy of the Airlines UK/AOA press release on this which highlights the negative impact of this on passenger flows and the need for the Government to provide a targeted support scheme for airlines and airports.

- **ERF Funding in Wales**

Applications for the ERF Sector Specific Grant to support Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure businesses and associated supply chain businesses impacted by the restrictions will close for application at 12pm on Friday 29 January 2021. When this round of funding ends, the Welsh Government will be making a further £200 million available to affected businesses. Information on this new package will be published this Friday on the Business Wales – Covid-19 Support for Business website.

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/>

- **Lockdown Date Speculation**

There has been a level of speculation over the past few days that the Government is planning keep lockdown restrictions in place until 17<sup>th</sup> July. This has arisen as a result of an amendment in the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 3) and (All Tiers) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 which were published on 5<sup>th</sup> January (these were the regulations that provided the basis for the national lockdown). In these regulations there

was an amendment made that extended the expiry date of another set of regulations, which allow local authorities to make and enforce restrictions, to the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021. These regulations needed to be extended because they were set to expire on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

This triggered speculation by the newspapers that the Government expected restrictions to be needed until that date. The more prosaic answer is that this is just an administrative matter - the regulations were first published on 17th July 2020 and get renewed every six months.