

Subject: CoronaVirus Update No11
Date: Wednesday, 25 March 2020 at 14:21:52 Greenwich Mean Time
From: EHA Secretary
Attachments: image001.png, Eastbourne Foodbanks lits and locations FINAL (002).docx

Dear Members,

Mark and I have just come out of the latest Eastbourne Cobra meeting and we wanted to update you as soon as possible. The update is coming from myself again as Mark is being interview for Channel 4 Dispatches in relation to the Covid19 Crisis and the impact on our industry. This we hope will keep Eastbourne on the map amongst all the media coverage. Here are the key outcomes from the meeting:

Ian Fitzpatrick (Deputy Chief Executive of EBC) update from Secretary of State:

- The Secretary of State wanted to thank everyone for their support of the national effort to tackle Corona Virus.
- Local resilience teams are now in place across the country and in Eastbourne.
- There is a functional control centre in place to implement all the central government announcements.
- The key message to everyone is **“to stay at home to save lives.”**

Action for EHA members

As per our previous emails, the government has instructed ALL “Hotels, hostels, B&Bs, campsites and boarding houses for commercial use” to initially close for the next three weeks. Unless you are receiving guests from the specific published group. [Click here for that list.](#)

Therefore please ensure your online/offline diaries are CLOSED to comply with the government’s instruction.

Re-print of Business Rate Bills

- All business rate bills were re-printed yesterday and have been sent out to all qualifying businesses with a zero amount, which will mean no payments collected in April. You should receive them in the next few days – some have received in the post today.
- This represents £25m across Eastbourne.
- If your bill has not been adjusted and you qualify, then you are encouraged to contact the council **via a digital route** as they are overwhelmed with calls and have a reduced team due to social distancing.

Grants for Small Business

- The detail and guidance for the Grants was only received yesterday, so EBC are still working out the detail, but here is some key information:
 1. It is confirmed that this is a Grant and is **not-repayable.**
 2. Even if you are in receipt of 100% Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) you will receive the £10,000 grant.
 3. For those businesses that have not paid rates, EBC will not have your bank details. They have advised that there will be a data capture needed for those. More details will follow shortly.
 4. If you own multiple properties, the grant will be applied to each property as long as they fall within the Rateable values.

Eg: If you have three holiday apartments, you will receive the grant three times.
 5. Those people with rateable value over £15,000 and up to £51,000 you will received £25,000. It does not matter what rate you pay, the £25,000 will apply.
- EBC are expecting the funding to come through in **early April** and are committed to distributing as soon as possible.

- There may be some information gathering for validation purposes, as this is open to the potential of fraud, so we do ask all our members to co-operate as much as possible if asked to provide information.
- We thanked EBC for moving so quickly but also re-iterated that this is a cashflow lifeline for all of us and welcome the receipt of the grants as soon as practically possible.

Business Interruption Insurance

- We fed back to Caroline Ansell's representative regarding the pushback from Insurance companies. (Caroline was engaged in parliament as it is shutting down a week early)
- Phillip, her representative, will be opening a specific case for hospitality with Caroline, because the government's position is that it has made it clear enough to activate cover for those who have relevant business interruption insurance. It is not acceptable that to have this pushback.

Action

- We will be following up with Caroline and her office to raise this case.
- Please do keep sending through examples of Insurance companies pushing back as the more evidence and names we can provide, the bigger the case we can build.

Parking Charges

- The Herald will be publishing an article next week to call for the increase in parking charges (both residential and hotel permit) to be delayed.
- Lobbying is still ongoing.

Support for Paid Members of Staff

- There is still more clarification needed regarding furloughed staff and exactly what the government commitment will cover. Mark is pursuing this.
- The question was asked about small amounts of work being done to keep businesses going. It was felt from Caroline's representative that this is a national crisis and if someone needs to do a few hours per week, then it's not something that is likely to be pursued.

Volunteering support

- A few members have expressed an interest in supporting our community through this crisis. We have been asked to signpost everyone to <https://www.3va.org.uk/> which is the organisation co-ordinating all the efforts.

A Call from the Foodbank

- As you can imagine there are many people in our community facing crises and the Foodbank are really struggling to source certain items. **Please see the attached released and call for goods.**

I am sorry that this is another long email, but as you can appreciate a lot of information is discussed in these meetings and as part of our commitment to you, we want to give you all the information.

Please do keep communicating and concerns, questions or feedback. We are all in this together and as an Association will do whatever we can to support all our members during this crisis.

With best wishes

Kristian

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Vice Chair, Eastbourne Hospitality Association

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