

**Subject:** CoronaVirus Update No19  
**Date:** Saturday, 11 April 2020 at 15:40:53 British Summer Time  
**From:** EHA Secretary  
**Attachments:** image001.png

Dear Members

Please kindly see latest updates from mark:

**Good news for employers date of PAYE Government Scheme opening date below, important updates for Self-Catering properties and they may not be open except for Key Workers as confirmed by the news story on the link from Air BnB <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/Air BnB>**

Self-Catering support: <https://www.pascuk.co.uk/covid-19>

---

Hospitality Action are giving a grant of £250 per person for employees under certain conditions and/or in difficulty please put out on update – see link for application form

[https://www.hospitalityaction.org.uk/media/2140/covid-19-grant-190320-\\_v9.pdf](https://www.hospitalityaction.org.uk/media/2140/covid-19-grant-190320-_v9.pdf)

---

## Furlough

HMRC confirmed that the portal for making claims under the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme **will open on 20 April**. Claims must be made with the employers own PAYE online account and suggests agents will not be able to make a claim. **The date confirms that the first monies could be paid out to businesses via BACS later that same week to coincide with April PAYE dates.**

The Government has also [published revised guidance](#) for businesses and workers on how to access the Retention Scheme. The scheme will cover the cost of wages backdated to 1 March and is initially open for 3 months, but will be extended if necessary.

- **Change to the Furloughed Workers Rules**

Just a minor one I'm afraid but one to be aware of. The Government has reversed it's position on workers not being able to undertake paid employment if they are furloughed. So if you furlough a worker, they can, subject to any provisions in their employment contract, go and get another job during the furlough period. One of the main reasons it was brought in to help with labour shortages in key areas such as harvesting crops and providing care workers but there is no restriction on the type of paid work that can be undertaken

- **Home Office Requests Flexibility from Licensing Authorities**  
Home Office Minister, Kit Malthouse has written to the Chairs of Licensing Committees (letter attached) asking them to take a pragmatic and more flexible approach when considering the application of licensing conditions and rules during the current period including exercising discretion when considering non-payment or late payment of an annual premises licence fee or a late-night levy charge. I've suggested to DCMS that they may like to consider this approach with gaming licenses to support businesses that are now closed such as amusement arcades in seaside destinations.
  - **Self-catering Support Website**  
PASC has set up a website to provide support and information for self-catering businesses regardless of whether they are members.  
<https://www.pascuk.co.uk/covid-19>
- 

### Online Travel Agents – booking.com update

Following representations made by UKH and other European associations, HOTREC (the European hospitality trade association) and Booking.com have met regarding issues around refundable bookings. In short:

- Booking.com have changed their policy for bookings made after 6 April (they consider consumers are now aware of the situation so there is no automatic 'force majeure' anymore in their opinion)
- For bookings made from 6 April onwards, non-refundable bookings will be considered such again by the platform
- This applies across the European Economic Area
- Booking.com will clearly communicate its revised policy to all hotel partners in EEA

This, however, does not cover bookings cancelled before 6 April, and is only limited to Booking.com. It does not address the issue of whether Booking and other platforms were able to claim 'force majeure' in the first place. UKH have chased the Competition authorities and BIA in the UK regarding the issues we have already raised with them regarding the platforms and will keep you updated. We are also looking at credit card chargeback issues which members have raised.

Kind regards, Mark Cotman

Take care & kind regards

--

**Yvette Cowderoy**

Association Secretary

Telephone: 01323-649303 / 07703-331330

Email: [secretary@eastbournehospitality.com](mailto:secretary@eastbournehospitality.com)

Website: [www.eastbournehospitality.com](http://www.eastbournehospitality.com)

