

**Subject:** CoronaVirus Update No26  
**Date:** Friday, 24 April 2020 at 14:41:23 British Summer Time  
**From:** EHA Secretary  
**Attachments:** image001.png

Dear Member

Please see the various updates coming through:

1. In light of the news' article below, it seems Eastbourne council along with the police will follow suit, with spot checks. So our advice to members, is that as long as you can demonstrate anyone currently staying with you falls in one of the Government approved criteria, then you should be OK:

<https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/news/2020/trading-standards-warns-stay-put-were-shut>

**Criteria reminder:**

**Hotels and other accommodation providers should be able to remain open if:**

- They are part of the response to support key workers or vulnerable groups.
- There is a specific need for some or all of the site to remain open (for example they are housing people who have been flooded out of their homes, being used by public services to provide emergency accommodation or are not able to return to their primary residence).
- If businesses are providing rooms to support homeless people, through arrangements with local authorities and other public bodies, they should remain open.
- If a holiday park or caravan park is your primary residence you can remain on site.

[This is from: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-advice-for-accommodation-providers>]

**2. OTA Covid-19 Update**

You will likely have received a communication this week directly from **Booking.com**, advising that they are closing all hotels on their platform **until 9<sup>th</sup> May**. This applies to all UK properties and includes hotels that are staying open to Key Workers. We understand the frustration of this situation, as many Key Workers use Booking.com to make reservations.

However the decision has been made in response to Government pressure on OTAs to better police the intentions of their bookers, and to better verify the status of key workers. At the moment, these measures are simply not in place, so they have implemented these closures for the protection of customers and hotel staff and to align with government advice.

**3. Council Tax support for self employed**

Our new hardship funds are available to help those that are self-employed and having difficulty paying council tax during the Covid-19 crisis. Re-apply for Council Tax Reduction outlining your current circumstances and we will endeavour to do our best to help. To claim visit here: [www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk).

4. Facebook has launched a [Small Business Grants Programme](#) offering eligible small businesses USD 100M in cash grants and ad credits.

5. [The Prince's Trust and Natwest Enterprise Relief Fund](#) is offering one-to-one support and grants to 18 to 30 year olds who are self-employed or running their own business.

6. [The Fleabag Support Fund](#) will be providing grants of £2,500 to theatre freelancers who are currently

unable work.

7. A new 'support finder' tool has been launched to help businesses and self-employed people across the UK to determine what financial support is available to them during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - The tool on gov.uk asks business owners and the self-employed to fill out a simple online questionnaire.
  - Users are then directed to a list of all the financial support they may be eligible for. [Read more about the tool here.](#)
8. ABTA's Chief Executive, Mark Tanzer has written an open letter to customers of their members to explain the current situation with refunds for holidays that aren't going ahead as planned as a result of the pandemic, and to ask for their support/understanding.

As usual, the office is always here if you need us 😊

Take care & kind regards

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**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)

