

DCMS Museums and Galleries Sector Coronavirus bulletin

1 February 2021

Museums & Cultural Property COVID-19 Response Mailbox
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1. Key updates

NEW [Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on coronavirus: 27/01](#)

- Lockdown measures to be reviewed in mid-February.
- Week commencing 22nd February Government intends to set out the results of that review and publish the plan for taking the country out of lockdown.
- The PM hopes it will be safe to commence reopening schools from Monday 8 March, with other economic and social restrictions being removed then or thereafter as and when the data permits.

NEW [Tougher border controls to protect public health: 27/01](#)

- Further action to minimise travel across international borders.
- Reviewing travel exemptions: the list of travel exemptions will be urgently reviewed so that only the most important and exceptional reasons are included.

NEW [Art UK brings the nation's art to schools through a new digital learning offer: 28/01](#)

- Bringing the nation's art together on one platform providing [learning resources](#).
- This interface connects UK schools with the extraordinary art collection that is owned by the UK public.
- The resources are searchable by each home nation's curriculum, meaning these are very much resources for the whole of the UK. You can also search by resources for the home and the class.

NEW [Weston Culture Fund recipients announced: updated 01/02](#)

- The Weston Culture Fund has announced the recipient of its grants, including Derby Museums, the National Holocaust Centre and Museum, the National Maritime Museum, Birmingham Museums Trust, and the Wallace Collection.

2. Current rules

[National lockdown: stay at home: updated 01/02](#)

[Lockdown regulations](#)

[England Lockdown: Stay At Home posters: 05/01](#)

- A national lockdown is in place. You must stay at home.
- You may only leave your home for work if you cannot reasonably work from home.
- Museums and galleries in England must stay closed.
- Museum restaurants and cafes can open for takeaway only, provided they are in a self-contained unit, and it is possible for a member of the public to enter the premises from a place outside the premises used for the closed business.

[COVID-19 critical worker status: 07/01](#)

- Clarification on when a security operative is considered to be a "critical worker".

[Get a test for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) if you do not have symptoms: 22/01](#)

- Find out how to get tested when you do not have symptoms.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): travel corridors: updated 18/01](#)

- All travel corridors for people arriving in England are suspended.

In [Wales](#), [Scotland](#) and [Northern Ireland](#) different rules apply.

- **Northern Ireland:** lockdown extended until 5 March
- **Wales:** indoor and outdoor attractions including museums closed.
- **Scotland:** [Protection levels](#), restrictions [guidance](#) and [central belt restrictions](#)

3. Guidance

[Good practice guidance for reopening museums: updated 28/01](#)

- Guidance for the museums sector in England.

Devolved nations guidance:

- [Northern Ireland: Culture and Heritage Destinations Venues: Guidance for a phased return](#)
- [Wales: Culture and heritage destinations and venues: guidance for a phased return](#)
- [Scotland: guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions: updated 14/12](#)

Sector resources:

- [AIM and Museum Development reopening checklist: 25/06](#)
- [Association of Independent Museum coronavirus resources](#)
- [EMBED Reopening Recommendations Guidance](#)

[VisitBritain “We’re good to go” industry standard: 25/06](#)

- Industry standard shows your business follows Government and public health guidance.

[Cultural objects licences: new temporary procedure: updated 23/12](#)

- Arts Council England’s Export Licensing Unit temporary export licences procedure.

[Government Indemnity Scheme: temporary courier arrangements: updated 12/11](#)

- Details of temporary courier arrangements in place due to pandemic.

Further information and guidance

- [Guidance for DCMS sectors](#)
- [Heritage locations guidance: updated 07/01](#)
- [The visitor economy guidance: updated 07/01](#)
- [Guidance on searching for archaeological finds in England: updated 06/01](#)
- [Guidance for shops and branches on reopening: updated 07/01](#)
- [Performing Arts guidance: updated 07/01](#)
- [Volunteering guidance: updated 08/01](#)

4. Test and Trace

[NHS Test and Trace: requirement to maintain records: updated 11/01](#)

[NHS test and trace: how it works: updated 11/01](#)

[NHS test and trace service in the workplace: updated 11/01](#)

[NHS Test and Trace customer logging toolkit: updated 25/09](#)

[ICO guidance: 18/09](#) and [Q&A for small businesses and organisations](#)

- Mandatory for museums and galleries to have a system to collect Test and Trace data, and to ask customers to provide these details. Businesses required to retain details for 21 days.

- Museums must display an official NHS QR code poster so visitors can scan the QR code using their NHS COVID-19 App, as an alternative to visitors providing contact details.
- The regulations are [here](#), and further information [here](#), with FAQs and a business toolkit.

[NHS COVID-19 app launches across England and Wales: 24/09](#)

[Information and resources for app](#)

- The QR codes can be [downloaded via a website to display as posters in premises](#).

[COVID-19 early outbreak management action cards: updated 14/01](#)

[Arts, Heritage and Cultural Venues action card](#)

- Quick-reference guides to help you quickly identify, report and respond to any outbreak.

[Scotland: Test and protect, multi-sector guidance: 14/07](#)

[Protect Scotland: 10/09](#)

- Confidential contact tracing app. Scotland only.

5. Job Support

[Chancellor extends furlough and loan schemes: 17/12](#)

[Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#)

[Claim for employees' wages: updated 26/01](#)

[Check which employees you can put on furlough: updated 05/01](#)

- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended until the end of April.
- Employees will receive 80% of their usual salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month. Employers have to pay NI and pension contributions.
- Flexible furloughing, in regard to the hours and days staff work, will continue.
- Workers made redundant in advance of 31 October can be rehired.
- The [Job Support Scheme](#) will be postponed.
- The [Jobs Retention Bonus](#) will not be paid in February.

[Check you can claim a grant through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme: updated 29/11](#)

[Online eligibility checker tool](#)

- Scheme extended to April 2021. Provides 2 further grants. Applications for third grant open.
- Grant for November to January calculated at 80% of average trading profits, up to £7,500.

[Kickstart Scheme: AIM and the MA working together to support the kickstart scheme: 14/09](#)

- The [Kickstart Scheme](#) offers fully-funded 6-month job placements to young people.

6. Funding

[Culture Recovery Fund: £1.57bn to protect cultural, arts and heritage institutions: 05/07](#)

[Culture Recovery Fund: Lifeline for culture organisations across the country: 07/11](#)

[Culture Recovery Fund: Grants Second Round: 18/12](#)

[Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage: Second Round: updated 26/01](#)

- Over £1bn has already been allocated:
 - [£500m grants via ACE](#) to museums & galleries, theatres, music & comedy orgs
 - [£92m via National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England to heritage sites](#)
 - [£30m via BFI to independent cinemas](#)
 - [£165m in repayable finance to support major arts and heritage institutions: 11/12](#)
 - [Capital Kickstart Fund: 11/12](#)
 - [Culture Recovery Fund: Repayable Finance Round Two: 14/12](#)

[Historic England: Lifeline Grants for Culture: 07/11](#)

- £14 million investment in England's historic sites benefitting 162 heritage organisations.

- [Heritage Capital Kickstart Fund](#): supports heritage projects paused, delayed or at risk.

England

[Arts Council England Covid-19 support](#)

[ACE National Lottery Project Grants open for applications](#)

- £59.8m available for independent organisations, creative practitioners and freelancers.

[National Lottery Heritage Fund information: updated 18/01](#)

[Funding for councils to address coronavirus pressures and cover lost income: 02/07](#)

[Local government income compensation scheme guidance](#)

- All relevant losses, over and above the first 5% of planned income from sales, fees and charges, will be compensated for at a rate of 75p in every pound.

Northern Ireland

[Northern Ireland Creative Support Fund: updated 21/12](#)

[£2m Community Arts, Culture and Heritage Fund](#)

- Will prioritise projects which support people with disabilities and those who are vulnerable.

[£7.75m programme to support arts and cultural organisations: 28/10](#)

- Aimed at helping the arts and cultural sector recover from the effects of the pandemic.

[£4 million lifeline for the arts in Northern Ireland: 01/07](#)

- £4m fund for arts organisations, freelance artists, creative practitioners and performers.

Scotland

[Scottish government: supporting culture throughout the pandemic: 20/12](#)

- The Museums Recovery and Resilience Fund to receive an extra £3.1m to meet demand.

[Museums Galleries Scotland Coronavirus Guidance for Museums](#)

[Museums Galleries Scotland funding overview: 06/04](#)

- [Museum Development Fund: support for civic and university museums: 08/10](#)

Open to organisations that manage Accredited museums not eligible for the Recovery and Resilience Fund – civic (local authority and ALEO run museums) and university museums.

- [COVID-19 Adaptation Fund](#) - up to £7,500 (£10,000 for partnerships) for reopening safely

[Creative Scotland](#) support:

- [£7.5m Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development](#): to support creative practitioners
- [£10m lifeline support for Performing Arts Venues in Scotland: 03/07](#)

Wales

[Welsh government's £53m Cultural Recovery Fund: updated 23/10](#)

- £18.5m for accredited museums, archive services, and others.
- £7 million fund for freelancers to support individuals in the sector
- [£27.5m fund administered by the Arts Council of Wales](#) for galleries and arts centres.

Other funding sources

- [Paul Hamlyn Foundation Contingency Fund: updated 10/2020](#)
- [Weston Culture Fund recipients announced: updated 01/02](#)

7. Business support

[Spending Review: 25/11](#)

- Over £150 million to strengthen our cultural and heritage infrastructure
- More than £100 million of capital investment for DCMS-supported bodies
- Six museums and galleries have been added to the VAT refund scheme.

[Business support homepage](#)

[Temporary VAT cut for accommodation and attractions: updated 03/12](#)

- VAT reduced from 20% to 5% for hospitality and attractions, including museums, and for food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, cafés, extended to 31 March.

[Help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus: videos and webinars](#)

- how to make your workplace COVID-secure: [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for international trade: [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for small businesses and changes to reporting, regulation and tax: [recorded sessions](#)

[Business evictions ban extended until March 2021: 09/12](#)

- Business owners affected by the pandemic protected from eviction until end of March 2021.

Loans and grants for businesses

Loans - application deadline extended to 31 March

- [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CBILS\)](#) - loans of up to £5m.
- [Bounce Back Loans Scheme: updated 18/12](#) - loans of £2,000 to £50,000 at 2.5% interest.

Grants and business rates

- [Check if eligible for grant due to national restrictions \(closed businesses\): updated 21/01](#)
The Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSNG (Closed) Addendum) supports businesses that have been required to close due to the national restrictions.
- [Further economic support announced: 31/10](#)
- [Local Restrictions Support Grants and Additional Restrictions Grant: updated 01/02](#)
- [Check if eligible for Local Restrictions Support Grant \(for open businesses\): updated 21/01](#)
- [Check if eligible for Local Restrictions Support Grant \(closed businesses\): updated 21/01](#)
- [Check if you're eligible for the coronavirus Additional Restrictions Grant: updated 21/01](#)
- [Small business grants: and retail, hospitality and leisure grants guidance: updated 07/08](#)
- [Check if eligible for the coronavirus Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment: 21/01](#)

Support across the UK

- Information for individuals and businesses in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#).

8. Health guidance

[Coronavirus: collected guidance](#)

- [Social distancing: updated 07/01](#)
- [Making a support bubble with another household: updated 15/01](#)
- [Working safely during coronavirus: updated 07/01](#)
- [Public Health England Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Resource Centre](#)

9. Key information sources

Check regularly for updates

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): UK government response](#) [Sign up for email alerts](#)
- [Public Health England](#) twitter [Public Health England](#)
- [NHS guidance](#) twitter [NHS England](#)
- [Department of Health](#)
- [UK Prime Minister](#)
- [FCO Travel advice](#)