

Monday 30th March 2020

Working together for Bute

As mentioned previously, the BID will keep you informed of help for businesses at this time. John Weir has put the latest information he has for your information.

Today's update on supporting businesses:

- **The Scottish Government has revised the eligibility criteria for the Business Support Grants.** Self-catering accommodation and caravans are now eligible for both the one-off £10,000 grant for small businesses and the one-off £25,000 grant for businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors where this is the primary source of earned income and the property is let for 140 days or more. <https://news.gov.scot/news/supporting-tourism-through-coronavirus>
- The Council website will be updated when the new guidance and updated application form are issued – expected today. An FAQ will be added to help address common enquiries
- As of this morning, **1200 applications have been received**
- **COVID Job Retention scheme** update- the government will now cover the employer national insurance and minimum auto-enrollment pension scheme contributions employers pay on the wages they must pay their furloughed staff – on top of the wages covered under the scheme. [further-details-of-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-announced](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-job-retention-scheme-announced)
- **The Coronavirus Caring for People Helpline Service is live.** Businesses can access support via Option 2.

If you have an update on support to businesses that you would like me to include in these daily emails, please do forward the information.

The Council's website includes a **summary of the current support available for businesses** <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-businesses> .