

Coronavirus statement 3



Funding Support.

4th April 2020

Funding and Support

We know this is an incredibly difficult time and the impact on our sporting partners has been immeasurable, Sport NI continues to work with the Department for Communities and with you, our partners, to get a fuller picture about the impact coronavirus (COVID-19) is having on sport, and respond with a phased approach to interventions and remedies.

Please continue to keep us informed on your issues and impacts of COVID19 at: coronavirus@sportni.net

Phase one: existing and planned funding

Phase two: Hardship funding

Phase three: Resilience funding and support

Phase one: existing and planned funding

- Sport NI is getting monies, already allocated through our Lottery funded programmes, out this week to eligible governing bodies of sport and sports clubs & organisations quickly, as announced by the Minister on 30th March, both for the last year (ending 31st March 2020) and this year (starting on 1st April 2020). This is to ensure that sports will have money to pay staff, alleviate cash-flow concerns, provide assurance to staff and keep the organisations afloat.
- It is highly likely some targets set for this year will not be achieved under the current circumstances. Sport NI recognises this and will not have unreasonable expectations considering what sports can achieve this year.
- Sport NI is working hard on a range of ways to flexibly support your organisation through this crisis and beyond, and commits to having a single point of contact within the organisation for such situations. Please discuss any issues with your point of contact within Sport Northern Ireland.

Business and hospitality grants

- We are urgently calling for the current exclusion of the sports sector, in respect of the small business £10k grants to be lifted for the purposes of Covid19. This needs to be confirmed asap. We are seeking urgent clarification on the access for some sporting clubs to the £25k leisure, tourism and hospitality grants available.

Furloughing

- We understand that salaries that are publically funded are exempt from the government furloughing scheme and we are seeking further clarification regarding posts that are part-funded with public monies. Further updates will be made available here.

Other Funding Sources and Support

There are also other sources of funding and support that we would draw your attention to below:

Department of Finance

The Department of Finance has announced a [£100m emergency rates package for businesses](#). All NI businesses will pay zero rates for the next three months (April, May, June). This automatically reduces rates by 25%, in addition to any existing rate reliefs. This applies to all businesses and does not need to be repaid.

Department for Communities

[The latest information about COVID-19 and DfC Services](#) including Jobseekers Allowance, Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payment and Employment & Support Allowance. It will be updated regularly with the latest information, so you should check this page for advice on Benefits and other public services. Further to this, the Communities Minister released [£200,000 for Coronavirus Community Fund](#)

Department for the Economy

Payments in [Small Business Support Grant Schemes](#) to start early next week

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Companies to receive [3-month extension period to file accounts](#) during COVID-19

NI Water

NI Water is advising non-domestic customers to be mindful of their water needs during the COVID19 outbreak. With many properties closing their doors for a period of time and students leaving rented accommodation, NI Water is asking [businesses and property owners to check their water supply](#) is safely secured before they lock up. Leaking or burst pipes can have significant implications for your business.

Information on water supply issues is available 24/7 simply by logging onto: <https://www.niwater.com/current-service-updates/>

Companies House

Applying for more time to file your company's accounts [How to ask Companies House to extend your filing deadline if an unplanned event stops you filing your accounts.](#)

HMRC

If you cannot pay your tax bill on time [what you need to know](#) before you contact HMRC and what happens when you contact HMRC.

Charity Aid Foundation Coronavirus Emergency Fund

CAF has launched a rapid response fund to help smaller charitable organisations affected by the impact of Covid-19. [Grants of up to £10,000](#) will help them to continue to deliver much needed support to our communities across the UK.

This is intended as a rapid response fund, which aims to make payments to selected organisations within 14 days of application.

Boost Charitable Trust

Boost Charitable Trust [builds on over-looked Sporting Talent](#), to champion the disabled and disadvantaged and to inspire them to overcome their challenges through the power of sport.

NICVA

[Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector](#) through the COVID-19 pandemic.

NICVA's recent survey demonstrated Covid-19's negative impacts on fundraising. NICVA want to help you access all the funders you can, not just new Covid-19 related grants, but also grants for your work after the pandemic. [Free GrantTracker Offer in the Covid-19 Crisis](#)

[The latest funding through Grant Tracker](#)

Halifax Grant Programmes

Halifax small and medium [grant programmes are open for applications](#). Any Covid-19 related applications designed to support the community at this time of crisis will be prioritised and turned around as quickly as possible.

The National Lottery Community Fund

Charities and community organisations across the UK are facing increasing challenges due to COVID-19. We want [to support those we fund](#) as far as is possible at this difficult time.

[A quick way to apply](#) for smaller amounts of funding between £300 and £10,000 in Northern Ireland for Voluntary or Community Organisations and Public sector organisations.

The Community Foundation Northern Ireland

[Coronavirus Community Fund in Northern Ireland](#). CFNI want to support community groups working together; particularly in smaller geographical communities. CFNI therefore encourage a partnership approach, and one application from one lead organisation, rather than a number of separate applications.

Neighbourly.com: Covid-19 Community Fund

With support from M&S Family (including M&S Bank and M&S Energy), Lidl, Aldi, Danone UK & Ireland and Coca-Cola European Partners, Neighbourly are launching a series of micro-grants of up to £400, for existing members of Neighbourly in UK and Ireland whose work involves supporting members of the community suffering economically, socially or from ill health as a result of the outbreak. This may include, but not be limited to, elderly people, those on low incomes and people at risk of food insecurity. Grant are unrestricted and can go towards food provision, emergency supplies, practical support, running costs, transport and other essentials. For more details and to apply see the [website](#)

The Northern Ireland Office

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Information for businesses and employers in Northern Ireland.

- **Guidance for employees** - Read all the latest guidance and frequently asked questions for employees including details about statutory sick pay and Universal Credit.
- **Sickness and disability benefits** - Face-to-face assessments for all sickness and disability benefits will be temporarily suspended for the next 3 months from Tuesday 17 March. No further action is required by any claimant as a result of this change. They will be contacted with advice on next steps.

General guidance for employers

The UK Government has published extensive guidance for employers, including details on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and what to do if someone is suspected or confirmed to have the virus.

UK Government support for businesses

The UK Government has set out a package of measures to protect public services, people and businesses through this period of disruption caused by COVID-19. Businesses in Northern Ireland can access the following schemes and announcements:

- Businesses will receive government grants worth up to 80% of wages to keep workers in jobs. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme will pay up to £2,500 per worker each month.
- Support for businesses through the Business Interruption Loan Scheme, which will provide loans of up to £5m, with no interest due for 12 months. This scheme will be delivered through the British Business Bank.
- Support for businesses who are paying sick pay to employees
- Support for businesses paying tax
- VAT payments for the next quarter will be deferred, so no business will pay any VAT for the next three months.
- Self-Employed Income Support Scheme, which will see self-employed eligible to receive a cash grant worth 80% of their average monthly trading profit over the last three years, bringing parity with Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

Northern Ireland Executive support for businesses

Invest NI have provided practical advice for business online [here](#)

Businesses in Northern Ireland can access the following schemes:

- COVID Small Business Grant - Small business grant of £10,000 to be issued immediately with a cost of £267m providing support to 27,000 businesses in NI. This is for all businesses with a NAV up to £15,000; and
- Hospitality, Tourism and Retail Sectors Grant Scheme - An immediate grant of £25,000 will be provided to companies in these sectors with a rateable value up to £51,000.

[Information on these schemes will be made at NI Business Info.](#)

NI Business Info

Coronavirus: Business Support Grant Schemes. The NI Executive is providing a [one-off grant of £10,000 to businesses](#) that are currently in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR), subject to some [exclusions](#).

Help available for business rates. There are a number of reliefs available to business ratepayers. This guide outlines the various business rates reliefs and allowances available and how to apply for them if you are eligible. These rate support schemes include:

- [Small Business Rate Relief](#)
- [Small Business Rate Relief for small Post Offices](#)
- [Charitable Exemption for rates](#)
- [Sports and Recreation Rate Relief](#)
- [Residential Homes Rate Relief](#)
- [Industrial Derating](#)
- [Non-Domestic Vacant Rating](#)
- [Hardship Rate Relief](#)

National Council Voluntary Organisations

Our [guidance and resources](#) to support charities, voluntary organisations and volunteers during the covid-19 pandemic.

Ulster Rugby

The Irish Rugby Football Union has confirmed the 2019/20 domestic season is to conclude in all provinces with immediate effect. The directive applies to all incomplete national and provincial

competitions. Please find some useful information and guidance for member clubs [here](#).

The IRFU has agreed to make [€500,000 funding](#) available to clubs in light of the Covid-19 crisis. The IRFU has published information on their Club Continuity Fund at the following link:

<https://www.irishrugby.ie/running-your-club/club-continuity-fund/>

Ulster GAA

With the cessation of all games activity within the GAA since Friday 13 March there has obviously been a significant effect on all areas of club life.

Club finances are no different. With games suspended and all club grounds (and walking tracks) now closed, see information that may be of use to clubs and club treasurers over the coming weeks [here](#).

British Gymnastics

Coronavirus [Support for Clubs](#)

We would ask that governing bodies with links to support pages send them to: cornovirus@sportni.net so we can add to this list.