



Finances during the Coronavirus pandemic

7 April 2020

This is a fast-moving situation and we will endeavor to update this advice on an on-going basis. If you become aware of any changes or otherwise have comments we would be very grateful if you could pass them to Francesca Compton adamin@chba.org.uk

Help from HMRC

VAT deferral

- The deferral applies for a VAT payment due between 20 March 2020 until 30 June 2020
- You still need to submit a VAT return on time
- You do not need to tell HMRC that you are deferring your VAT payment
- If you normally pay by direct debit you will need to cancel your direct debit
- If you chose to defer, you must pay the VAT due on or before 31 March 2021

Self-assessment payment on account deferral

- If you are due to pay a self-assessment payment on account by 31 July 2020 but you have difficulty paying due to Covid-19, you may defer payment until January 2021
- You are eligible if you are due to pass your payment on account on 31 July 2021
- This is an automatic offer with no applications required
- No penalties or interest for late payment will be charged if you defer payment until 31 January 2021
- During deferral you can set up a budget payment plan to help you pay the deferred payment on account when it comes due

HMRC's Time to Pay

- You are eligible for this scheme if you pay tax to the UK government and have outstanding tax liabilities
- If you have missed a tax payment or might miss a tax payment due to Covid-19, HMRC suggest you call HMRC's dedicated helpline: **0800 024 1222**.

Bar Council Initiatives

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)

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- Individual self-employed barristers and most Chambers are eligible for CBILS, which is now operational.
 - CBILS provides loans of up to £5 million at commercial rates to business and sole traders who have been adversely affected by Covid-19 and who would, but for Covid-19, have been viable borrowers
 - Full details are available at: <https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils-2/cbils-faqs-for-smes/>
 - Query other matters chambers may be considering including cleaning contracts, cf social responsibility issues

Help from the Inn's

- Rent rides/deferral – we understand that the Inn's are considering the position.
- Middle Temple Young Barrister's Association were offering hardship grants – application deadline 5 April.

Bank assistance

- Mortgage holidays
- Credit card holidays
- Consider an interest free credit card <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/credit-cards/best-0-credit-cards/>
- Loans at low rates

Property law

At least until the end of June 2020, there is a moratorium so that neither residential nor commercial landlord will be able to evict tenants. However, rent and mortgage payments will continue to fall due, and arrears of either may be grounds for evictions as soon as the moratorium is lifted. Both landlords and lenders are being encouraged to reach sensible temporary agreements (including payment deferrals or holidays), but there is no obligation on them to do so.