

PMG covid-19 & post-Brexit transition bulletin

Edition #17 – 15th February 2021

This is the seventeenth in a series of special editions of the PMG newsletter in light of the current covid-19 situation and post-Brexit transition arrangements.

I News

Complex customs paperwork and red tape leading to critical import export disruption

1. Britain's manufacturers are calling on the Government to move immediately to work with our European partners to find an urgent solution to the current long border delays caused by complex paperwork, on the back of a major survey showing that 60% of companies are experiencing significant disruption since January 1st.



Make UK research further revealed that some **61% of businesses are further enduring supply chain disruption** either importing or exporting to and from the EU and 32% are having their supply chains impacted in both directions. Companies are also struggling to prove the UK origin of their goods in order to qualify for zero tariff access.

Customs paperwork urgently needs to be simplified on both sides of the border, so it can be completed and checked quickly before haulage journeys begin and companies can be reassured that their goods have a clear run to the end customer. The increase in paperwork and red tape at the borders has led to substantial delays for trucks, with many left stranded across the Continent because of incorrect paperwork. Many businesses have already taken the hard decision to put a hold on importing and exporting from the EU in a hope that things improve, but this is having a serious commercial impact on companies already struggling to survive the current COVID crisis.

Government should fast track the training of good quality customs agents to smooth the flow at the border. In tandem, exporters and hauliers should be encouraged by Government to work with industry to smooth out the current problems as much as possible.

Additional red tape is also being heaped on business as they struggle to prove origin of their goods to qualify for zero tariffs. Some companies are finding the burden of proving origin so onerous, they are choosing to pay the tariffs rather than spend the additional time and money attempting to qualify for tariff free access, with serious financial ramifications.

View the full report [here](#)

Bank of England forecasts rapid economic recovery in 2021

2. The Covid pandemic continues to hit business activity and household spending in the UK and the rest of the world. Restrictions put in place to contain the pandemic's spread are causing many businesses to sell less of their goods and services. Some businesses are unable to sell at all.

Even though the available evidence shows that current restrictions are affecting economic activity less severely than restrictions did during the first lockdown—the GDP of the South West was 19.1% lower in the second quarter of 2020 than in the first— it's clear from my conversations with contacts that businesses in the region are still feeling immense strain.

Many households have a lot less money to spend, too. Although the Government's employment-support schemes are significantly limiting the rise in unemployment, some people have lost their jobs. The latest data available show the unemployment rate in the South West was 4.1% in September-November 2020, up from 2.8% in the same period in 2019. And we think further rises in unemployment are likely over the first half of this year.

To help get businesses and households through these tough times, the Bank of England has taken prompt and substantial action. Last year, the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) cut Bank Rate—the base rate that many short-term interest rates are linked to—to a record low of 0.1%. The



MPC also announced it would inject an additional £450 billion into the economy through quantitative easing (QE). QE pushes long-term interest rates down. Lower short- and long-term interest rates mean cheaper loans and mortgages for businesses and households. At its meeting in February, the MPC decided to keep Bank Rate at 0.1% and the total amount of QE, including the amount announced last year, at £895 billion. And the MPC said it does not intend to either raise Bank Rate or reduce QE until there is clear evidence that the economy is making significant progress towards a full recovery and inflation is returning sustainably to target.

The MPC's latest forecasts show the UK economy recovering rapidly later this year, with the vaccination programme leading to the easing of restrictions and people's health concerns. The expected recovery is supported by the substantial actions already announced by the Bank and the Government. In terms of total activity and spending, the economy will probably get back to where it was before the pandemic in around a year's time.

As activity and spending recover, and given recent developments in energy prices, inflation is expected to rise back to our 2% target over the next year.

But the future path of the economy remains unusually uncertain—we can't be sure how the pandemic will develop, how governments across the world will loosen or tighten restrictions, or how households and businesses will react to those changes. The MPC is monitoring the situation closely and stands ready to take any further action necessary to support the economy and get inflation back to target. In this context of unusual uncertainty, the intelligence that I and my fellow Agents are gathering for the MPC from our contacts in the South West and the rest of the UK is especially vital.

With our contacts' help, the Bank of England will continue to maintain price and financial stability on behalf of the people of the UK.

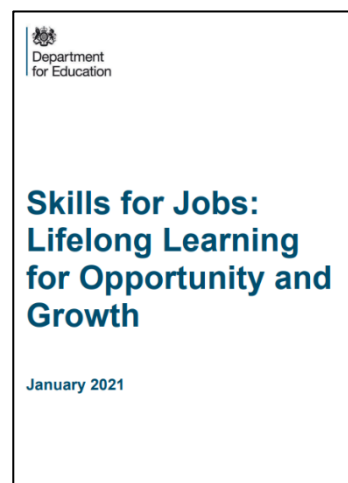
Malindi Myers, Bank of England, Agent for the South West

[@BoESouthWest](#)

New FE Skills White Paper published by Government

3. The Government's new further education white paper *Skills for Jobs: Lifelong learning for opportunity and growth* was published in January. In it, it says that, 'We will ensure employers are at the heart of Post-16 skills, driving technical and higher technical skills provision in their areas. To do this we will:
- Give employers a central role working with further education colleges, other providers, and local stakeholders to develop new Local Skills Improvement Plans which shape technical skills provision so that it meets local labour market needs.
 - Pilot Local Skills Improvement Plans in Trailblazer local areas, exploring an approach where they are led by accredited Chambers of Commerce and other business representative organisations in collaboration with local providers; and engage employer and provider groups to ensure we create the most effective models of employer representation before wider rollout.
 - Make Strategic Development Funding available in 2021/22 in a number of pilot areas to support colleges to reshape their provision to address local priorities that have been agreed with local employers.
 - Ensure government has up-to-date and expert advice on the labour market and national skills gaps from the Skills and Productivity Board.
 - Align the substantial majority of post-16 technical and higher technical education and training to employer-led standards set by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education, so skills provision meets skills need.
 - Continue to improve and grow apprenticeships, so more employers and individuals can benefit from them as part of the Lifetime Skills Guarantee.
 - Invite proposals through the Strategic Development Fund to establish College Business Centres within further education colleges to work with employers in a designated sector on business development and innovation'.

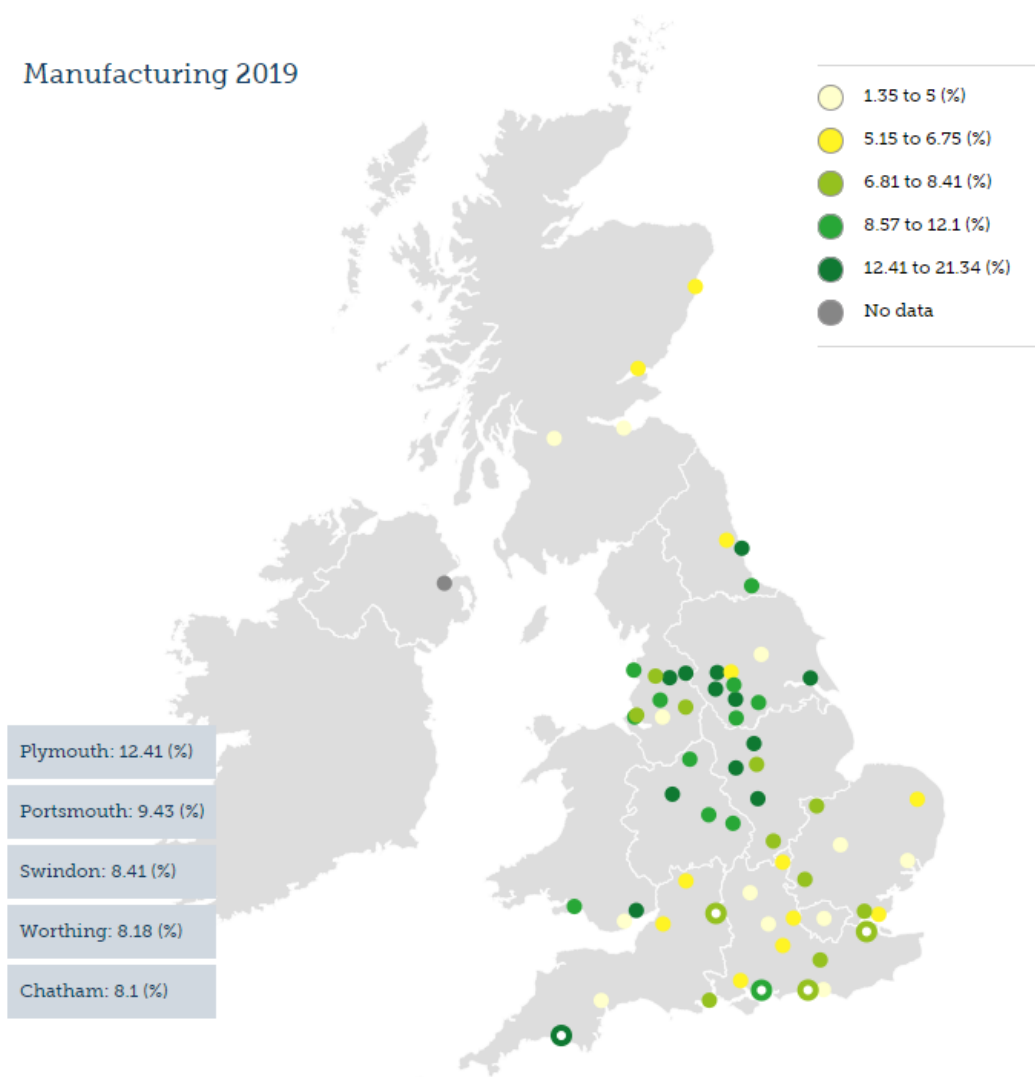
The complete White Paper can be downloaded: [here](#)



Plymouth retains title of the southern city with the highest concentration of manufacturing employment

4. Plymouth has, once again, maintained its title as the English southern city with the highest concentration of its workforce employed in manufacturing. At 12.4 per cent, it remains well ahead of its nearest rivals Portsmouth and Swindon (at 9.4% and 8.4% respectively).

Nationally, Plymouth ranks 12th English city behind top five: Burnley, Derby, Telford, Blackburn and Sunderland. (Statistics courtesy of the *Centre for Cities – Cities Outlook 2021*).



ONS, Business Register and Employment Survey.

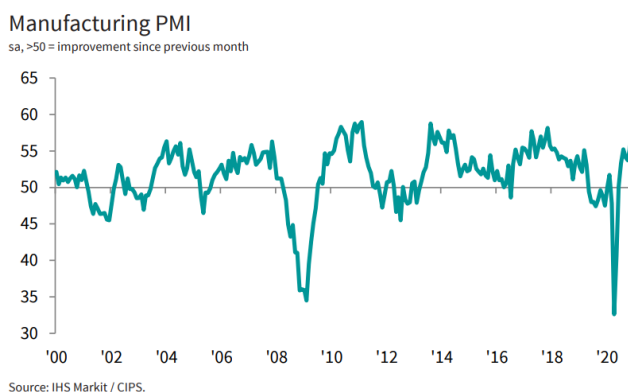
'Brexit-buying' and port issues lead to stockpiling and supply-chain disruption at UK manufacturers

5. The upturn in the UK manufacturing sector slowed sharply at the start of 2021. Output growth eased and new orders fell slightly as producers faced weaker inflows of new export work and temporary supply-chain disruptions caused by COVID-19 restrictions and transport delays (especially at ports) following the end of the Brexit transition period.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit/CIPS Purchasing Managers' Index® (PMI®) fell to a three-month low of 54.1 in January, down from December's three-year high of 57.5. Declining new order intakes and a steep reduction in input stocks both weighed on the PMI level.

The main positive influence on the PMI was a marked lengthening of supplier lead times, which (apart from April 2020) was the greatest registered in the near 30-year survey history. Although this is usually a signal of stronger demand resulting from economic growth, the recent trend in vendor performance has mainly reflected supply-chain disruptions caused by COVID-19 restrictions and the end of the Brexit transition period.

Manufacturing output increased for the eighth successive month in January. However, the rate of expansion slowed to its joint-weakest during that sequence, as total new order intakes fell slightly due to lower intakes of new export business. Companies reported that the national lockdown, end of the Brexit transition period, client closures and renewed uncertainty at the start of the year all contributed to the decrease in new orders. There were also reports of EU-based clients having already brought forward purchasing to avoid expected disruption. Full release - [here](#)



Radical shake up to government export finance support for small businesses

6. UKEF launches the General Export Facility in partnership with UK's leading commercial banks. New scheme to give exporting SMEs access to working capital they need to recover from COVID-19

Government can provide an 80% guarantee on financial support from lenders to support general exporting costs, up to the value of £25 million

GEF will transform UKEF's offer to smaller businesses, encouraging them to export and take advantage of new free trade agreements

UK Export Finance (UKEF) today launches a new guarantee scheme that will free up funds for UK businesses to cover the costs of international trade, supporting thousands of jobs and livelihoods across the country.

Exporters will be able to apply for finance from the UK's five largest banks backed by a UKEF guarantee to free up working capital that can be used for everyday costs linked to exports and to scale up their business operations. This will help thousands of businesses, particularly SMEs, to fulfil multiple export contracts, pay for labour costs, build their inventory and ease cash flow constraints.

Minister for Exports, Graham Stuart, will launch the General Export Facility (GEF) in a speech at UKEF's 'Trade and Export Finance Forum'. He will announce that the government is shaking up the support it provides for internationally focused companies to help bring new trading opportunities to businesses in every part of the country. More - [here](#)



Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in Plymouth

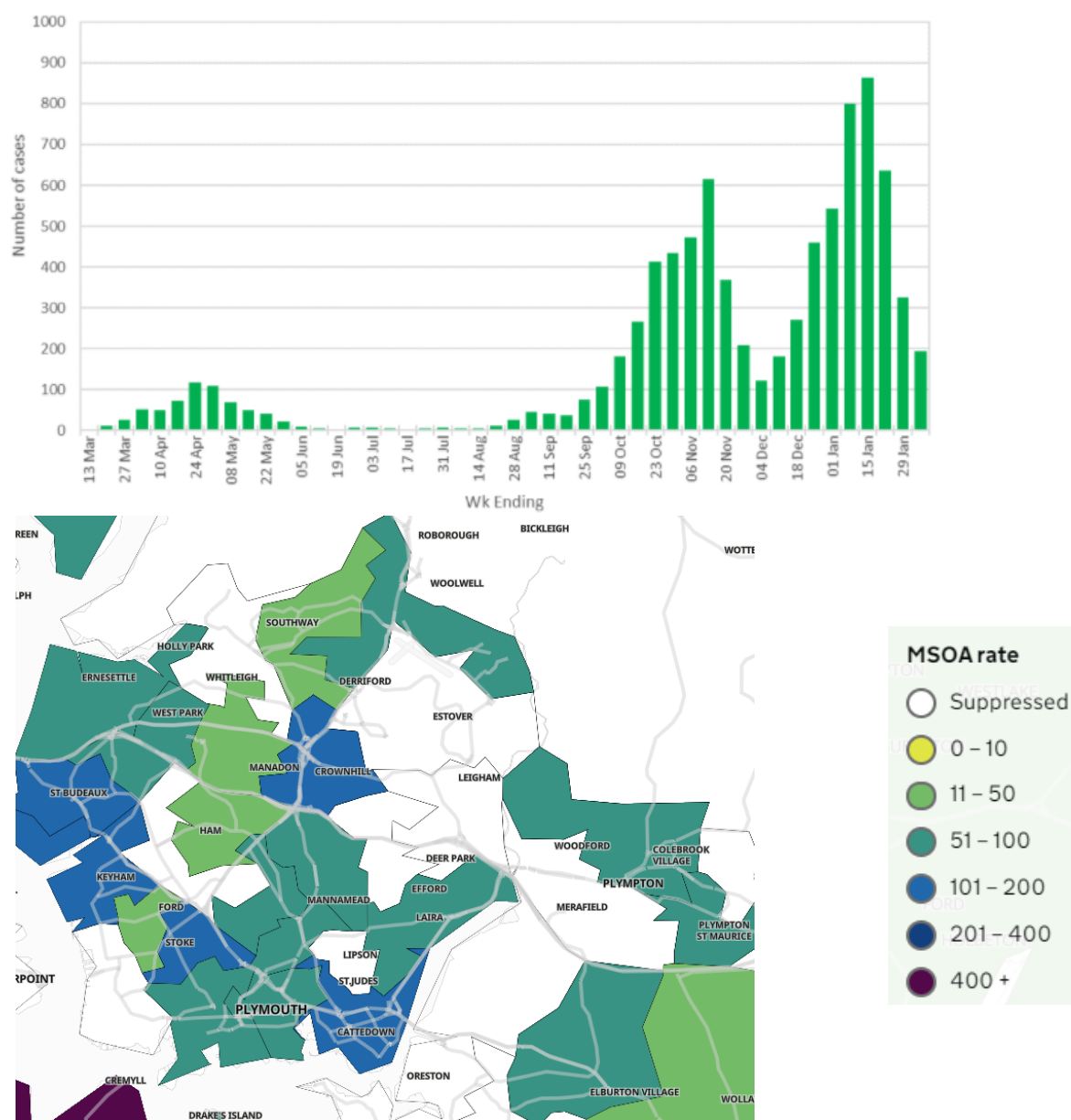
7. During the week 30 January to 05 February there were 194 new cases confirmed in Plymouth, a decrease on the previous week total of 325.

This is a rate of 74.0 per 100,000 people. This is below the current rate for England, which is 202.1 per 100,000 people.

The total number of confirmed cases in Plymouth since the start of the outbreak is 8,388.

Source: <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/coronaviruscovid19information/positionplymouth>

Number of confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Plymouth by week



Seven-day rolling rate of new cases by specimen date ending on 28 Nov 2020

COVID-19 cases (number of people with a lab-confirmed positive test result) in England by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA). MSOAs are small areas with around 7,200 average population. The data are updated each weekday, and show the latest 7 days for which near-complete data are available.

Most prevalent areas in Plymouth:

St Budeaux – 11 cases

Cattedown & Prince Rock – 11 cases

Crownhill – 11 cases

The map can be accessed - <https://coronavirus-staging.data.gov.uk/details/interactive-map>

Other covid news

Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 - Updated 16 February 2021 - [here](#)

Government boost to rapid workplace testing

[An online portal](#) has been launched to make it even easier for business in the private sector to get involved and find out more about offering rapid testing in the workplace. Business that are open during lockdown can now sign up to rapid testing programmes that identify cases of Covid-19 in employees who are not showing symptoms, to help stop the spread of Covid-19, and ensure vital public and economic services can continue. Businesses can [register](#) to order coronavirus rapid lateral flow tests for employees if:

- Your business is registered in England
- You employ 50 people or more
- Your employees cannot work from home

Testing is key to breaking the chains of transmission. Around one in three people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and may be unknowingly spreading the virus. This expansion of testing will find more positive cases, keeping workers who cannot work from home unknowingly passing on the virus and protecting vital public services. For more information, click [here](#).

Financial Support

Bounce Back Loan – new payment flexibilities

[Bounce Back Loan](#) borrowers will now have the option to tailor payments according to their individual circumstances. [Pay as You Grow repayment flexibilities](#) now provide businesses with the following options to:

- Extend the length of the loan from six years to ten
- Make interest-only payments for six months, with the option to use this up to three times throughout the loan
- Pause repayments entirely for up to six months

The scheme is open to applications until 31 March 2021. [Apply for a coronavirus Bounce Back Loan](#).

Find out how to pay VAT payments deferred between 20 March and 30 June 2020

You can pay now or get ready to join the VAT deferral new payment scheme. The new scheme lets you pay your deferred VAT in equal instalments, interest free and choose the number of instalments, from 2 to 11 (depending on when you join). Find out more [here](#).

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

[Guidance](#) on 'What to include when calculating wages' has been updated to give more information about non-monetary benefits and employer pension contributions under salary sacrifice.

Payment of Class 2 National Insurance contributions through a Time to Pay arrangement

[Guidance](#) has been updated, with added information about payment of Class 2 National insurance contributions, through a Time to Pay arrangement, and paying in instalments.

Post-Brexit transition news

Main government website - Brexit Checker to get a personalised list of actions for you - <https://www.gov.uk/transition>

Useful summary document - [here](#)

Helpline numbers

You can contact the government's Business Support Helpline for free business advice. Tel: 0800 998 1098

Local Brexit information and guidance:

The Heart of the SW LEP Growth Hub Brexit resources <https://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/start-grow-business/transition/>

For technical advice on Brexit issues or opportunities, the key offer is *free clinics*: Devon, Plymouth & Torbay EUT Clinics – Helpdesk and 1:1 30-minute clinics for businesses in Devon, Plymouth & Torbay delivered by the Institute of Export. Businesses can submit queries by registering details at www.export.org.uk/page/devontradeeu.

Other Brexit & Covid news issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and other relevant Government departments and Agencies etc.

Government announces NEW £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund

The £20 million SME Brexit Support Fund, offers support to help small businesses adjust to new customs procedures, rules of origin, and VAT rules when trading with the EU.

Eligibility: The SME Brexit Support Fund could give you up to £2,000 if your business has up to 500 employees, and no more than £100 million annual turnover.

SMEs who trade only with the EU, and are therefore new to importing and exporting processes, can apply for grants of up to £2,000, to pay for practical support including training and professional advice to ensure they can continue trading effectively with the EU.

For more information on the SME Brexit Support Fund, click [here](#).

Full guidance on how you can use the grant, who can apply and how to apply, click [here](#)

New rules for businesses

- You must declare any goods you send to the EU, providing details about what you're sending and what it's worth, using a **customs declaration form**. You can get a [customs intermediary](#) to help you do this.
- If you're sending goods using a **fast parcel operator or express courier**, they'll declare the goods for you, using the information you provide. This option could be beneficial for smaller businesses who aren't looking to get a contract with a customs agent.
- If you're sending **goods by post valued at £900 or less**, Royal Mail will give you a customs declaration sticker to fill in and attach to the parcel. For goods worth more than £900, Royal Mail will submit the customs declaration for you, using the information you provide.
- [You will need an Export Health Certificate \(EHC\)](#) to export food or drink that contains products of animal origin such as meat, dairy or eggs.

How to import goods into the UK: step by step

How to bring goods into the UK from any country, including how much tax and duty you'll need to pay and whether you need to get a licence or certificate

<https://www.gov.uk/import-goods-into-uk>

How to export goods from the UK: step by step

How to move goods from the UK to international destinations, including the EU

<https://www.gov.uk/export-goods>



Support for exporters

- Department for International Trade's [Check How to Export Goods](#) online tool, where you can find information on the UK border, and duties and customs procedures for over 160 markets around the world.
- [VAT guidance](#) about the conditions for zero rating VAT on the goods you export, and what you should do when you export goods in specific circumstances.
- The free [Trader Support Service](#) that you can sign up to, if you move goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- An [online guidance package](#) developed by DEFRA with HMRC to guide fish exporters through each step of the export journey. There's a range of information and support available to help you make sure you're following the new rules including the [MMO One Stop Shop](#).
- HMRC's Customs & International Trade Helpline which you can call and speak to an advisor on **0300 322 9434**. The helpline is open from 8am to 10pm Monday to Friday and from 8am to 4pm at weekends. Or you can [send HMRC your questions or use their webchat service](#).
- View the new [on demand videos](#) which focus on priority topics for businesses, such as exporting.
- Specific [guidance and training](#) is available on moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland.
- For any further queries or general business advice you can contact our dedicated [business support helplines](#).

New video content to help keep your business moving

All businesses can find out what has changed, and check their preparations, by visiting new video content from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The short, on-demand videos cover 18 topics, including importing and exporting, rules of origin and audit and accounting. [Register now](#) to immediately access the video content. New rules are here – make sure your business is prepared.

UPDATED: Using the UKCA marking:

Guidance has been updated to include further instructions regarding the height of the UKCA marking. For more information, click - [here](#).

Rules of Origin for trading with the EU: A short explainer for SMEs

What are Rules of Origin?

Rules of Origin determine the economic nationality of a good under a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Businesses need to know about them because the UK-EU [Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) (TCA) means they can trade with the EU without paying tariffs – but only if their product meets the relevant Rules of Origin.

How do Rules of Origin impact my business?

To export tariff-free into the EU, traders must check their goods meet the Rules of Origin requirements set out in the UK-EU [Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#) and have the right documentation. If your goods do not meet the Rules of Origin, they may face a tariff upon export to the EU.

What action do I need to take?

Watch the new [on demand video](#) which summarise Rules of Origin processes for businesses.

Then, if you are a UK exporter and your EU importer wants to claim zero tariffs on your goods, there are 3 key steps to work out whether your goods comply with rules of origin:

1. [Classify your good](#) – every good has a commodity code and a list is available on gov.uk
2. Understand whether your good meets the [applicable rule of origin](#) from the TCA (*Chapter 2 as well as Annexes ORIG-1 to ORIG-4 will be most useful*). You can also use the [export checker tool](#) to find out what rule of origin applies to your exports.
3. Understand how to [demonstrate origin](#) to the customs authorities.

For help in working out whether your goods comply and how to demonstrate this to customs authorities, read the [Rules of Origin Guidance](#) on trading with the EU.

You may choose to use a customs agent to help you with Rules of Origin and there is guidance available [here](#) on how to find one.

To view the full short explainer document, click [here](#).

HMRC answer Frequently Asked Questions on New Trade rules

New rules for businesses that trade with Europe are here. Now that the Brexit transition period has ended, all businesses that move goods between Great Britain and countries in the EU, or under the Northern Ireland Protocol, must follow new customs and tax rules since 1 January 2021. HMRC have provided answers to some of the most frequently asked questions on the new trade rules.

1. Customs processes are complicated. Who can help me complete them?

Most traders find that they need specialist support to help with importing from or exporting to the EU. For instance, you might decide to [use a customs intermediary](#).

A customs intermediary is someone who makes customs declarations for you or your business. This could be:

- a freight forwarder – a company that helps their clients move cargo globally, including supporting the customs process
- a customs agent or broker – these make sure your goods clear through customs.

If you decide to use an intermediary, make sure you approach them as soon as possible, as there is high demand for these services. You can find a [list of businesses that can help](#) on GOV.UK.

There are still specific actions you will need to take if you get an intermediary to help you with your customs declarations. You will:

- be responsible for paying any taxes or duties owed;
- be responsible for providing details about your transactions to your chosen intermediary;
- need to apply for an Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) number (if you don't already have one). An intermediary can't apply for an EORI on your behalf and they will need this to complete your customs declarations. You can [register for free](#) on GOV.UK. It takes 5 to 10 minutes to apply and you will normally receive it in under a week.

For more information, you can:

- attend a [live webinar](#) on 'Trader responsibilities when using an intermediary'
- watch these short films about [how a customs agent or intermediary can help you](#) and [getting someone to deal with customs for you – how freight forwarders can help](#).



HM Revenue
& Customs

2. *My business is located in the United Kingdom and I export goods to EU customers, can you explain how I should account for VAT?*

If you sell, send or transfer goods out of the UK you do not normally need to charge VAT on them in the UK. You can zero-rate most exports from:

- Great Britain to a destination outside the UK
- Northern Ireland to a destination outside the UK and EU.

If you incorrectly charge UK VAT on exports of goods, your customers may also have to pay VAT in the country where the goods are imported.

Different rules may apply in different countries. Therefore, it's important that you understand the import VAT rules of each EU country that you sell to.

You can find out more about [exports, sending goods abroad and charging VAT](#) on GOV.UK.

3. *I send goods from the United Kingdom to my customers in the EU, has anything changed about how I should account for VAT?*

Yes. Previously, before the end of the transition period:

- VAT was due on the goods that you sold to your EU customers. If your EU customer was not VAT registered themselves (for example, because they were a private individual) you accounted for UK VAT in the UK. If your sales to EU customers breached an annual distance selling threshold you had to register for VAT in that EU Member State and account for EU VAT in that country.
- If your EU customer was registered for VAT in their own country your business zero-rated the sale as a 'dispatch' and your EU customer accounted for the VAT as an 'acquisition' in their own country.

Now, following the end of the transition period:

- if you are a business subject to the Northern Ireland protocol, the above rules will still apply.
- if you are a business moving goods from Great Britain to the EU, your goods should be zero-rated exports from the UK and import VAT will be due to be collected from the EU recipient at import into the EU and subject to EU rules.
- different rules may apply in different countries – therefore, it's important that you understand the import VAT rules of each EU country that you sell to.

you can find more [information and guidance](#) about the conditions for zero-rating VAT on the goods you export, and what you should do when you export goods in specific circumstances on GOV.UK.

Trade

UPDATED: UK trade agreements with non-EU countries: The list of trade agreements the UK has concluded that are in effect, and the progress of our discussion with other countries, has been updated. The list now shows Albania as '*signed but not in effect*', and updates to the St. Kitts and Nevis entry, as they have now ratified the CARIFORUM agreement. For more information, click - [here](#).

Moving goods

NEW: Update on Inland Border Facilities (IBF) guidance: Following feedback from industry, HMRC have thoroughly reviewed all guidance pages related to Inland Border Facilities, including: making it clear what documentation is required at sites; which sites are available across the country; as well as encouragement to utilise alternative sites to Waterbrook. In addition, HMRC have included information on site specific guidance on the functions available at each site. Further information can be found [here](#).

NEW: New restrictions on food and drink that you can take in your personal baggage into the EU: Drivers travelling to the EU should be aware of additional restrictions to personal imports. If you are carrying prohibited items in your luggage, vehicle or person, you need to use, consume, or dispose of them at or before the border. More information can be found [here](#).

UPDATED: Value Added Tax EU Exit Transitional Provisions: Guidance about the VAT treatment of transactions of movements of goods, which span the end of the transition period, has been updated with information about goods in a warehousing regime. For more information, click [here](#).

UPDATED: List of customs agents and fast parcel operators: The list of agents and operators who can help submit customs declarations has been updated. For more information, click [here](#).

Do you move goods to Northern Ireland?

This year, as we mark the centenary of Northern Ireland, we need no reminder about its integral place within our United Kingdom. Our trade deal with the EU and the additional agreement known as the Northern Ireland Protocol has safeguarded Northern Ireland's place in the UK's customs territory. We have also preserved unfettered access for Northern Ireland traders moving goods into Great Britain, removing the need for export declarations. However, there are changes to the way goods move between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Many businesses have adjusted quickly to these new requirements but I recognise that some traders are still adapting. The Government is committed to providing you with the support you need as your work continues. We have set up two services to help you:

- [Trader Support Service](#) (TSS): This free UK Government-backed service will guide you through any changes you need to make, and can complete customs declarations on your behalf. The TSS also offers a comprehensive range of education materials including online training, webinars and “how to” guides.
- [Movement Assistance Scheme](#) (MAS): Free support, including a dedicated helpline, is available for traders and businesses moving animals, plants and associated products from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. MAS also means that traders will not need to pay health certification costs, which will be met by the UK Government.

The most up-to-date guidance on the [Northern Ireland Protocol](#) is on GOV.UK, including information on moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland.

Other news

National News

- [Q3 2020 Manufacturing Barometer - National report.pdf – published 15/2/21 - here](#)
- [Make UK's eighth edition of the Manufacturing Monitor](#) - brings with it updates to a number of key stats from its previous editions. The latest survey includes information on manufacturers' furlough activities, redundancies, sales & orders, operating levels, and future expectations - [here](#)

Regional news

- [Businesses urged to get involved in major A303 Stonehenge upgrade](#) - Highways England wants smaller companies to play their part in the A303 Stonehenge upgrade, the biggest road scheme to be built in the South West in recent years. The transformational A303 Stonehenge (Amesbury to Berwick Down) scheme was last month given the green light by the Secretary of State for Transport. Highways England will be hosting a Meet The Buyer event early in the new year, and this will help to outline the training available via the Supply Chain Sustainability School, including topics such as Business Ethics, Waste Resource, Sustainable Procurement and Equality Diversity Inclusion. More - [here](#)
- [Hinkley Point C](#) delayed as potential cost rises by £500m - [here](#)
- [University of Exeter's Centre for Future Clean Mobility](#) - details about our new facility at the Science Park will emerge in February. In the meantime you can receive updates about the Centre and what we're doing by signing up to our monthly newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/hi48mf>
- [A303 in Somerset WILL be dualled](#) at last as government approves £250M Highways England scheme - [here](#)

Local news

- [South Devon University Technical College has announced Babcock as its latest employer partner.](#) The aerospace and defence company will now help shape the curriculum, provide Challenge Projects and offer work experience to ensure South Devon UTC students are ready for work when they finish Year 13. More - [here](#)
- [Oyo opens hotel in Plymouth city centre](#) - [here](#)
- [The University of Plymouth](#) is seeking a design team for a £7 million relocation of its business school - [here](#)
- [The Welding Centre of Excellence, Plymouth:](#) a c.£460k project that will enable City College Plymouth to set up a Welding Centre of Excellence to enhance and extend welding facilities. It will address the skills gaps and shortages in the profession across the region, with high demand coming from developments such as Hinkley and marine and advanced engineering firms. Modernised facilities and innovative equipment will enable specialist trainers to provide welding training from entry level to higher level specialised and bespoke training. Completion date March 2022.
- [Freezone bid could be worth millions to Devon economy](#) - Plymouth City Council has joined forces with neighbours at Devon County Council and South Hams District Council in a bid to unlock £35 million pounds of funding for the area - [here](#)

II PMG Members' News - Meeting Dates 2021

PMG AGM (for full and Network Members)

08:00am	21 st January
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PMG Full Members' Meetings (for firms with 100 employees plus)

8:00am	9 th March
8:00am	12 th May
8:00am	8 th July
8:00am	7 th September
8:00am	10 th November

PMG Network Members' Meetings (for firms with 10-99 employees)

2:30pm	30 th March
2:30pm	25 th May
2:30pm	21 st July
2:30pm	28 th September
2:30pm	30 th November

Continuous Improvement sub-group

2:00pm	11 th March
2:00pm	6 th May
2:00pm	8 th July
2:00pm	9 th September
2:00pm	11 th November

Finance & Compliance sub-group

2:30pm	9 th March
2:30pm	7 th July
2:30pm	14 th October

Health & Safety sub-group

2:00pm	3 rd February
2:00pm	4 th May
2:00pm	7 th September
2:00pm	9 th November



IT sub-group

Dates will follow in due course

Marketing sub-group

12:30pm	4 th February
12:30pm	30 th March
12:30pm	8 th June
12:30pm	7 th September
12:30pm	16 th November

Purchasing sub-group

10:30am	23 rd Feb	Post Brexit review mtg
10:30am	20 th April	
10:30am	22 nd June	
10:30am	21 st September	
10:30am	16 th November	

Resource Efficiency sub-group

2:30pm	11 th February
2:30pm	15 th June
2:30pm	5 th October
2:30pm	7 th December

Skills & Employment sub-group

2:30pm	9 th February
2:30pm	9 th June
2:30pm	14 th September
2:30pm	23 rd November

NB: All meetings will remain virtual until you are otherwise notified.

PMG hosts a virtual Apprentice of the Year Awards event for 2021

8. Earlier this month, the PMG held its second ever Apprentice of the Year Awards Event which we co-hosted again with Building Plymouth. The PMG nominations were submitted by our member companies with eleven Finalist Apprentices celebrated, two Highly Commended certificates awarded and three Overall Winners presented with the top awards.

This year, due to the pandemic, the awards presentation was held online but we were delighted to see that 100 attendees tuned in to support the nominated Apprentices!

City Leader Cllr Tudor Evans OBE who gave the welcome address and was given the role of announcing the overall winner said, *"It has been a pleasure to present Plymouth's Construction and Manufacturing Apprentice of the Year Awards which has given us a great platform to shine a light on the amazing opportunities that an apprenticeship brings to employers, individuals and the economy. I would like to thank our local employers and training providers who have gone above and beyond to ensure apprentices have been able to continue their studies and on the job learning during this unprecedented time. I would also like to pay tribute to all our apprentices for their dedication and efforts in working so hard to continue advancing with their apprenticeship despite the challenges and impact of the pandemic."*

The first award announced was the **PMG Manufacturing Rising Star Apprentice for 2021** which was awarded to **Cleopatra Thatcher**, a Level 4 Higher Level Mechanical Apprentice at **Babcock International**, studying with City College Plymouth. Cleo said of her award: *"I am so proud to have represented Babcock International Group at the Plymouth Manufacturers' Group Apprenticeship Awards and I was completely taken aback to find out I had won the Rising Star Award. A huge thank you to everyone at Babcock who has supported my development. Joining the apprenticeship programme was the best decision I ever made!"*



Next up was the Award for the **PMG Business Rising Star Apprentice for 2021** which went to **Beth Tout** from **Collins Aerospace**, who is undertaking a L4 Commercial Procurement and Supply Apprenticeship with Achievement Training.



Beth said *"Choosing to pursue an apprenticeship was one of the best decisions I have made. It's a great way to learn and achieve a qualification and I'm very grateful to have been recognised with this award."* Donna Aldridge, Training Coordinator at Collins Aerospace, was delighted for Beth and said, *"It's fantastic to see Beth recognised*

for her hard work. She is an asset to the team."

Last but by no means least, the Award for the **PMG Manufacturing Final Year Apprentice 2021** went to **Owen Baylis**, who completed a Level 4 Higher Level Apprenticeship with **Babcock International** and City College Plymouth in September 2020.

Owen, who is now a Junior Technical Engineer at Babcock, said: *"I am absolutely delighted to have received the PMG Manufacturing award! For as long as I can remember I have wanted to be an engineer so it means a great deal to me. To anyone thinking of doing an apprenticeship, I could not recommend it enough. It has given me essential practical engineering knowledge and experience, including a number of qualifications that I now use every day."*



Paul Foster, Managing Director Devonport Royal Dockyard commented:

"Babcock is proud to continue investing in a wide range of long established apprenticeship programmes. Last year we recruited 145 apprentices, fulfilling a variety of roles, including Welding; Electrical, Mechanical and Marine Pipe Fitting; and Fabricating, with similar numbers being sought for the next cohort of apprentices to start in September of this year."

“Our apprentices work across our business alongside a variety of knowledgeable and passionate employees who pass on their skills and experience to help build the capabilities we need for the future. We’re extremely proud of Cleo and Owen and everyone that has supported them in the business.”

At the awards ceremony, the Finalists and Highly Commended apprentices were all celebrated for their success and commended for the high standards they have shown in their achievements and skills developed during their apprenticeships.

Highly Commended Awards went to the following apprentices:

PMG Manufacturing – Rising Star, Highly Commended awarded to;

Chris Tillyer, BD with Cornwall College, undertaking a L3 Engineering Technician Apprenticeship and

PMG Business – Rising Star, Highly Commended awarded to;

Connor Ratcliffe, Barden Corporation with City College, undertaking a L2 Business Administration Apprenticeship

Congratulations and well done to all the Finalists and everyone who has supported them!

The full list of Finalists were:

- Owen Baylis, Babcock International with City College Plymouth , L4 Higher Level Apprenticeship
- Ben Cusack, Princess Yachts with South Devon College, L3 Marine Engineer
- Ethan Dickson, Princess Yachts with Achievement Training, L3 Infrastructure Technician
- Sam Frankham, BD with Cornwall College, L3 Engineering Technician
- Connor Ratcliffe, The Barden Corporation with City College, L2 Business Administration
- Hollie Redwood, Mars Wrigley Confectionery with Cornwall College, L3 Engineering Technician
- Cleopatra Thatcher, Babcock International with City College Plymouth, L4 Higher Level Mechanical Apprentice
- Chris Tillyer, BD with Cornwall College, L3 Engineering Technician
- Beth Tout, Collins Aerospace with Achievement Training, L4 Commercial Procurement & Supply
- Alex Walsh, Princess Yachts with City College Plymouth, L3 Boatbuilder
- Tom Williams, Princess Yachts with South Devon College, L3 Boatbuilder

A transformational step for Alstom: completion of the acquisition of Bombardier Transportation

9. Alstom announced at the end of last month the completion of the acquisition of Bombardier Transportation. Leveraging on its clear *Alstom in Motion* strategy and its strong operational fundamentals and financial trajectory, Alstom, integrating Bombardier Transportation, will strengthen its leadership in the growing sustainable mobility market by reaching a critical size in all geographies and integrating further solutions and assets to better serve its customers worldwide.



The enlarged Group has a combined proforma revenue of around €15.7 billion and a €71.1 billion combined backlog. It employs 75,000 people worldwide in 70 countries, has unparalleled R&D capabilities and a complete portfolio of products and solutions.

“Today is a unique moment for Alstom and the mobility sector worldwide, with the creation of a new global leader centered on smart and sustainable mobility. More than ever, the world has to engage in a deep environmental and social transition to be able to address the great challenges of urbanization, equal opportunity to economic development and climate change. Transportation, essential to the working and social life but with great environmental impact is at the heart of this transition. Our responsibility, together with the 75,000 people of Alstom today, is to transform our unique set of assets created by this transaction into the enabler of this necessary transformation. Our responsibility is to bring the innovation required for such extreme challenges and that all communities throughout the world, as they are traveling to meet loved ones or to work, can have access to the same quality of service and efficiency, while caring for our planet.” said Henri Poupart-Lafarge, Chairman and CEO of Alstom. More - [here](#)

Trunki joins forces with Addmaster to launch antimicrobial Abbie

10. The company behind the original ride-on luggage for children has teamed up with Addmaster to welcome the first ever antimicrobial addition to its range.

Trunki, which was invented by company founder and CEO Rob Law in 2006, has launched Abbie the Ambulance in time for Christmas and is made with in-built Biomaster technology that inhibits the growth of harmful microbes on surfaces.

The protection works 24/7 and is effective for the lifetime of the product, giving additional hygienic safety as it travels across the UK and the world.

As a thank you to the many key workers who have gone above and beyond to support the community this year, the new Trunki is named after a paramedic named Abbie who was nominated by friends and family for her hard work.

Her namesake Abbie the Ambulance is made from lightweight plastic and is covered by a 5-year guarantee. With 18 litres capacity and secure lockable catches, she can be used as hand luggage for holidays or perfect overnight bags for sleepovers.

"I'm delighted to launch Abbie with Biomaster protection, enabling Trunki to be relevant to our customers in this new normal and giving parents that extra confidence to travel safely," explained Trunki's Rob Law.

Paul Morris, Chief Executive Officer of Addmaster, continued: *"Trunki has always been at the forefront of innovation in child luggage and it is again, with Abbie the Ambulance becoming the first product of its type to be made with Biomaster. This means no harmful microbes and bacteria can grow on the product, a product that prior to the pandemic would see it travel all over the country and the world."*



Vispring reveals 2021 fabric collection

11. Luxury British bed brand Vispring has launched a new collection of fabrics for 2021, pin-pointing key colour and texture trends for both the home and contract sectors.

Next year also marks the 120-year anniversary for the business, which worked with trend forecaster Doris Boelk to create a series of new fabric books that offer a curated range of options that simplify the fabric-choosing process and enable consumers to create bespoke bed designs.

The three fabric books are comprised of Light Neutrals, Unicolour, and Patterns, Trends & Leathers. The new Vispring fabric books will be available from January.

Pictured: Signatory Mattress with Viceroy divan and Achilles headboard in luxe velvet terracotta



Burts Snacks appoints leading agency to support growth plans

12. Burts Snacks, one of the country's leading independent snacking companies, has announced it has appointed Bray Leino, a Devon-based integrated communications agency specialising in food and drink, to support its growth plans. Devon-based and proud, Burts has achieved national acclaim for its superior taste, through sourcing the finest local ingredients and exploring exciting flavour partnerships.



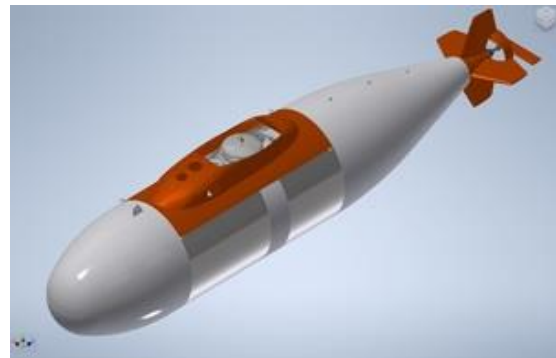
The appointment of Bray Leino marks the latest step in the company's drive to become the UK's leading producer of premium snacking products. The agency will be tasked with providing strategic brand communications and delivering the first major above the line campaign for the company in more than seven years for its range of Burts Hand Cooked Potato Chips.

With more than two decades of experience crafting premium, hand-cooked British potato chips, Burts has been independently praised for its great taste, outstanding quality, and innovative flavours. Coupled with its efforts in the field of NPD for its 'Better for You' range and growing snacking portfolio, the company continues to demonstrate its commitment to challenging and growing the business, while staying true to its core principles – delivering premium snacks that use the best quality ingredients, sourced locally to reduce its impact on the environment.

Dave McNulty, managing director at Burts Snacks, said: "Since we launched in the late '90s, Burts has grown from a small-scale family operation serving local farmers' markets to a nationally recognised brand. Nevertheless, we remain true to our roots; working with Bray Leino, a Devon-based agency with a global footprint, reflects both our grassroots culture and ambition, and we are excited to see where this new partnership takes us."

Innovations to be tested on pioneering autonomous submarine

13. Tech start-ups, innovators and academics are being offered the chance to showcase and test their novel sensor and payload technology on the Royal Navy's first extra large autonomous test submarine.



The project offers a unique opportunity to undertake at-sea testing and trials of industry and academia innovative prototype technology on the pioneering Extra Large Uncrewed Underwater Vehicle (XLUUV) developed by **MSubs Ltd** through the first stage of the

[Developing the Royal Navy's Autonomous Underwater Capability](#) programme with the [Defence and Security Accelerator \(DASA\)](#) and the [Defence Science and Technology Laboratory \(Dstl\)](#).

MOD will supply and support the XLUUV to allow for technology to be fitted and integrated, trials to be planned and carried out, and equipment removal. In addition, up to £20k will be made available to innovators who are selected for this opportunity to cover travel and subsistence costs.

The XLUUV will be made available to test on-board systems, sensors and payloads required to support a range of scenarios to help develop the Royal Navy's understanding of the utility and operational boundaries of uncrewed underwater vehicle systems. Full scope and examples of sensor and enabling capabilities we are interested in can be found in the [competition document](#).

Those wishing to take part need to submit an initial one-page pitch via the DASA online [submission service](#) by midday on 8 March. A panel of experts from the Royal Navy, Dstl and MSubs will review the pitches. Organisations will then be invited to submit a full proposal before 13 April 2021 at midday (BST).

A series of pre-bookable one-to-one sessions with the project team are available on March 2 and March 16. Register here for [2 March 2021 \(closing date Friday 26 Feb at 6pm\)](#). Register here for [16 March 2021 \(closing date Friday 12 March at 6pm\)](#)

Babcock appoints new Marine CEO

14. Babcock, the aerospace and defence company, announces that Will Erith has been appointed as CEO of its Marine sector, effective immediately. A former Liskeard schoolboy, Will studied mechanical engineering at the University of London, gaining a first class honours degree. He was previously Managing Director of the Surface Ships Business Unit within the Sector, and before this held a range of leadership roles at Rolls Royce including international appointments based in the Asia Pacific region. He succeeds Derek Jones who will return to his role of Corporate Services Director, Marine.

Babcock Chief Executive David Lockwood said: *"Our Marine business offers significant opportunities for growth both in the UK and internationally, underpinned by our close relationship with the Royal Navy. This appointment supports this ambition."*



Other Members' news

- **Babcock** lands three awards at prestigious industry event - [here](#)
- **Babcock** aims to recruit more than 100 apprentices in Plymouth - [here](#)
- **Mars UK** and DHL team up on big new Leicestershire warehouse - [here](#)
- **Alstom** has appointed Nick Crossfield as Managing Director for the UK & Ireland - [here](#)

Question & Request Corner

Industry 4.0 / Internet of Things

The University of Plymouth is looking to host a talk for students on Industry 4.0 and how it is impacting business. The students are BSc Business Management and MSc International Business.

The session would be around 45 minutes to an hour on either a Wednesday (the MSc group) between 2pm and 4pm or a Thursday (the BSc group) from 4pm until 6pm, any date between now and the middle of May (except for Easter break).

Would any PMG member like to deliver a talk on this subject?

Becky Moore

Business Development Officer

Research and Innovation,

2nd Floor, Marine Building,

University of Plymouth

becky.moore@plymouth.ac.uk



III Business to Business

Symbios occupational health provider

15. Staying healthy and well at work increases productivity and is good for individuals, companies, and society.

SYMBIOS HEALTH

Empowering Healthy Working

Symbios Health is a local Doctor led occupational health provider

offering the full range of occupational health services. We believe in finding efficiencies through our models of service delivery to make sure your OH provision is targeted and proficient and will offer better value at a lower cost compared to our competitors.

We work with our clients to understand their business, culture, and workforce, and use this knowledge to tailor a package of OH that meets your statutory obligations, addresses your corporate governance responsibilities, and helps you build a resilient and healthy workforce.

We provide a dedicated clinical team that are local, accountable to you, and flexible in their service delivery. For more information- check out our website: www.symbios.health or give us a call on 0800 999 1824. Dr Oliver Cooper, Medical Director, Symbios health Ltd

Consultancy Project Invitation

16. Is your company or organisation struggling to manage the impact of covid on employees, teams or the business as a whole? Maybe issues are surfacing in your business that were present pre-covid and now demanding more of your time, energy and resources to understand.

Might your company or organisation benefit from external consultancy?

I am an experienced Psychologist, working with individuals, teams and organisations to build a greater understanding of issues that often lie 'beneath the surface'. As part of my current Masters Qualification in Organisational Consultancy, I am required to conduct a supervised organisational consultancy project. This allows me to offer my skills and time at a significantly reduced cost to your organisation. If you think you may benefit, please see further details below:

What it is:

An opportunity to receive dedicated consultancy into your organisation in order to explore a meaningful dilemma, need, or opportunity. The issue may be longstanding, or new, but it does need to be 'current', and something that you can envisage grappling with in a meaningful way over a time limited period. Examples might be support for team development, exploration of a cultural issue, or change related to the impact of COVID. It might be none of these things, but it is more likely to be an interpersonal, team or organisational dilemma than a 'technical' issue.

Who can benefit:

Any organisation, small or large, can benefit from external consultancy.

When will it take place:

I would like to start the consultancy soon, with the aim of completing it by end June 2021, and discussions as soon as possible to explore the parameters of the work and agree a contract.

Where and how:

Due to covid, it is highly likely that some of our work would be undertaken via a virtual platform such as zoom. It would be my intention, if at all possible, to include some face to face meetings, following guidance on safe practice.

What do I do next?

If you are interested in knowing more, have a meaningful and current dilemma you think may benefit from external consultancy, and would like to discuss this opportunity further, please contact me and we can arrange a brief initial meeting to discuss.

Dr Julia Bird j.birdconsultancy@gmail.com Mob: 07385 295 189

South West Waste Contractor: Cornwall Waste Solutions

17. We're waste management experts partnering with local authorities and businesses across the South West. We tailor collections, disposals, transfers, treatments, recycling and recovery of commercial, clinical, hazardous, liquid and dry waste. We use a 'one stop shop' approach to help businesses consolidate waste services, and save time, money and landfill.

We provide expert commercial waste management services for businesses across Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire. Our dedicated customer service team is based in St Austell in Cornwall. With 60 years of combined experience, we pride ourselves on being big enough to deliver and small enough to care.

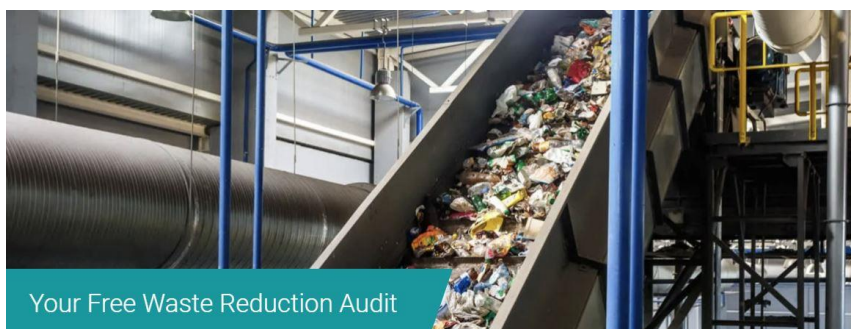
Reduce Your Business Waste

We can help you consolidate your commercial waste collections to save time, money and landfill. We'll also make sure your business is up to date with waste regulations and help your team to embed best waste practices.

We tailor **waste reduction audits** to suit every business, but we usually complete five simple steps:

Step 1: Visit your business to understand its size, structure and waste streams.

Step 2: Research opportunities to reduce landfill, improve recycling and consolidate your waste services.



Step 2: Report back with a suggested waste model or an action plan to reduce your business waste.

Step 4: Set up sustainable waste collections, if you decide our waste services are right for your business.

Step 5: Report monthly to measure your waste reduction progress, once CWS waste services are in place.

Confidential Waste

Confidentially isn't just how you treat information. It is how you store it, how you move it and how you dispose of it.

Total destruction of documentation

Shredding is the safest method of managing your confidential waste. We can manage this process from start to finish and give you the peace of mind that your waste has been totally destroyed.

Giving back to the environment

All the shredded paper we destroy is recycled into tissue products.

Let us know if we can help - Info@cornwallwastesolutions.co.uk

Precious Plastic Plymouth and Tavistock

18. Precious Plastic Plymouth and Tavistock is a small, low-tech, creative, plastic recycling project which aims



Precious Plastic Plymouth and Tavistock

Creative engagement in plastic recycling

to engage and educate around plastic waste and environmental issues. We have exciting shredding and injection moulding machines which can take waste plastic and form new products. We use this creative, hands-on experience to engage people in conversations about the values and problems of plastic. We would be interested in linking with businesses. We are particularly wondering if anyone has a heat press or knows someone who has. We might be able to recycle plastic waste from businesses, particularly HDPE and LDPE. You can find out more about us at:

www.katecrawfurd.co.uk/ppp, <https://www.linkedin.com/company/precious-plastic-plymouth-and-tavistock> and <https://www.facebook.com/Preciousplasticplymtavi/>

Funding & Tax Opportunities:

Research and Development Solutions Fund

19. The £200,000 fund, delivered in partnership between the University and Thomas Westcott Chartered Accountants, is designed to stimulate industrial collaborations and knowledge transfer opportunities between our researchers and businesses - aiming to solve specific '*business problems*'.

Grants of up to £20,000 will be available during two funding rounds:

Call 2: 8th February 2021 – **closes 9am Monday 22nd March 2021**

Open to businesses from any industry sector or geographic location in the UK. The funds can be used to cover a variety of costs including academic research time to focus on a specific opportunity or challenge to a business; research time of the industrial partner; and access to specialist University facilities or equipment.

More details - <https://www.essupport.com/case-studies/r-d-solutions-fund/>

Register your interest, with details of the academic and business partnership, to enterprisesolutions@plymouth.ac.uk



Site & Premises

UNITS 1 - 4 Haxter Court, Broadley Park.

20. High quality commercial units. To Let:

- 350sq m (3,750sqft) - 2,129sq m (22,900sqft) units available
- Ample allocated car parking and service yards
- B1, B2 & B8 Use
- Separate front of house office entrance and rear service entrance
- Sustainable project with roofs incorporating solar panels
- The units are located within easy access of the A386 linking to the A38

More info - [here](#)

Others

- **For Sale Unit 5A Forrester's Business Park, Estover, Plymouth, PL6 7PL** - £350,000 – 3,551 sq ft - [here](#)
- **Unit D2, Cot Hill Close, Plymouth, Devon, PL7 1SR** - £43,616 Per Annum 6,874 sq ft - [here](#)

IV Talent Retention & Recruitment; Plus: Events; Training Courses & Other Information

Piers Tweedie BEng Hons

21. As an Operations Manager, I enjoy driving teams to reduce operational costs and improve lead times and quality. I lead from the front, working closely with the site's team. Data analysis and lean engineering principles underpin my drive to improve systems, processes, quality and people. I've worked in highly regulated sectors including aerospace and pharmaceutical; and worked at extreme ends of manufacturing: high volume low value, and low volume high value products. I am looking for a new full time opportunity, but I am also considering some freelance consultancy in factory/office CI/Lean. I am looking for a new full time opportunity, but I am also considering some freelance consultancy in factory/office CI/Lean. CV - [here](#)



Teresa Norman

22. A highly motivated team player with extensive administrative, marketing and organisational experience seeks role where pro-active, completer/finisher attributes are fully utilised. Demonstrates good interpersonal communication skills, a willingness to take ownership with a talent for problem solving. Job satisfaction will include a role where multi-tasking, accuracy and flexibility will add significant value to an organisation. Currently looking to work from home and willing to do this on a permanent, temporary or self-employed basis, ideally part-time or working ad hoc on various projects. I can provide a professional, confidential and efficient service to enable clients to concentrate on doing what they do best. CV - [here](#)



Oliver Kerr - Undergraduate Placement Year opportunity, for the academic year 2021-2022

23. I am an ambitious, hard working and personable individual looking to partake in a year-long placement in the business world to aid my studies. I am local to the Plymouth area and am currently attending Plymouth University, studying for a BSc Business Management degree. I also have experience in Web Administration (specifically Ecommerce). My degree has specifically focused on HR and Operations, however, it has also included other areas such as economics, marketing and finance. CV – [here](#)

Apply for a Kickstart Scheme grant

24. If you are an employer looking to create jobs placements for young people, you can apply for funding as part of the Kickstart Scheme. [The Kickstart Scheme has changed](#). You no longer need a minimum of 30 job placements to apply directly for a grant.
- You can now apply for a Kickstart Scheme grant by either:
 - [Applying online](#) yourself.
 - Getting help from a [Kickstart gateway](#) who is already working with the Kickstart Scheme.
 - Employers can spread the start date of the job placements up until the end of December 2021.
 - If you need help with the Kickstart Scheme process, contact your local [Kickstart Scheme contacts](#).
 - For promotional materials, check the [Kickstart Scheme employer guide](#).

**KICKSTART
SCHEME**

AAC Apprenticeship Awards

25. The Awards are a celebration of excellence in apprenticeship delivery in the UK and provide an opportunity to give the recognition employers and providers deserve.



The Awards were established in 2017 and are a joint project by FE Week and AELP, they are free to enter.

Winners will be announced at our spectacular national awards ceremony taking place in Summer 2021.

Open to all apprenticeship providers and employers in the UK, the apprenticeship awards are a competitive process with two types of awards, Route Awards and National Awards. The Awards recognise activity up to the end of July 2020.

To find out more about the awards and submit a nomination visit:

www.aacapprenticeshipawards.com

The AAC Apprenticeship Awards are brought to by FE Week and AELP.

Submission deadline 23:59 on Monday 1st March 2021.

Traineeship Portal Goes Live

26. (Information courtesy of Sharron Robbie MBE, Managing Director, Devon & Cornwall Training Providers Network Limited)

After some delay, we have now had confirmation that the promised launch of the employer portal for traineeships has taken place....employers are able to claim the £1,000 incentive grant for facilitating new work placements since September 2020.

The link below will take you to the ESFA pages, which explain the process and will enable employers to register for any incentives they may be entitled to. I know that many of you were waiting for this, and that some of our employers had been getting rather impatient with the wait. I would give a word of caution re the time delay between an employer registering and receiving the incentive payment(s) – might be worth providers not raising expectations with employers on them receiving a quick turnaround.

Link to ESGFA pages – Traineeship Portal Registration

<https://form.education.gov.uk/service/traineeship-employer-incentive-registration>

In addition, the ESFA have published V 3.0 of the Framework for Delivery for Traineeships – link to full document below. Please note that the main changes in V3.0 are to the employer incentive payments – see pages 19 -21 of the document.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/955511/Framework_for_delivery_2020-2021_VERSION_3_January_2021.pdf

Upcoming programmes; events; videos & webinars ...

Cornwall Marine Network – February Fully funded Training Dates – [here](#)

The Digital Skills Partnership has secured £1.7 million pounds to deliver the *National Retraining Scheme Digital and Technical Bootcamps* in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay. This is an invite for CTO's, ICT Managers and HR colleagues to find out how this support your workforce development (or recruitment) in 2021. From January 2021, South West training providers including Bluescreen IT, Exeter College, The Learning People and Bridgwater & Taunton College will deliver ten [#Train4Tomorrow](#) bootcamps to 750 learners in the region. The courses are open to people returning to work, or in work, but looking to advance their skills in their current role with key in-demand skills. They include Software Development, Data Science, Cyber, IT Engineer and Digital Marketing pathways. Charlotte Collyer, Digital Skills Partnership Manager. More - [here](#)
M: 07925 635 565

W: skillslaunchpad.org.uk/digital-skills-partnership

SailGP - Business briefing - Monday 22 February at 6.30pm - Join five-time America's Cup winner and Olympic gold medallist **Sir Russell Coutts** for a unique insight into the SailGP British Grand Prix Plymouth. This online event will be held on Monday 22 February at 6.30pm and is designed to brief local businesses on the event and provide a unique insight into SailGP – the sport's pinnacle league. The Great Britain Grand Prix Plymouth takes place this summer, 17-18 July, on Plymouth Sound and will be shown live on Sky Sports. As the third event of SailGP season 2, it will be one of the highlights of the global calendar.

[Register for the webinar](#) - If you would like to join the event, please register **by 9am on 19 February**. A link to access the webinar will be sent after the 19 February.



Placements & Graduate Recruitment Fair

24th February , 10am – 3pm

Know Yourself | Gain Experience | Build Your Brand

Meet employers looking to recruit students, book 1:1 sessions, attend group sessions and connect with employers through our Virtual careers fair

3 easy steps to access the fair:

1. Download the Career Fair + app now on [iOS](#) or [Android](#)
2. Search "University of Plymouth" on the app
3. Book in with employers or attend a drop in on the day!

Scan to get the App!



Full details for employers – [here](#)



Budget 2021 - webinars and live commentary - Monday 1 March - Thursday 4 March
PKF Francis Clark – an invitation - [here](#)

Accelerating South West Technology & Advanced Manufacturing sales in China - Thursday, 4 March 2021 9:30 am to 10:30 am Online - On the day the 14th Five Year Plan is announced by Beijing, join key officials from the Department for International Trade (DIT) Southwest, China Britain Business Council and Versarien plc for a comprehensive look at the Technology & Advanced Manufacturing sector in China. This event is supported by Bristol and West of England China Bureau, Hewlett Rand and Clarke Willmott. [Register Your Place Now - Click Here](#) This webinar is open to South West businesses in the Tech and Advanced Manufacturing industry with a £500k+ turnover.



Wednesday 21 April 2021: 9:30am-6pm - Skills South West is being held virtually. This free event brings young people from the South West into contact with employers, training providers, colleges, universities and professional bodies. Using a dedicated virtual platform, attendees will have the opportunity to navigate through different spaces to interact with our wide variety of exhibitors. More information - [here](#)

Insoluble problems disguised as great opportunities Friday 26 March 2021 - 9.30am-10.45am

A line-up of leading local industry experts will deliver thought provoking, short sessions, covering the topics of engineering, marine, defence and the built environment. Posing the questions as to how we recover from the impacts of challenges such as Brexit, Covid, skills gaps, digital infrastructure and what are the opportunities, all to be woven throughout these productive discussion points. To register your interest please email employers@cityplym.ac.uk for further details of this virtual event. Pauline Hands, Director of Marketing, Bus Engagement & Apps



HotSW Careers Hub will be holding an inspirational online careers fair over 3 days on 27th, 28th & 29th April 2021. They are working closely with schools across the region to showcase career opportunities and pathways to secondary school aged children from Year 7 upward. They will be looking for manufacturing companies to be involved in a range of engagement activities which will be detailed in the near future.

South West Innovation Expo 2021 sponsorship opportunities - Sandy Park, Exeter on 29 April 2021

The South West Innovation Expo 2021 is a major tech event for the region that brings together technology innovators and entrepreneurs with business leaders and investors to share and understand the power of new technology. It's being held at Sandy Park, Exeter on 29 April 2021 and is led by the Universities of Plymouth, Exeter and Falmouth.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please do let me know and I will be happy to discuss the options with you. More info - <https://www.swinnovationexpo.co.uk/sponsors>

Looking forward to hearing from you and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Vanessa Terzoni | Business Development Co-ordinator, University of Plymouth 01752 584948

University of Plymouth School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics Projects Showcase 20th May

The Projects Showcase will feature students from the entire School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics, so will include:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| ○ Mechanical, Marine and Materials Engineering (including Composites) | ○ Civil and Coastal Engineering |
| ○ Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Robotics | ○ Computing |
| | ○ Mathematical Sciences |

We are very keen for industrial visitors to see what our students have been doing. It will, of course, be a "Virtual event", with online visitors able to view posters of student projects, and they will be contactable for a chat should you wish. Anybody from industry is welcome to attend. Please contact me adam.kyte@plymouth.ac.uk and I'll arrange for you to receive a formal invite, with more details about the event as soon as they are released.

Hemsley Fraser Group Ltd blended virtual training programmes

Select from our range of off-the-shelf blended virtual training programmes. Our programmes include a mix of virtual expert-led delivery, 1:1 virtual coaching, plus on-demand digital learning. Details -

<https://www.hemsleyfraser.co.uk/training-courses/virtual-learning/blended-virtual-training-programmes>

Hemsley Fraser Group Ltd, St James Court, 74-94 Fore Street, Saltash, Plymouth, PL12 6JW

Call 0345 071 2801

enquiries@hemsleyfraser.co.uk

Communications recently received

27. The following communications from professional services firms and other bodies have been received since the last bulletin.

- **All Party Parliamentary Group for Manufacturing** – None this month
- **Bank of England Agents' PMC report** – Feb – Monetary Policy Report can be found in full - [here](#)
On Friday 5th February, Andrew Bailey, Governor, Dave Ramsden, Deputy Governor for Markets and Banking and Andy Haldane, Chief Economist and Executive Director, Monetary Analysis held a teleconference to brief some of the contacts visited by the Bank's Agents on the recently published Monetary Policy Report. The recording of the briefing is now available on the Bank's website at the link - [here](#)
- **BCR Associates** – None this month
- **CIPD** – *With the rollout of Covid-19 vaccinations well underway in the UK, its vital employers are aware of the implications on their workforce. The vaccination programme offers light at the end of the tunnel, and people professionals have a critical role to play in encouraging uptake within their organisations* – 10/2 – [here](#)
- **Carbon Trust** – Feb newsletter - [here](#)
- **City College Plymouth** - *What's new at City College* – 8/2 - [here](#)
- **Foot Anstey** – *More Employees in England Advised to Shield* – 17/2 - [here](#)
- **Hinkley Supply Chain newsletters** – register - [here](#)
- **IfM on twitter** - [here](#)
- **Innovate UK EDGE SW stakeholder newsletter** – 8/2 - [here](#)
- **Maritime UK SW Dec Newsletter** - [here](#)
- **Nash & Co** – Nash Business – Dec - [here](#)
- **Oceansgate Newsletter** - Feb - [here](#)
- **Pinsent Masons** - Employment Weekly Briefing 12/2 – [here](#)
- **Roger John Martin-Fagg** – Economic Outlook – Feb – [here](#)
- **SETsquared** - news – 15/1 - [here](#)
- **SW Skills newsletter** – Feb - [here](#)
- **UK Composites Industry News** – 15/2 - [here](#)
- **University of Plymouth's Enterprise Solutions Newsletter** – sign-up - [here](#)
- **UWE Bristol Business newsletter** – 25/1 - [here](#)

Other articles, videos and blogs of general interest:

- **Brexit 'teething problems' endemic and could ruin us, say UK businesses** - Ease of trading is key measure of success, say cross-channel businesses, not lack of lorry traffic - [here](#)
- **Covid-19 blows \$311bn in productive investment in 2020** - Foreign direct investment plummets to historic lows as the pandemic bites - [here](#)
- **KPMG Global Manufacturing Outlook 2020: COVID-19 Special - Adversity leads to opportunity. Here are a few key emerging themes:**
 - Risk reduction and re-balancing of supply chains: global supply chains are already under severe strain in the wake of trade disputes and a shift towards economic nationalism. While the crisis prompts executives to reduce risk by increasing local manufacturing, in some critical industries we feel cost competitiveness continues to be important.
 - Technology and innovation: the crisis is accelerating the digitization of business and operating models and businesses need the infrastructure to serve customers, enable employee productivity on-line and protect against new cyber security risks.
 - Talent and a new working reality: companies need to consider how to transform their workforce models, as remote working has widened their potential talent pool with the right combination of physical spaces, technology and a flexible workforce.
- Full report - [here](#)
- **Regen Hydrogen Insight Paper - Building the hydrogen value chain** - [here](#)
- **Six considerations for businesses post Brexit deal** - Chris Hearld, Head of Regions at KPMG UK, shares his key takeaways from KPMG's first 'new year, new chapter' digital event. [here](#)
- **The global race to produce hydrogen offshore** - [here](#)
- **UK Innovation Report - Benchmarking the UK's industrial and innovation performance in a global context** - [here](#)

V Requests, surveys & CSR related matters

University seeking new mentors, could this be you?

28. The University of Plymouth is seeking industry professionals to take part in its Mentoring Programmes. Led by the University Careers Service, the programmes have already attracted local, national and international mentors from across a wide range of sectors, as well as students from across all disciplines of study.

Programmes vary in length and delivery so there are a variety of ways that professionals can get involved; from alumni e-mentoring and professional mentoring to more specialised and sector focused schemes.

Mentoring provides a great opportunity for employers to upskill their staff, while mentors themselves can contribute to their own professional development by enhancing their leadership and coaching skills.

Andy Aston, Global Managing Director, Turner and Townsend said, "It's been great to have the opportunity to engage and support someone who really wants to progress in both their academic and professional career. I believe that our discussions have benefitted us both."

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, email us at mentoring.careers@plymouth.ac.uk or find out more at www.plymouth.ac.uk/mentoring

As a business there are many other ways that you can engage with us, find out more at [here](#).



Vacancy on the Engineering and Manufacturing T Level Board

29. Karen Woodward is our South West representative at EngineeringUK. EngineeringUK are working with City and Guilds to help them to establish an Engineering and Manufacturing T Level Board, to progress development of the new T Level qualifications in Engineering & Manufacturing, due for release in September 2022. We have been asked to contact some of our members to see if they would be interested in this role. The plan is to establish a quarterly T Level Board to help City & Guilds write, validate & review content to ensure the qualification meets the needs of industry. We especially want the Board to reflect the voices and input of engineering and manufacturing businesses across the UK, and particularly to involve some SMEs. A minimum of three meetings per year will be held (face to face or virtually), lasting a maximum of 2 hours, with some smaller sub groups meeting more regularly. A copy of the draft Terms of Reference for the Board is attached. EOIs are required by latest Feb 14th. Applicants will be invited to a seminar to find out more details / next steps with City & Guilds to be held at 10am on Feb 24th. Please contact kwoodward@engineeringuk.com if you would like to express your interest.

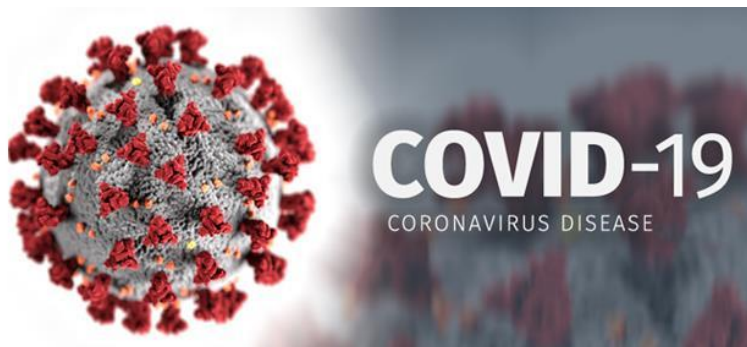
Plymouth and the Global climate conference COP26

30. Plymouth Energy Community has launched a Crowdfunder campaign for [Moths to a Flame](#). The £25,000 project will turn residents' calls for urgent action on the Climate Emergency into a mass-participation art installation for the global climate conference [COP26](#), in Glasgow 2021.

Covid-19 Most Useful websites for information

Here is a selection of government; local government; employment advisory bodies and private sector business websites that can be relied on to be frequently updated with the latest Covid-19 news for employers and businesses. As you can imagine, most include duplicate material.

If you can't find what you are looking for, please contact stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com



HM Government COVID-19: support for business

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support> NB: This is being updated regularly with the latest advice. It may have changed since you last looked. Subscribe to bulletins - [here](#)

Heart of the SW LEP Growth Hub

The LEP is working hard with key partners in Government, Local Authorities, Business Representative Organisations and other agencies to support businesses through the unprecedented health and economic shock we are facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Heart of the South West Growth Hub is being promoted as a single point of contact for all advice and guidance, and its website is continually update as new information comes in about the measures and support packages that are emerging from Government.



Details on specific financial packages, eligibility and processes for applying are still being developed.

At the same time local and free support and assistance is being offered by local partners and we are including details and links to these schemes on the Growth Hub website.

The Growth Hub team have capacity and interim support has been put into place by LEP partners to ensure increased volumes of enquiries can be managed. Longer term capacity is also being reviewed considering the budget announcement of more funding for Growth Hubs.

The Growth Hub's contact details are:

Website: <https://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/covid-19-support-for-business/>

Email: info@heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk Tel: 03456 047 047

Growth hub newsletter – 10/2 - <https://mailchi.mp/heartofswgrowthhub/growth-hub-newsletter-13343235?e=b920e7bfa5> HotSW newsletter 28/1 - <https://mailchi.mp/heartofswlep/hotsw-lep-newsletter-january?e=ec1c37075c> Route map to recovery - [here](#)

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Growth & Skills Hub

20/1

<https://cios.campaign-view.eu/ua/viewinbrowser?od=20ff587c3746d9169d4d545e6b4473c8e&rd=1a9ea673201cd5d&sd=1a9ea673201be6f&n=11699e4c21bdce7&mrd=1a9ea673201be5f&m=1>

Plymouth City Council (Invest Plymouth site) –

<https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/invest/business-support/covid-19>

Invest Plymouth
Driving Growth in Britain's Ocean City

PCC are also producing a regular covid-19 newsletter

12/2 - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKPCC/bulletins/2c0e75c>

Subscription point - here: <https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/invest/news/newsletter-link>

Business news – 12/2 <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKPCC/bulletins/2c0e0d5>

South Hams & West Devon district councils have their own bulletin
15/1

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSWDEVON/bulletins/2b97e9d>



Devon County Council

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/document/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/#section-4>

12/2 - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/2c0e245>



Business West

Business West is the largest Chamber of Commerce in the SW. It is a not-for-profit company with 200 staff and a turnover of £10 million.

'We provide guidance & support on Coronavirus (COVID-19) for businesses, employers and employees in the region. We're working urgently to clarify how businesses can access the new measures announced by government – and will convey this to businesses as quickly as possible through the hub'.

<https://www.businesswest.co.uk/trading-through-coronavirus>



Business West Business #49 – 3/2 - <https://businesswest-email.co.uk/20U2-781PJ-4359F8EECC549651QJU9X42BE2E8AEADDA3A21/cr.aspx>

MAKEUK



All PMG members are eligible to become affiliate members of MAKEUK (formerly known as The Engineering Employers Federation). If you want to join contact stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com

The Manufacturers' Organisation <https://www.makeuk.org/coronavirus>

Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQs for Employers - Last updated: 12/2/2021

<https://www.makeuk.org/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-faqs>

South West Business Council

In response to the challenges facing businesses around the region, SWBC has launched a COVID19 Taskforce to help mitigate the impact on businesses as far as possible. We have brought together firms of lawyers and accountants, in addition to banking, corporate real estate, PR & Communications companies and HR specialists to respond to business questions and short term requests for support. More - <https://www.southwestbusinesscouncil.co.uk/2020/03/24/covid19-taskforce/>



ACAS



ACAS is the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

We work with millions of employers and employees every year to improve workplace relationships. We're an independent public body that receives funding from the government.

This site is particularly strong on employment related issues including statutory sick pay.

<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

This information is also available on the PMG website.

Credits:

The Editor of this bulletin is grateful to various news sources for stories contained either herein or in previous editions, including: The [Plymouth Herald](#) and the Financial Times.

Image credits:

Malindi Myers; Centre for Cities; Markit; DiT UKEF; PCC; Babcock x 2; Beth Tout; Trunki; ViSpring; Burts; DASA/ MSubs; CWS; University of Plymouth x 3; Piers Tweddie; Teresa Norman and SailGP.

NB: Some weblinks are only accessible temporarily until the release of the next edition of this newsletter. Pl. contact the editor if you cannot access the link you require. stevegerry@dsl.pipex.com

If you want to read what some people are saying about this newsletter please see [here](#) and scroll down towards the bottom of the screen. All comments are unsolicited. Please send me your own if you wish!

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Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City

