



Briefing Note 38 - COVID-19 Guidance

As at 09:00 Saturday 25th April 2020

A. Headline developments announced on Friday 24th April 2020

Item	Source
A1	Ofqual open online consultation on awarding vocational and technical qualifications in summer 2020. https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-assessment-and-grading-in-2020
A2	Directions given to the NHS to disclose information to GCHQ. This is to enable the support and maintenance of cyber security of network and information systems during the COVID-19 emergency. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879049/Security_of NHS and Public Health Services Digital Systems Coronavirus Directions 2020.pdf
A3	UK leads way as nations endorse landmark pledge to make COVID-19 vaccines and treatments available for all (press release). Includes UK video statement to WHO. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-way-as-nations-endorse-landmark-pledge-to-make-coronavirus-vaccines-and-treatments-available-to-all
A4	Furloughed workers to receive full parental leave entitlement based on pay from usual earnings not their furloughed pay rate. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/furloughed-workers-to-receive-full-parental-leave-entitlement
A5	Joint statement of agreement between the UK, France and Ireland to keep trade routes open. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/freight-transport-in-the-context-of-covid-19-joint-statement-by-the-united-kingdom-france-and-ireland
A6	Speech by Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, at 5pm daily ministerial media briefing https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/secretary-of-state-for-transport-delivers-daily-coronavirus-update-24-april-2020
A7	Presentation slides and datasets used to support the ministerial media briefing on Friday 24 th April 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conference-24-april-2020
A8	UK statistics: 19,506 dead (+684) 143,464 tested positive (+5,386) https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public
A9	UK government COVID-19 data tracker https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/
A10	Office for National Statistics (ONS): Analysis of COVID-19 data and its effect on the UK economy and society https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditionsanddiseases



B. Key sources of government advice

Document	
B1	<p>Glossary of terms used in government guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control/glossary-of-terms</p>
B2	<p>Coronavirus: action plan – A guide to what you can expect across the UK https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/869827/Coronavirus_action_plan_-_a_guide_to_what_you_can_expect_across_the_UK.pdf</p>
B3	<p>World Health Organisation https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019</p>
B4	<p>NHS health advice for everyone https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/</p>
B5	<p>Mental health helplines https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/</p>
B6	<p>Essential travel guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-essential-travel-guidance</p>
B7	<p>Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK and for vulnerable people https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/</p>
B8	<p>Collection of guidance for schools and other educational settings https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings</p>
B9	<p>Guidance for schools and local authorities on maintaining educational provision https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/</p>
B10	<p>Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE): COVID-19 guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-for-emergencies-sage-coronavirus-covid-19-response</p>
B11	<p>Guidance for employees, employers and businesses https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19</p>
B12	<p>Measures to protect people at higher risk from Coronavirus https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/</p>



B13	<p>Guidance on home care provision</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-home-care-provision</p>
B14	<p>Guidance on vulnerable children and young people</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-vulnerable-children-and-young-people/</p>
B15	<p>Guidance on temporary closure of schools in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing</p>
B16	<p>Stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance</p>
B17	<p>Guidance for parents and carers - supporting children & young people's mental health</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/</p>
B18	<p>Coronavirus Act 2020</p> <p>http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/pdfs/ukpga_20200007_en.pdf</p>
B19	<p>Guidance on cyber security and home working</p> <p>https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working</p>
B20	<p>Compliance advice for businesses and other venues directed to close</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/business-and-other-venues-subject-to-further-social-distancing-measures/s</p>
B21	<p>Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) : Collection of Guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mhra-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19</p>
B22	<p>Easy-read guide on protecting extremely vulnerable people – also known as 'shielding'</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875126/Easy_read_guidance_on_shielding_March_2020.pdf</p>
B23	<p>Guidance for UK businesses trading internationally</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses-trading-internationally</p>
B24	<p>How to help safely: guidance</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely--2/coronavirus-how-to-help-safely</p>
B25	<p>How to help safely: easy-read guide</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879411/how-to-help-safely-easy-read-lo-res_v3.pdf</p>
B26	<p>Collection of guidance for healthcare professionals and others</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/wuhan-novel-coronavirus</p>



B27	<p>Guidance for closing certain businesses – as at 27 March 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876535/270320 Revised Guidance.pdf</p>
B28	<p>Guidance for local authorities for controlling fraud during COVID-19 emergency</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875844/Fraud-Control-in-Emergency-Management-COVID-19-UK-Government-Guidance.pdf</p>
B29	<p>Financial help for the self-employed</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals</p>
B30	<p>How to check if you're covered under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/check-if-you-could-be-covered-by-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme</p>
B31	<p>How employers can claim wages through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme</p>
B32	<p>New interim safeguarding guidance for schools, colleges and other premises in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-safeguarding-in-schools-colleges-and-other-providers/</p>
B33	<p>Non-statutory renting guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities?</p>
B34	<p>Online support and practical guidance for those suffering with mental health issues</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/</p>
B35	<p>Small Business Grant Fund & Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund – Version 3</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876893/small-business-grant-fund-retail-guidance-vers-3.pdf</p>
B36	<p>Easy-read guide: looking after your feelings and body</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876989/Easy read looking after your feelings and body.pdf</p>
B37	<p>Easy-read guide: staying at home</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876715/</p>
B38	<p>Easy-read guide: keeping away from other people</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876699/COVID-19 Keeping away from other people 20200328.pdf</p>



B39	<p>Guidance for parents & carers on looking after mental health & wellbeing of children</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/</p>
B40	<p>Construction site operating procedures – version 3 (updated 14 April 2020)</p> <p>https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Site-Operating-Procedures-Version-3.pdf</p>
B41	<p>Changes to the Care Act 2014 allowing local authorities to prioritise care and support</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities</p>
B42	<p>Guidance for care of the deceased – for health professionals and other organisations</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-care-of-the-deceased/</p>
B43	<p>Guidance for local authorities for implementing grant funds – version 3</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877286/small-business-grant-fund-and-retail-guidance-v3.pdf</p>
B44	<p>Collection of guidance for schools and other educational settings</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings</p>
B45	<p>Guidance for businesses on grant funding schemes: Version 2 – 3rd April 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878082/pdf</p>
B46	<p>Business Support – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)</p> <p>https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/faqs/</p>
B47	<p>Expanded retail discount 2020-2021: guidance to local authorities at 2 April 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877758/Expanded_Retail_Discount_Guidance_02.04.20.pdf</p>
B48	<p>Grant funding allocations by local authority in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-business-support-grant-funding?</p>
B49	<p>Admission and care of people in care homes: Version 1 -2nd April 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877797/covid-19-care-homes-guidance.pdf</p>
B50	<p>Guidance on maintaining further education</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision/</p>
B51	<p>Guidance for head teachers on awarding qualifications in summer 2020</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878848/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_heads_of_centres.pdf</p>



B52	Guidance for local authorities to support and protect vulnerable children https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-childrens-social-care-services/
B53	Coronavirus Status Checker - Online Survey https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-status-checker
B54	Guidance for teachers, students, parents and carers on educational grades in 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878869/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_UPDATED_09APR2020.pdf
B55	Summer 2020 results for vocational, technical and other qualifications https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879019/Summer_2020_results_for_vocational_technical_and_other_qualifications.pdf
B56	Free school meals guidance https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance/
B57	Government plans for scaling up testing programmes – issued 3rd April 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878121/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-strategy.pdf
B58	Management of exposed healthcare workers and patients in hospitals https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/
B59	Call for evidence by parliamentary Women & Equalities Committee: ends 30 April 2020 https://committees.parliament.uk/work/227/coronavirus-and-the-impact-on-people-with-protected-characteristics/
B60	Safety guidance for towpaths and waterways from the Canal and River Trust https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/safety-on-our-waterways/coronavirus
B61	Postponement of elections https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878332/Coronavirus_COVID-19_-_letter_to_councils_about_local_authority_meetings_and_postponement_of_elections.pdf
B62	Procurement policy guidance to public bodies on payment of their suppliers https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0220-supplier-relief-due-to-covid-19
B63	Guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessors https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response/



B64	Recruitment for Healthcare Support Workers at London NHS Nightingale Hospital https://www.nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk/en/Nightingale/Nightingale/Nightingale-London
B65	Funding to support schools with exceptional costs https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-financial-support-for-schools/
B66	Guidance to local authorities in England on prioritising waste collections https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-to-local-authorities-on-prioritising-waste-collections/
B67	Guidance for those who provide unpaid care to family and friends https://www.gov.uk/government/
B68	Prime Minister's letter to the nation https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876876/CCS155_CCS0320349160-003_PM_letter_to_nation_on_coronavirus_Accessible.pdf
B69	Coronavirus public information leaflet accompanying Prime Minister's letter https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877678/coronavirus-leaflet.pdf
B70	Coronavirus easy-read public information leaflet https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879412/coronavirus-leaflet-easy-read.pdf
B71	Increase to Working Tax Credits with effect from 6th April 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increase-to-working-tax-credits-what-this-means
B72	Hospital discharge service requirements https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874213/COVID-19_hospital_discharge_service_requirements.pdf
B73	Infection control stepdown precautions when discharging from hospital to home https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-stepdown-of-infection-control-precautions-within-hospitals-and-discharging-covid-19-patients-from-hospital-to-home-settings/
B74	Guidance for health and social care staff caring for people lacking mental capacity https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878910/Emergency_MCA_DoLS_Guidance_COVID19.pdf
B75	Guidance for organisations with laboratory testing capability https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879087/Guidance_for_Laboratories_offering_support_for_COVID-19_testing_for_publication_2_.pdf



B76	Coronavirus Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Hub https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe
B77	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Plan https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879117/Coronavirus_COVID-19_-_personal_protective_equipment_PPE_plan.pdf
B78	Support for victims of domestic abuse announced by Home Secretary 11th April 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-outlines-support-for-domestic-abuse-victims
B79	'Silent Solution' system: contacting the police by mobile phone if you can't speak https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/research-learning/Silent_solution_guide.pdf
B80	UK financial assistance to help reduce mass infections in developing countries https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-fight-to-prevent-second-wave-of-coronavirus
B81	UK Government COVID-19 data tracker https://obr.uk/coronavirus-reference-scenario/
B82	Adult Social Care Action Plan (published 15th April 2020) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879639/covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan.pdf
B83	Ofqual consultation for 2020 exam grading: online response closes 29th April 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-exam-grading-and-assessment-in-2020
B84	Government data sources and methodology for gathering transport use data https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-transport-data-methodology-note/
B85	Guidance for local authorities on implementing the £500 million hardship fund https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879764/32020
B86	Guidance for consumers on how to maintain food hygiene https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-consumers-on-coronavirus-covid-19-and-food/
B87	Guidance on COVID-19 testing for frontline workers who are self-isolating https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested
B88	Step-by-step guidance for employers: how to claim under Job Retention Scheme https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880092/Coronavirus_Job_Retention_Scheme_step_by_step_guide_for_employers.pdf



B89	Directions to councils in England to allow family members to attend funerals https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880093/Letter from Minister Simon Clarke.pdf
B90	Statutory guidance to local authorities in England on local death management https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880047/Schedule 28 local death management guidance.pdf
B91	Guidance for managing a funeral during the pandemic https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-managing-a-funeral-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/
B92	Information leaflet for the bereaved https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880807/Bereavement-Leaflet-digital.pdf
B93	Guidance for special schools managing children with complex needs (SEND) https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-send-risk-assessment-guidance/
B94	Launch of Oak National Academy – an online teaching resource for teachers https://www.thenational.academy/
B95	BBC Bitesize: Online support for students in primary and secondary schools https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
B96	Financial support for businesses: Headline terms for ‘Future Fund’ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880119/Convertible Loan Key Terms - Final Version .pdf
B97	Online support tool for employers and the self-employed https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder
B98	Grant payments made to businesses by local authority area as at 20th April 2020 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880286/200420_local_authority_grant_payments.csv/preview
B99	PPE export controls on UK companies trading internationally https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-uk-businesses/
B100	Collection of guidance for those involved in managing deaths https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-those-involved-in-managing-covid-19-deaths/
B101	Guidance from the DVSA to driver and rider trainers in England, Scotland and Wales https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-letter-from-dvsa-chief-executive-to-driver-and-rider-trainers
B102	Testing arrangements for essential workers in England with COVID-19 symptoms https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#arrange-a-test



B103	Booking tests: User guide for essential workers in England with COVID-19 symptoms https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/881043/covid-19-testing-self-referral-portal-user-guide.pdf
------	---

C. Commentary

The government's daily media briefing at 5pm was led by the Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, who described a range of arrangements to safeguard the flow of essential goods into – and across – the UK. This included a trilateral agreement with France and Ireland to keep freight routes open during the pandemic. He explained about a package of financial measures designed to support the transport sector, and the setting up of a Transport Support Unit to coordinate transport arrangements across air, sea and land. He also announced a trial of drones delivering medical supplies to St Mary's NHS Hospital on the Isle of Wight.

The government issued clarification on taxation arrangements related to the two grants allocated under the COVID-19 business support measures. Grant income received by a business is taxable therefore the Small Business Grants, and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants **will** be subject to tax. However, only businesses which make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.

Ofqual has launched an open online consultation on awarding vocational and technical qualifications in summer 2020. The link to three consultation documents (which can be downloaded) and the online response portal are accessible at a weblink at A1. The consultation period runs from 24th April to 8th May 2020.