

DCMS Museums and Galleries Sector Coronavirus bulletin

7 September 2020

Museums & Cultural Property COVID-19 Response Mailbox
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1. Key updates

NEW [Kickstart Scheme: 02/09](#)

- £2bn fund to create high quality 6-month work placements aimed at those aged 16 to 24 who are on Universal Credit and are deemed to be at risk of long term unemployment.
- Funding will cover 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week, plus employer NI contributions and employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions.

[Cultural Recovery Fund: Repayable Finance: 14/08](#)

- Repayable finance applications **close 9 September**.

[Cultural Capital Kickstart Fund](#)

- The portal for existing ACE grant holders to apply **closes 10 September**.

[DCMS Coronavirus Impact Business Survey - Round 2](#)

- DCMS survey to understand the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on its stakeholders.
- The survey should take around 10-20 minutes. Your answer will remain anonymous and will be used to inform DCMS' preparedness efforts.
- The deadline for responses to the survey is 23:59 GMT on 8 September.

NEW [AHRC Capability for Collections Fund](#)

- The Capability for Collections Fund will support a series of targeted, capital investments to renew and upgrade research facilities within UK galleries, libraries, archives and museums, including university collections, focusing on conservation and heritage science facilities, digital capture equipment and specialist study spaces and reading rooms.
- It will fund two types of activity for collections-led research in eligible institutions:
 - refresh / upgrade of major facilities, costed at up to £3 million per bid
 - urgent replacement or upgrade of core equipment and instruments, including instrumentation for spectrometry, spectroscopy, digitisation and imaging, and conservation equipment, costed at £10,000-£1 million per bid.
- Closes for applications 13 October. Projects must be completed within this Financial Year.

2. Guidance for reopening

[Good practice guidance for reopening museums: updated 19/08](#)

- Guidance for the museums sector in England intended to help employers, employees and the self-employed, and volunteers understand how to work safely.

Devolved nations guidance:

- [Northern Ireland: Culture and Heritage Destinations Venues: Guidance for a phased return](#)
- [Wales: Culture and heritage destinations and venues: guidance for a phased return](#)
- [Scotland: guidance for museums, galleries and heritage attractions: 06/07](#)

[AIM and Museum Development checklist: 25/06](#)

- Step-by-step look at reopening considerations, in addition to and in support of the guidance

[Reopening timeline](#)

- NMDC has produced a timeline of possible stages of reopening.

[Face coverings: when to wear one and how to make your own: updated 27/08](#)

[Face coverings exemptions](#) and [Exemption cards or badges](#)

- Face coverings must be worn in museums and galleries in England
- Exemptions for those unable to do so. Some people may feel more comfortable showing something that says they do not have to wear a face covering. This is a personal choice, and is not necessary in law. Example exemption cards can be found [here](#).

[COVID-19 early outbreak management action cards: updated 28/08](#)

- Quick-reference guides to help you quickly identify, report and respond to any potential COVID-19 outbreak within your local community.

[Arts, Heritage and Cultural Venues action card](#)

- Download the zip folder, click on "Recreation & Leisure", and the action card is titled Arts, Heritage and Cultural Venues.

[VisitBritain "We're good to go" industry standard: 25/06](#)

- Apply for a free UK-wide industry standard and consumer mark to reassure your customers that your business adheres to Government and public health guidance.

[EMBED Reopening Recommendations Guidance](#)

- Created with the Disability Collaborative Network and the School of Health Sciences UEA.

International examples

- **Belgium** - Museums reopened from 19 May. Old Masters Museum [Covid-19 measures](#).
- **France** - Museums reopened from 2 June, and the Louvre on 6 July.
- **Germany** - Guidelines: [Museumsbund](#), [Brandenburg](#) museums association and [Saxony](#).
- **Ireland** - Museums reopening as part of phase 3 - 29 June with safety measures in place.
- **Italy** - Museums [reopened](#) from 18 May with [social distancing measures](#)
- **Netherlands** - [reopened](#) from 1 June. Dutch museums association reopening [protocol](#).
- **USA** - American Alliance of Museums: [information](#), [guidelines](#), [museum reopening plans](#).

[Artfund: museum and galleries reopenings: updated 19/08](#)

[Museums and galleries open in Scotland](#)

[UK cultural sector reopening v10](#)

- Visual representation of reopening of the cultural sector. Tweet by Ben Melham.

[Knowledge Quarter research](#)

- Research looking at changing visitor behaviour, with insights and read-across more widely.

Further information and guidance

- [Guidance for DCMS sectors](#)
- [Heritage locations guidance: updated 13/08](#)
- [The visitor economy guidance: updated 13/08](#)
- [Guidance on searching for archaeological finds in England: updated 09/07](#)
- [Guidance for shops and branches on reopening: updated 13/08](#)
- [Performing Arts guidance: updated 13/08](#)
- [Plans announced for London's Covid-19 recovery: 23/05](#)

3. Funding

[£1.57bn investment to protect Britain's cultural, arts and heritage institutions: 05/07](#)

The investment includes:

- £1.15bn for cultural organisations through grants and loans
- £100m of targeted support for national cultural institutions
- £120m capital investment to restart construction
- Dedicated new funding for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales

[Joint statement from NMDC, AIM and MA welcoming the funding: 06/07](#)

[Culture Recovery Fund details announced: 29/07](#)

- In first funding round £622m will be distributed:
 - [£500m via ACE](#) to museums & galleries, theatres, music & comedy orgs
 - **£92m** via National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England to heritage sites
 - **£30m** via BFI to independent cinemas
- Grants of up to £3m to protect cultural assets and ensure arts and heritage continue to play a key role in levelling up the country.

Guidance and criteria for applicants

[Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage](#)

- Jointly administered by [Historic England](#) and the [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

[British Film Institute: Culture Recovery Fund for independent cinemas](#)

- £30m for the Culture Recovery Fund for Independent Cinemas in England.
- Open for applications from Monday 3 August to Friday 30 October.

[Cultural Recovery Fund: Repayable Finance: 14/08](#)

- The Arts Council England published guidance for the £270m Repayable Finance Scheme.
- Available for the largest cultural organisations who require more than the maximum £3m available through the Cultural Recovery Fund grant package.
- Generous loan terms including:
 - a payment term of up to 20 years;
 - an initial repayment holiday of up to four years; and
 - a 2% interest rate per annum.
- Organisations will be able to use the loan to cover costs up to 31 March 2022 if necessary.
- Loans will be prioritised for organisations that are of local, regional and national importance, and where they play a key role in levelling up their local communities.
- Applications close **11 September**.

Capital Funding: 14/08

Delivered through Historic England, Arts Council England, and National Heritage Memorial Fund.

£55m Heritage Stimulus Funds

- To restart construction projects and help maintain heritage visitor attractions in England.
- Historic England [guidance](#) for their Grants for Programmes of Major Works. Up to £34m aimed at organisations that have significant groupings of nationally important historic sites.
- Grants between £1m and £10m in size.
- Applications open 14 August. Funding expected to flow to organisations in early October.
- A further £16m has been added to existing Historic England capital grant schemes.

[Cultural Capital Kickstart Fund](#)

- For existing ACE capital grant holders whose projects have been delayed or are facing increased costs due to Covid-19. The portal for applications closes on 10 September.

Heritage Capital Kickstart Fund

- Run by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, it will support up to 30 heritage projects that have been paused, delayed or are at risk due to Covid-19.

England

[Arts Council England Covid-19 support](#)

- ACE are making £160 million of emergency funding available.

[ACE National Lottery Project Grants open for applications](#)

- £59.8m available for independent organisations, creative practitioners and freelancers.

[National Lottery Heritage Fund information: updated 26/08](#)

[Funding for councils to address coronavirus pressures and cover lost income: 02/07](#)

[Local government income compensation scheme guidance](#)

- Scheme to compensate councils in England for losses from museums and cultural assets
- All relevant losses, over and above the first 5% of planned income from sales, fees and charges, will be compensated for at a rate of 75p in every pound.

Northern Ireland

[Northern Ireland Creative Support Fund: updated 03/09](#)

[£4 million lifeline for the arts in Northern Ireland: 01/07](#)

- £4m fund for arts organisations, freelance artists, creative practitioners and performers.

Wales

[Welsh government's £53m Cultural Recovery Fund](#)

- Eligibility checker launched. Organisations in the culture and heritage sector can find out if they are eligible to apply for financial support. Fund consists of:
 - £18.5m for accredited museums and archive services; music venues and studios; heritage organisations and historic attractions; libraries; events and their technical support suppliers; independent cinemas and the publishing sector.
 - £7 million fund for freelancers to support individuals in the sector
 - [£27.5m fund administered by the Arts Council of Wales](#) for galleries; theatres, arts centres and concert halls; organisations producing and touring arts activity; and organisations providing participatory arts activity.

[Welsh government £18m support package for culture, creative and sport sector: 01/04](#)

- £7m [Arts Council of Wales](#) Arts Resilience Fund to support artists and arts organisations.
- £1m Cultural Resilience Fund for museums, archives and community and public libraries.
- £750k Emergency Relief Fund for independent sport, museum and heritage organisations.

Scotland

[Museums Galleries Scotland Coronavirus Guidance for Museums](#)

[Museums Galleries Scotland funding overview: 06/04](#)

- [Urgent Response COVID-19 Fund](#) - for independent accredited museums up to £60,000 to cover up to 3 months of core costs.
- [COVID-19 Adaptation Fund](#) - up to £7,500 (£10,000 for partnerships) to purchase equipment and training that will enable them to reopen safely
- [£4 Million Announced to Support Independent Museums and Galleries: 25/07](#)
Will support Accredited and non-Accredited independent museums.

Creative Scotland support:

- [£7.5m Open Fund: Sustaining Creative Development](#): to support creative practitioners to develop work for up to 12 months with a maximum award of £50,000.
- [£10m lifeline support for Performing Arts Venues in Scotland: 03/07](#)

[Third Sector Resilience £20m Fund \(TSRF\): updated 27/07](#)

- For charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations.

Other funding sources

- [Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund covid response](#)
- [Art Fund: Respond and reimagine grants: 16/06](#)
- [Paul Hamlyn Foundation Contingency Fund: updated 28/05](#)
- [Wolfson Foundation £10m Covid-19 Support Fund: 10/07](#)
- [Museum Freelance Covid-19 Hardship Fund](#)

4. Government strategy

[Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy: updated 24/07](#)

- Working from home guidelines left to discretion of individual employers and employees
- Public transport use no longer advised against but alternatives encouraged where possible
- From October, conferences and other business events allowed to recommence
- Review of outstanding restrictions and allow more significant return to normality from November at the earliest.

All progress is subject to the virus remaining suppressed at or below current levels.

Devolved nations approaches:

- [Scotland route map: 21/05](#)
- [Wales roadmap: 15/05](#)
- [Northern Ireland approach: 12/05](#)

[Government announces roadmap taskforces: 13/05](#)

[Culture Secretary announces Cultural Renewal Taskforce: 20/05](#)

[Museums and Galleries working group members announced: 04/06](#)

5. Business support

[Plan for jobs: 08/07 and Press release](#)

The Chancellor announced a series of measures to support, protect and create jobs, including:

[Temporary VAT cut for accommodation and attractions](#)

- From 15 July to 12 January 2021 the reduced (5%) rate of VAT will apply to supplies of accommodation and admission to attractions across the UK, including museums.

[Job Retention Bonus: 31/07](#)

- £1,000 one-off payment to employers for every furloughed employee who remains continuously employed through to the end of January 2021. Full guidance will be published by the end of September.

[Temporary VAT cut for food and non-alcoholic drinks](#)

- The reduced (5%) rate of VAT will apply to supplies of food and non-alcoholic drinks from restaurants, pubs, bars, cafés and similar premises from 15 July to 12 January 2021

[Eat Out to Help Out](#)

- The scheme is now closed. You must claim before 30 September.

[Business support homepage](#)

- [Financial support for businesses: updated 09/07](#)
- [Find coronavirus financial support for your business self-checker](#)
- [Business support website](#)
- [Business support helpline](#)

Support schemes for businesses

Loans

- [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CBILS\)](#) - loans of up to £5 million
- [Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CLBILS\)](#) - loans of up to £25m.
- [Bounce Back Loans Scheme: updated 04/05](#) - loans of £2,000 to £50,000 at 2.5% interest.

Grants and business rates

- [Small business grants; and retail, hospitality and leisure grants guidance: updated 07/08](#)
- [Apply for the coronavirus Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund: updated 08/06](#)
- [Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund guidance version 3: August 2020](#)
- [Business rates: expanded retail discount: updated 02/04](#)
- [£20m to help small businesses recover: 30/07](#)

Further support and guidance

Finance and procurement

- [Filing charity annual returns during the coronavirus pandemic: 16/03](#)
- [Companies to receive 3-month extension period to file accounts during COVID-19: 25/03](#)
- [Insolvency law: help companies trading while exploring options for rescue: updated 14/05](#)
- [Companies House support for businesses hit by COVID-19: 16/04](#)
- [Tax helpline to help businesses affected by coronavirus: updated 26/03](#) - 0800 024 1222
- [Procurement policy note 02/20: Supplier relief due to Covid-19: updated 25/06](#)
- [Procurement Policy Note 04/20: Recovery and Transition from COVID-19: updated 25/06](#)
- [Government to support businesses through Trade Credit Insurance guarantee: 13/05](#)
- [Pay no Customs Duty and VAT on importing museum and gallery exhibits: 27/05](#)

Construction

- [Construction Leadership Council: site operating procedures v3: 15/04](#)
- [Procurement policy note 02/20: Guidance notes for construction contracts: 06/04](#)
- [Responsible contractual behaviour guidance: 07/05](#)
- [Construction Leadership council guidance: 07/05](#)

Staffing

- [Rules on carrying over annual leave to be relaxed: 27/03](#)
- [Holiday entitlement and pay during coronavirus: 13/05](#)
- [Claim back Statutory Sick Pay paid to your employees due to coronavirus: updated 29/05](#)

Other

- [Processing ticket refunds for cancelled charity events: 16/04](#)
- [Reporting serious incidents to the Charity Commission during the pandemic: 03/06](#)
- [Advice on staying secure during COVID-19: 10/06](#)
- [Code of practice for the commercial property sector: 19/06](#)
- [Apply for a moratorium under the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act: 26/06](#)

[Help and support if your business is affected by coronavirus: videos and webinars](#)

- how to make your workplace COVID-secure: [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for international trade: [register here](#) or [watch recorded sessions](#)
- for small businesses and changes to reporting, regulation and tax: [recorded sessions](#)

Support across the UK

- Information for individuals and businesses in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#)

National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) guidance on secure home working

- [Moving your business from the physical to the digital](#)
- [Home working guidance](#)
- [Training for staff](#)

6. Employee support

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

- [Guidance for employers: updated 28/08](#)
- [Guidance for employees: updated 07/08](#)
- [Fact sheet](#)
- [Step by step guide for employers: updated 01/09](#)
- [Guidance for research organisations: 05/06](#)
- [Template: claiming for 100 or more employees through Job Retention Scheme: 19/06](#)
- [Job Retention Bonus: 31/07](#)

Full guidance will be published by the end of September.

- **June and July**
 - Government pays 80% of wages up to £2,500, employer NI, pension contributions.
- **August**
 - The government pays 80% of wages up to £2,500, employers pay ER NICs and pension contributions. For the average claim, this represents 5% of gross costs.
- **September**
 - The government will pay 70% of wages up to a cap of £2,187.50.
 - Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 10% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500.
 - For the average claim, this represents 14% of the gross employment costs.
- **October**
 - The government will pay 60% of wages up to a cap of £1,875.
 - Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 20% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500.
 - For the average claim, this represents 23% of the gross employment costs.

Self-employment Income Support Scheme: updated 17/08

- [Self-Employment Support Scheme extension: 29/05](#)
- [Online eligibility checker tool](#)
- Applications for the second grant open in August. Individuals will be able to claim a second taxable grant worth 70% of their average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering three months' worth of profits, and capped at £6,570 in total.

7. Health guidance

Coronavirus: collected guidance: updated 13/08

Latest government guidance for health professionals and other organisations.

- [Staying alert and safe \(social distancing\): updated 13/08](#)
- [Staying safe outside your home: updated 24/06](#)
- [Working safely during coronavirus: updated 13/08](#)
- [Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do: updated 26/08](#)
- [Meeting people from outside your household: updated 14/08](#)
- [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection: updated 03/09](#)
- [Guidance for contacts of people with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection who do not live with the person: updated 04/09](#)
- [Review of 2m social distancing guidance and summary of review findings: updated 26/06](#)
- [Meeting people from outside your household from 4 July: updated 02/09](#)
- [North of England: local restrictions – what you can and cannot do: updated 04/09](#)

NHS Test and Trace service: 27/05

- [NHS test and trace: how it works: updated 27/08](#)
- [NHS test and trace service in the workplace: updated 22/07](#)
- [Maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors to support NHS Test & Trace 02/07](#)
- [Privacy notice for maintaining records of staff, customers and visitors: 03/07](#)
- [NHS Test and Trace customer logging toolkit: 21/08](#)
- Assist NHS Test and Trace by keeping a temporary record of your customers and visitors for 21 days. Further information [here](#), including FAQs and a toolkit for business.

Scotland: Test and protect, multi-sector guidance: 14/07

- Guidance to support customer and visitor data gathering for businesses and other establishments to assist contact tracing as part of NHS Scotland's Test and Protect system.

8. Sector support and information

- [Association of Independent Museums guidance](#)
- [Museums Association: collected resource page](#)

Cultural objects licences: new temporary procedure: updated 27/05

- Arts Council England's Export Licensing Unit temporary export licences procedure.

New planning rules to protect cultural heritage: 12/07

Museums In Quarantine: 22/04 - [Four behind the scenes programmes](#) available on BBC iPlayer

Culture Diary: cultural activities to watch at home

Boundless Creativity

AHRC's Boundless Creativity (Boundless) programme includes:

- **Audiences of the Future:** £33m innovation programme to fund creative R&D using augmented and virtual reality. Projects have been [reimagined and redeveloped for audiences at home](#), in the UK and internationally, with a focus on families and children.
- **Reimagining Wordsworth:** Hay Festival Digital will feature a series of live broadcasts, including two events to celebrate the 250th anniversary of William Wordsworth.
- **Arts and Humanities in Quarantine (AHRC/BBC):** short animated films presenting some of the wealth of ground-breaking arts and humanities research currently funded by AHRC.
- **Towards a National Collection:** explores the nexus between collections, digital, research and public access. #collectionsunited will bring together objects from across UK collections.

Museums of Boundless Creativity

- The AHRC digital Museum of Boundless Creativity will open this September.

9. Key information sources

Check regularly for updates

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): UK government response](#)
[Sign up for email alerts](#)
- [Public Health England](#) twitter [Public Health England](#)
- [NHS guidance](#) twitter [NHS England](#)
- [Department of Health](#)
- [UK Prime Minister](#)
- [FCO Travel advice](#)