



Our ref / Ein cyf: KS/368/20

29 October 2020

Dear Members of the Senedd,

As you will be aware phase 3 of the Economic Resilience Fund (ERF) opened for applications yesterday. Phase 3 of the ERF makes available almost £300m for businesses to help them deal with the economic challenges of Covid-19 and the UK's impending exit from the EU transition period.

This enhanced, third phase of the ERF provides Business Development Grants to help businesses sustain and prepare themselves for the longer term, including ring-fenced support for tourism and hospitality businesses. The package also provides support, linked to the non-domestic rates (NDR) system, for businesses directly affected by the firebreak as well as those subject to local restrictions previously in place in some areas. In addition there is a Lockdown Discretionary Grant for businesses.

The demand for the Business Development Grants has been exceptional, and at the point of writing, over 5,000 applications have been received. Consequently, from 6pm this evening, the fund will be paused to allow an assessment of applications made against fund value.

Please also note that while some businesses will have properties that are automatically eligible for an NDR grant, to receive any of the Lockdown Business Grants, businesses will need to register their details, as well as make a short on-line application to their respective local authority for the discretionary elements. Registration and application can be accessed by visiting the relevant local authority website, or via the Business Wales website at the below links.

Business can apply for the ERF Business Development Grants via the eligibility checker here: <https://fundchecker.businesswales.gov.wales/erfphase3>

The Lockdown Business Fund can be accessed here:
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/lockdown-business-fund>

In addition, the wider Covid-19 support package and advice can be accessed here:
<https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/>

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The measures we have taken are in addition to those provided by the UK Government, making the support package in Wales the most comprehensive and generous in the UK.

I am also grateful to local authority Leaders and colleagues right across Wales for their hard work in helping us deliver these crucially important grants to businesses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke above the letters.

Ken Skates AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Economi, Trafnidiaeth a Gogledd Cymru
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales