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| [Government grant funding for qualifying Island business ratepayers](https://iow-newsroom.prgloo.com/news/government-grant-funding-for-qualifying-island-business-ratepayers) |
| The Isle of Wight Council can confirm it is now in receipt of government grant support amounting to £62.8 million to help qualifying Island business ratepayers during the coronavirus crisis.The council is preparing to make payments to those eligible businesses as swiftly as it is able. It is envisaged this will begin from next week – but is very much dependent on businesses checking if they are eligible and then providing their relevant details to ensure direct payment.This can be done via a form on the council’s website, accessed via [www.iow.gov.uk/covid19\_businessadvice](http://www.iow.gov.uk/covid19_businessadvice) , which also gives details of eligibility criteria.To date, more than 1,730 Island business ratepayers have completed the form since it went online nearly two weeks ago.The grant payments are for eligible business ratepayers in specific categories:* Small business grant funding of £10,000 for all eligible business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief.
* Grant funding of £10,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value of £15,000 and under.
* Grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value of more than £15,000 and less than £51,000.

Council leader, Councillor Dave Stewart, said: “It is excellent news that this much needed funding has now been received from the government, and we are working urgently to get the payments made as soon as we are able. We fully appreciate the severe pressures many businesses are under at this time.“It is essential we have the latest up to date details to achieve direct and swift payment for each business, so I would urge those businesses who believe they qualify to complete the form on our website. Thank you to the many who have already done so.“Our staff are working incredibly hard to process these details and payments on your behalf, so please remain patient while this takes place over the coming days.“We understand how important these funds are to your business and It is our priority to get payment to you as quickly as we can.“Meanwhile, we will continue to update details of all areas of government support for businesses, employers, employees and the self-employed via our website at [www.iow.gov.uk/covid19\_businessadvice](http://www.iow.gov.uk/covid19_businessadvice).“We remain committed and determined to ensuring all those who qualify will this receive vital support at this very difficult time.” |
| [Services still available for victims of domestic violence](https://iow-newsroom.prgloo.com/news/services-still-available-for-victims-of-domestic-violence) |
| Neighbours are being urged to "look out for each other" and spot signs of domestic abuse during the coronavirus lockdown (Covid-19).The Isle of Wight Council is also reassuring residents that services on the Island are continuing to provide support online and over the telephone to those in need.While the advice is to stay at home, anyone who is at risk of, or is experiencing domestic abuse, is still able to leave and seek refuge.Refuges remain open, and the police and services will provide support to all individuals who are being abused — whether physically, emotionally or otherwise.Teresa Brimble-Brennan, the council's domestic abuse project officer, said: "We know that Covid-19 will have a serious impact on the lives of women, men and children who are experiencing domestic abuse."Health concerns, financial pressures, school closures and being isolated from our support networks are likely to result in an increase in domestic abuse incidents."If you're already living with domestic abuse, then the restrictions put in place while the government tries to slow the spread of the virus have probably left you fearful of being isolated in the house with your abuser."You may not be able to see the friends and family who usually support you, and some of the places where you go for help or treatment may be closed or offering a reduced service."Please remember that you can still call 999 if you or someone else is in danger."An estimated 1.6 million women and 786,000 men experienced domestic abuse in England and Wales in 2018/2019, according to the Office for National Statistics.And in 2018, 173 people were killed in domestic violence-related homicides, according to data obtained by the BBC from 43 police forces across the UK.The government has acknowledged the measures to tackle the spread of Covid-19 can cause anxiety but said domestic violence was unacceptable in any situation.Council leader, Councillor Dave Stewart, said: "Tackling domestic abuse is an issue we take extremely seriously and are all too aware that vulnerable people may be affected due to the impact of the Covid-19 response."Together with the cooperation of other public services, we particularly urge people to look out for neighbours they either see or hear showing any signs of domestic abuse — either physical or behavioural — at this worrying time."This could include bruises, regular shouting, arguments or signs of controlling behaviour."For more information on the Island’s domestic abuse support services visit <https://tinyurl.com/iowdaservices>Where to get help:**You First,** the Island's domestic violence and abuse support provider, has contingency plans in place to keep its services running throughout the crisis and welcome contact from anyone experiencing abuse who may need support. Call them on 0800 234 6266 or email: youfirstiow@theyoutrust.org.uk**The Hampton Trust** team are aware of the increased risks for victims who are isolated with perpetrators. If you wish to speak to someone directly regarding any assistance with perpetrators, dial 02380 009898 where a dedicated staff member will be available to take your call. Alternatively, call their front door services on 0800 234 6266 or via email: isva@hamptontrust.org.uk.**WightDash** are working remotely and continuing to provide a service via telephone. The normal timetable for WOW has been temporarily suspended. Their landlines, (01983) 825981 and (01983) 300423), will be diverted out when the centre is not staffed so that messages can be left and will be responded to as soon as possible.If you're a child or young person and domestic abuse is happening in your home or relationship, then call **Childline** on 0800 11 11.If you or someone else is in immediate danger or at serious risk of harm, you are advised to call the police on 999. If it is not safe to speak #MakeYourselfHeard |