



UK Government
Delivering support for Scottish business



UK GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS IN SCOTLAND

The impact of COVID-19 on businesses in the UK has been profound.

Financial and advisory support provided by the UK Government helped employers and employees weather the worst of the storm but, with calmer waters and brighter skies ahead, now is the time to invest in our future and foster a more resilient, agile business base.

We can build back better — and the UK Government will be there to help firms across Scotland as we do.

The UK Government has compiled this practical resource to help businesses in Scotland understand and navigate the wide range of support available. Throughout the document, links will provide further information and take you directly to application processes online.

[Click here](#) to see what support is available for you and your business.



RECOVERY & RENEWAL

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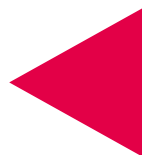
British Business Bank

UK Points-Based Immigration System

The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest challenge humanity has faced collectively in decades. Lives and livelihoods have been devastated, with many of us tragically losing loved ones. People are worried about their health, their families, and their finances. The pandemic continues to impact communities in ways that could not have been previously imagined.

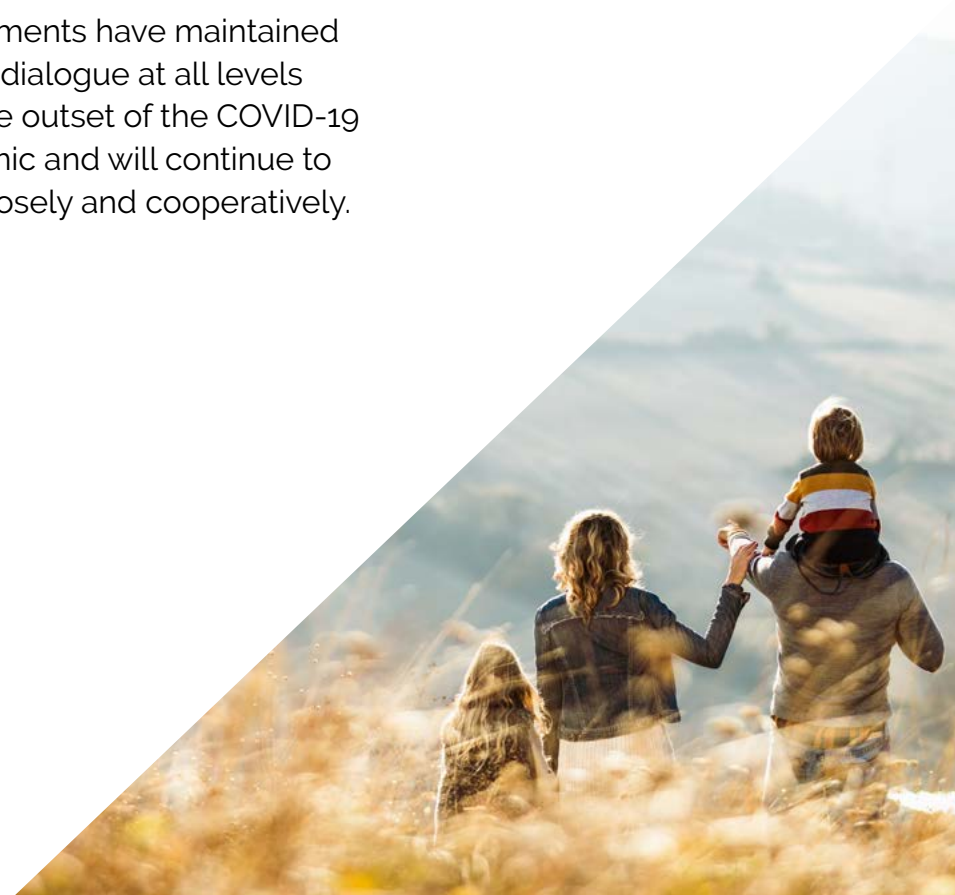
The UK Government has been clear that a UK-wide approach is necessary to respond to the

COVID-19 pandemic. This has seen coordinated action which respected devolution settlements, as well as the ability of the Devolved Administrations to make decisions about devolved matters, including those relating to public health. The UK and Scottish Governments have maintained regular dialogue at all levels from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to work closely and cooperatively.



You can use the menu on the left to navigate this document.

Click [blue text](#) to access more information online



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The UK Government is now looking beyond the immediate support measures that sustained the entirety of the UK, including Scotland, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UK Government put an unprecedented economic package in place, providing businesses and individuals with support and certainty over the course of the pandemic, spending hundreds of billions to support people's jobs, businesses, and public services across the UK.

However, COVID-19 and the restrictions put in place to stop the spread of the virus caused the largest fall in annual GDP in 300 years.

We are well placed to confront these challenges, rebounding to build back better. The UK is one of the world's largest economies, open and dynamic, with strong institutions and world-class universities.

Our plan to build back better takes a transformational approach, tackling long-term problems to deliver growth that creates high-quality jobs across the UK.

We will retain our focus on achieving the people's priorities: levelling up the whole of the UK, supporting our transition to net zero, and supporting our vision for Global Britain. In addition, the new [Help to Grow programme](#) will help small and medium-sized businesses across the UK to learn new skills, reach new customers and boost profits.

Two Help to Grow programmes are scheduled to launch in June 2021.

continued ►

£4.8bn

The Levelling Up Fund will enable Scottish communities to invest in town centres, high streets, local transport and cultural assets





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HELP TO GROW: MANAGEMENT

An Executive Development programme to help you improve business performance and growth potential.

▶ [Express your interest in Help to Grow: Management](#)

HELP TO GROW: DIGITAL

Free online advice and discounts on software to help you save time and cut costs.

▶ [Express your interest in Help to Grow: Digital](#)

The Treasury has provided unprecedented support for jobs and businesses across the UK in the face of COVID-19, including an unprecedented £8.6 billion upfront guarantee to the Scottish Government in the 2020-21 financial year, and a further £1.1 billion to be spent in either 2020-21 or 2021-22. In 2021-22, the Budget

confirmed the UK Government will provide over £3.6 billion through the Barnett formula, on top of existing funding of over £35 billion.

More than 90,000 businesses in Scotland have benefited from almost £3.5 billion in UK Government loans since the COVID-19 pandemic began. In addition, over 750,000 jobs in Scotland have been protected through the furlough scheme, and more than 431,000 grants have been paid to self-employed people in Scotland to the tune of over £1.193 billion.

We are now focusing on those actions that will progress the transition out of emergency business support measures and into funding to encourage long-term growth.

You can [watch videos and register for free webinars](#) to learn more about the support available to help you deal with the economic impacts of COVID-19.

An additional

£3.6bn

in UK Government funding will be allocated to Scotland in 2021-22

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The Prime Minister has unveiled a **10 Point Plan** for a Green Industrial Revolution. This plan sets out the approach the UK Government will take to build back better and support our transition to net zero.

The 10 Point Plan will mobilise £12 billion of government investment, and potentially three times as much from the private sector, to create and support up to 250,000 green jobs across the UK. Some of the Plan's stated ambitions are to:

Produce 40GW of offshore wind, including 1GW of floating offshore wind, by 2030.

Utilising future Contracts for Difference rounds, this could result in significant investment in Scotland, with the quantum known once the competitive process is completed. The £160 million allocated for ports and infrastructure upgrades to support the deployment of offshore wind will also benefit Scotland.

Generate 5GW of hydrogen by 2030.

This will likely be concentrated around existing industrial clusters, potentially benefiting areas like Grangemouth in Falkirk, Scotland. Complemented by a £240 million Net Zero Hydrogen Fund, this could see the UK benefit from around 8000 new jobs. The UK Government's hydrogen strategy will also set out the next steps to develop the hydrogen sector. Alongside, the UK Government will consult on hydrogen business models which will outline the basis of revenue support for the private sector.

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Capture 10Mt of carbon dioxide annually by 2030 in 4 industrial clusters, creating industrial 'SuperPlaces' in Scotland, Wales and northern England.

The cluster sequencing process will be undertaken in 2021.

The £1 billion Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) Infrastructure Fund will provide industry with the certainty required to deploy CCUS at pace and at scale.

It is anticipated that the extension of the Energy Company Obligation to 2026 will positively impact Scotland too. While the exact size of the scheme is still under consideration, the ambition is to install 600,000 heat pumps annually by 2028, benefiting existing heat pump manufacturers in Scotland.

£12bn

**of government
investment will be
mobilised as part of
the 10 Point Plan**





BUDGET 2021

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This year's Budget provides UK-wide support to help individuals, businesses and public services manage the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. Jobs and businesses in Scotland will continue to be supported through the extension of the furlough scheme and the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme, whilst the tourism and hospitality sectors will benefit from a VAT reduction and COVID-19 related income tax exemptions for employees.

Towns and communities across Scotland will be empowered to direct local investment into improving town centres, high streets, local transport and cultural assets through the £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund, the Community Ownership Fund, Community Renewal Fund, and through accelerated funding for the Ayrshire, Argyll and Bute, and Falkirk City and Growth Deals.

How Scottish businesses have been supported

780,000

jobs in Scotland were supported by the UK-wide furlough scheme at its peak

157,000

people in Scotland have been supported by the UK-wide Self-Employment Scheme, to the tune of **£1.13 billion**

PLAN FOR JOBS



The UK-wide Eat Out to Help Out scheme supported nearly **4,800** outlets in Scotland. **£42.9 million** was claimed back by participating vendors.

£3.4bn

has been loaned to support over **90,000** Scottish businesses as a result of UK Government initiatives

CORONAVIRUS JOB RETENTION SCHEME

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Employees on temporary leave (furlough) due to COVID-19

WHO IS IT FOR?

Anybody with a UK payroll can apply, including businesses, charities, recruitment agencies and public authorities.

HOW CAN I ACCESS IT?

Register for the next [live webinar](#) about the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.

This webinar gives an overview of:

- The extension of the scheme
- How employers will be affected
- Flexible furloughing
- Key dates
- Support available

THE OFFER

Anybody with a UK PAYE payroll scheme can apply, including businesses, charities, recruitment agencies and public authorities.

You can claim 80% of an employees usual salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month.

Employees will receive 80% of their usual salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended until the end of September 2021.

Before you apply, you will need to work out [how much you can claim](#) through the scheme.



780,000

jobs in Scotland were protected through the furlough scheme at its peak

SELF-EMPLOYMENT INCOME SUPPORT SCHEME (SEISS)

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WHO IS IT FOR?

If you're self-employed or a member of a partnership and have been impacted by COVID-19, you may be eligible to claim a SEISS grant.

HOW CAN I ACCESS IT?

431,000

grants have been paid
to self-employed people
in Scotland

THE OFFER

In the 2021 Budget, it was confirmed that the fourth SEISS grant will be available from late April 2021. It will be set at 80% of 3 months' average trading profits, paid out in a single instalment, up to £7,500. The fourth grant will take into account 2019/20 tax returns and be open to those who became self-employed in the 2019/20 tax year. The rest of the eligibility criteria remain unchanged.

Your eligibility for the scheme will now be based on your submitted 2019/20 tax return. This may also affect the amount of the fourth grant which could be higher or lower than previous grants you may have received.

A series of live webinars about claiming the fourth SEISS grant are planned. Bookings will open soon.

The UK Government has announced there will be a fifth and final grant covering May to September 2021.

You will be able to claim from late July if you are eligible for the fifth grant. Further details will be provided on the fifth grant in due course.

DWP KICKSTART

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The £2 billion Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) [Kickstart Scheme](#) puts young people at the heart of our economic recovery. The scheme provides funding to employers to create new job placements for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long-term unemployment.

For many young people, a lack of real-world work experience can be a barrier to the job market. The Kickstart Scheme will address this by helping young people to gain experience, build skills, and boost their career prospects. The scheme is intended to complement other schemes for young people.

The DWP is working closely with its counterparts in the Scottish Government to discuss how the Scottish Youth Guarantee offer will work alongside the Kickstart Scheme as their policy develops.

**The Kickstart Scheme
will help young people
to gain experience,
build skills, and boost
their career prospects.**

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DWP KICKSTART

WHO IS IT FOR?

Employers of all sizes. As of 3 February 2021, smaller organisations can apply directly without having to use a gateway organisation.

HOW CAN I ACCESS IT?

THE OFFER

Employers of all sizes can apply for funding which covers:

- 100% of the [National Minimum Wage](#) or [National Living Wage](#) (depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of 6 months
- Associated employer National Insurance contributions
- Employer minimum automatic enrolment contributions

Employers can spread the start date of the job placements up until the end of December 2021.

Further funding is available for training and support so that young people on the scheme can secure employment in the future.



EU TRANSITION

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Doing business with Europe has changed. UK businesses now need to follow new rules on exports, imports, tariffs, data and hiring when trading with firms in European Union (EU) member states.

Information for all types of businesses in Scotland can be found on gov.uk, including a Brexit checker which can generate a personalised list of actions for you, your business and your family.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Any organisation which:

- Trades with firms in the EU
- Employs people from EU countries

HOW CAN I ACCESS IT?

- ▶ [Brexit checker](#)
- ▶ [Webinars and videos for organisations that trade with the EU](#)

If you move goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

- ▶ [The Trader Support Service](#)



INNOVATE UK FUNDING

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Innovate UK is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Innovate UK supports innovative ideas and business growth through grant funding, loans or procurements.

Organisations can apply for a funding opportunity. Each opportunity has its own eligibility criteria and scope. Opportunities are available through the Innovation Funding Service, where you can find out more about funding opportunities and which ones may be right for you.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Any businesses that want to develop new products, services, and processes through innovation are eligible for funding from Innovate UK.

HOW DO I ACCESS IT?

✉ support@innovateuk.ukri.org

☎ 0300 321 4357

Phone lines are open from 9am to 11:30am and 2pm to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

THE OFFER

Throughout the year, Innovate UK offers various types of funding opportunities. [Click here to access a list of open or upcoming opportunities.](#)

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CASE STUDY

Global Open Finance Centre of Excellence

UKRI Strength in Places Fund investment: £23m

Lead: University of Edinburgh

Partners: The Financial Data and Technology Association (FDATA) Global and Fintech Scotland

The Global Open Finance Centre of Excellence (GOFCoE) will develop world-class technology and education to enhance financial services and deliver social and economic benefits. It will provide a trusted environment to address pressing societal challenges and research around Open Finance, aiming to rebalance markets in favour of consumers and deliver long-term research insights into public earning, spending and saving. It will draw on expertise from across Scotland's universities, financial services and financial technology sectors and will establish ethical standards, train new talent to expand the sector, and build local, national and international partnerships.

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The GOFCoE will deliver research around Open Finance, aiming to rebalance markets in favour of consumers



INNOVATE FUNDING

CASE STUDY:

The Living Laboratory

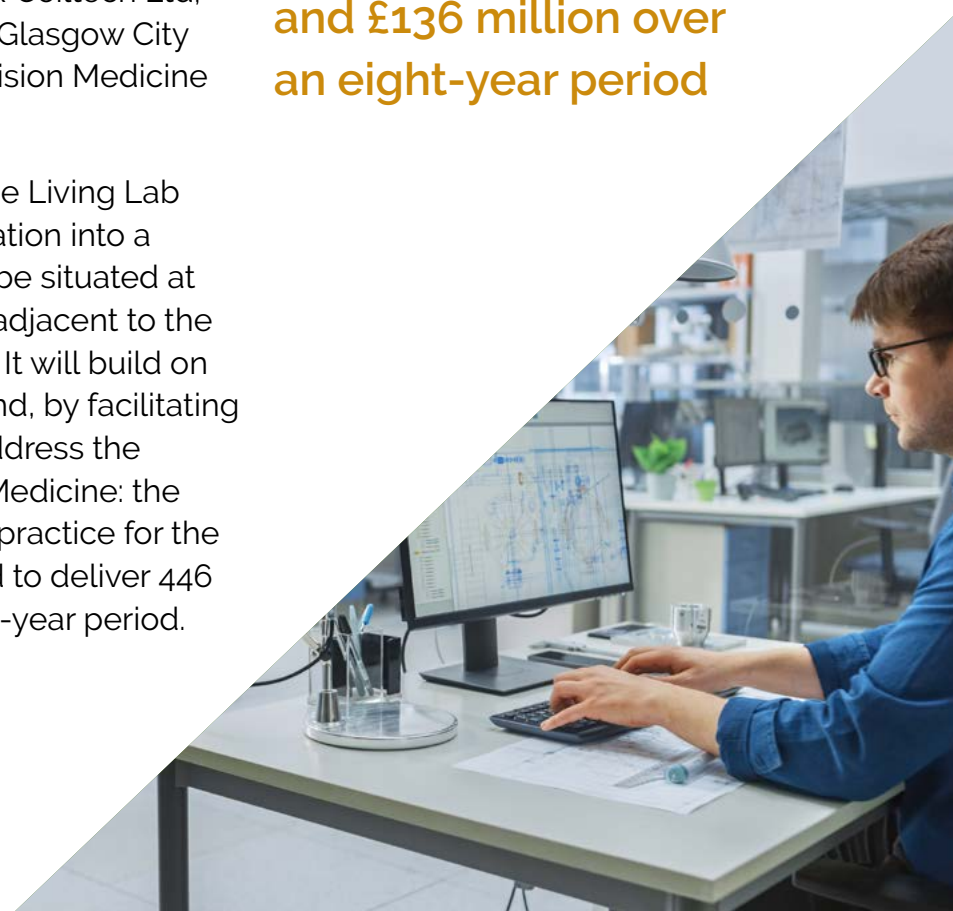
UKRI Strength in Places Fund investment: £38m

Lead: University of Glasgow

Partners: Thermo Fisher Scientific, Canon Medical Research Europe Ltd, Siemens Healthcare Ltd, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, Bioclavis, Aridhia, MR Coiltech Ltd, Glasgow Science Centre, Scottish Enterprise, Glasgow City Council, Kadans Science Partner UK Ltd, Precision Medicine Scotland and iCAIRD Ltd

The University of Glasgow's Precision Medicine Living Lab will translate cutting-edge science and innovation into a real-world clinical setting. The Living Lab will be situated at the University of Glasgow academic campus adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Govan. It will build on the city's existing world-leading ecosystem and, by facilitating even more cross-sector collaborations, will address the biggest challenge currently facing Precision Medicine: the translation of research innovation into clinical practice for the benefit of patients. The Living Lab is projected to deliver 446 high-value jobs and £136 million over an eight-year period.

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Trade is crucial to the UK's recovery from COVID-19 and the UK Government wants to ensure that businesses in Scotland benefit from new trade deals with the world's biggest markets, as we remove barriers that they previously faced.

Already, the Department for International Trade (DIT) has reached deals covering 63% of UK trade, including with the EU. The DIT is also making good progress on negotiations with the USA, Australia, New Zealand and with our accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). We are

committed to working closely with the Scottish Government to deliver a trade policy that works for Scotland and the whole of the United Kingdom.

DIT is also establishing a new trade and investment hub in Edinburgh, which will channel the economic benefits of Global Britain directly into Scotland. Together with DIT Hubs in other parts of the UK, it will be central to DIT's new exports campaigns, which will help businesses in key industries take advantage of trade opportunities around the world.

▶ [Find out more](#)

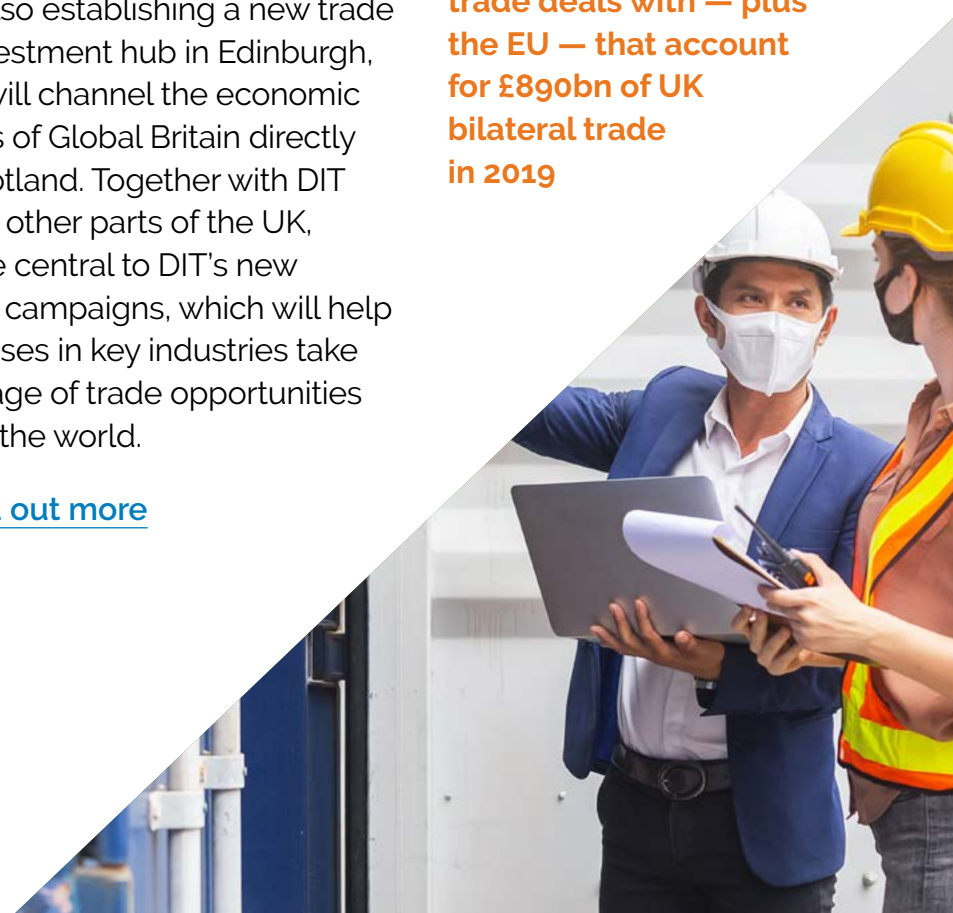
66

The number of countries that we have agreed trade deals with — plus the EU — that account for £890bn of UK bilateral trade in 2019

119

The number of countries in which DIT has a presence, employing over 5100 staff worldwide

*figures correct as of January 2021



EXPORT FINANCE

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If you are already actively exporting, or considering it, the UK Government has significant resources and advice to help you reach new markets across the world.

The UK Government employs around 17,300 staff in our diplomatic and development offices worldwide, including in 280 overseas embassies and high commissions.

UK Export Finance (UKEF) provides the finances occasionally necessary to help businesses make the transition to entering new export markets. As the UK Government's world-leading export credit agency, UKEF's mission is to ensure no viable UK export fails for lack of finance or insurance, while operating at no net cost to the taxpayer.

WHO IS IT FOR?

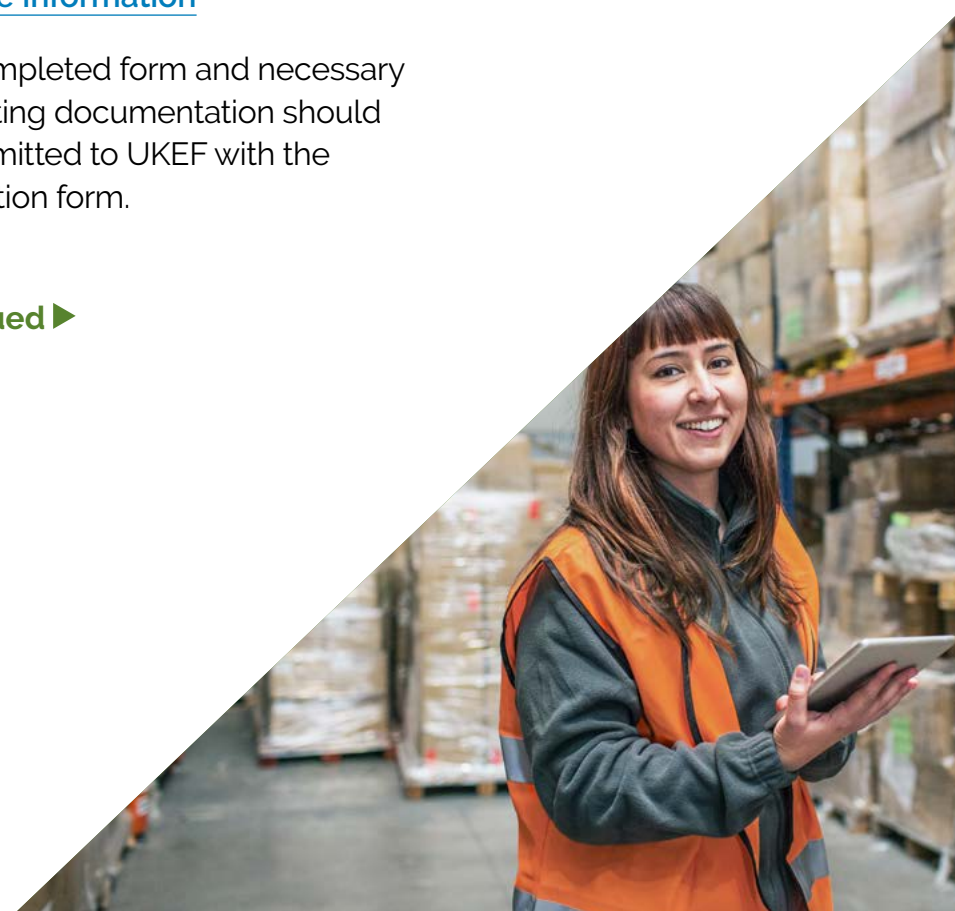
Businesses making the transition to entering new export markets

HOW DO I ACCESS IT?

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The completed form and necessary supporting documentation should be submitted to UKEF with the application form.

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EXPORT FINANCE

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Win contracts: financing

The attractive financing terms we can offer to overseas buyers of UK goods and services can help exporters make their offering more competitive.

- ▶ [Buyer Credit Facilities](#)
- ▶ [Export Refinancing Facility](#)
- ▶ [Local Currency Financing](#)
- ▶ [Lines of Credit](#)

-
- ▶ [Direct Lending](#)
 - ▶ [Clean Growth Direct Lending Facility](#)

-
- ▶ [Supplier Credit Financing Facilities](#)

Fulfil orders: guarantee schemes

We can help companies access the support they need to fulfil a contract, giving them the confidence to take on more contracts and increase their turnover.

- ▶ [Bond Support Scheme](#)
- ▶ [Export Development Guarantee](#)
- ▶ [Export Working Capital Scheme](#)
- ▶ [General Export Facility](#)

We also offer support in relation to Letter of Credit (LC) confirmation.

To find out more or to discuss eligibility for our support:

✉ customer.service@ukexportfinance.gov.uk

☎ 020 7271 8010.

Alternatively, contact your local export finance manager.

Get paid: insurance

We can help companies manage risks in challenging markets, ensuring that they get paid even where the private market is not able to offer insurance.

- ▶ [Bond Insurance](#)
- ▶ [Export Insurance](#)
- ▶ [Overseas Investment Insurance](#)

In 2019/20, UKEF provided £110 million of support for Scottish exporters, resulting in £118 million worth of overseas sales.

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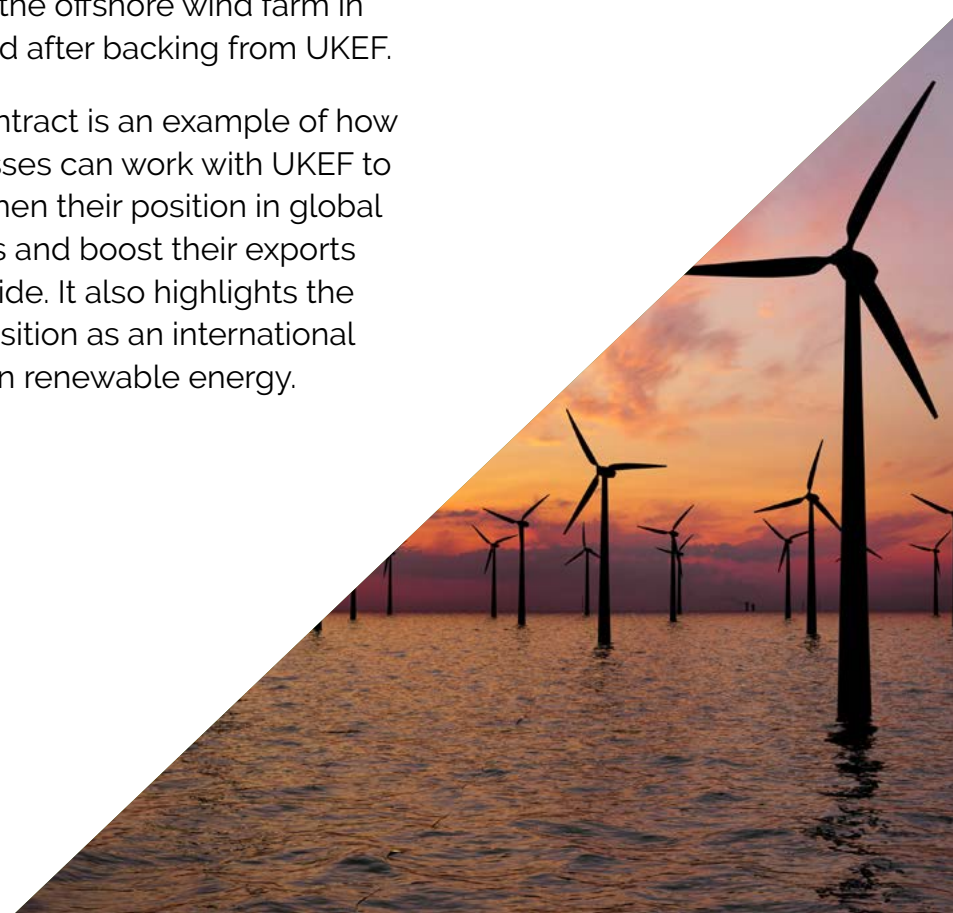
Recent examples of UKEF support in Scotland include:

- Providing £88 million in support to the Angolan Ministry of Finance for IQA Group, which is headquartered in Paisley, to install new electricity infrastructure in Northern Angola (2019/20).
- Guaranteeing over £1 million worth of financing for Dundee-based Rautomead to supply casting machinery to a specialist Chinese metals manufacturing company in Xi'an (2019/20).
- Supporting Aberdeenshire-based design and manufacturing company Power Jack to export its electro-mechanical lifting solutions to the Middle East (2019/20).

CASE STUDY

In November 2020, PCT Group Sales, a Glasgow-based global manufacturer for the energy sector, secured a £3 million contract to supply cranes to build wind turbines for the new Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm in Scotland after backing from UKEF.

This contract is an example of how businesses can work with UKEF to strengthen their position in global markets and boost their exports worldwide. It also highlights the UK's position as an international leader in renewable energy.



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The British Business Bank (BBB) is a government-owned business development bank dedicated to making finance markets work better for smaller businesses.

WHO IS IT FOR?

All types of businesses, whether you're looking for finance to start a business, grow to the next level, or stay ahead of the competition.

HOW CAN I ACCESS IT?

► [Find out more at the British Business Bank](#)

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Whether your business has only just begun, or you're looking to grow an established business, a variety of finance options are available.

The Interactive Finance Finder on [BBB's Finance Hub](#) allows you to identify the right finance option for your needs and goals.

The Hub also offers business advice on how to deal with debt, how to make your business investor-ready, and much more.

90,000

**businesses in Scotland
have benefited from UK
Government-backed loans,
delivered by the British
Business Bank**



UK POINTS-BASED IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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Our new points-based immigration system will attract the workers we need to build a high wage, high-skill, high productivity economy. By prioritising skills, not nationality, this new system will best meet the specific needs of Scottish businesses whilst also contributing to the wider economy by growing the tax base and attracting the best and brightest international talent.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The information is for all employers who want to understand the new points-based immigration system and/or hire from outside the UK (excluding Irish citizens).

HOW DO I ACCESS IT?

► [Employer information](#)

The Home Office has created a podcast episode in partnership with Intelligence Squared to help you prepare for the points-based immigration system.

[Listen now to Business and the future of immigration in 2021.](#)

You can also listen on [Apple](#) and [Spotify](#).

[Download a full transcript of the podcast.](#)

