



## BFDG update on COVID-19 advice for freelancers in the screen industries

We know this a worrying and uncertain time for all our members and currently the financial help offered by the government does not cover many of our members. We are urging all members to write to their local MP about the situation, a template can be found [here](#). You can also sign petitions to lobby for the self employed to get the same support as employed workers links [here](#) and [here](#).

The BFDG are also writing to the Government to express our concerns about the lack of support for freelancers. We are hoping that the Prime Minister's update this afternoon will bring some more positive news and we will update you once we know more on the situation.

In the meantime we have updated our list of advice and guidance from industry groups such as BECTU, the Film and TV Charity, the BFI as well as the the UK government, and the IPSE.

We will update you whenever we receive further information from these organisations.

### General Advice:

[Official government advice](#) including sections for employers and businesses

[The coronavirus bill](#) – what it will do

[EU guidance](#) on COVID-19

[Budget 2020 support](#) for those affected by COVID-19

## Guidance for the Self-Employed:

[Advice from IPSE](#) (the Association of Independent Professionals and the Self Employed)

[Government tax helpline](#) to support freelancers being affected by Coronavirus

[Employment Support Allowance](#)

[Universal Credit](#)

[BECTU survey findings](#)

[Key things to consider](#) if you're freelance and worried about coronavirus

## Guidance for Businesses

[Government support for businesses](#)

[Government tax helpline](#) to support businesses being affected by Coronavirus

[Federation of Small Businesses guidance](#) for small businesses

[ACAS \(the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service\) workplace guidance](#) for employees and employers

## Health Advice

[NHS website](#) is being updated regularly with advice on how to protect yourself and keep well.

[Mind](#) - Looking after your mental health is also important at the moment and Mind have some great advice.

[World Health Organisation guidance](#) on COVID-19 Outbreak

## Industry Bodies

[BECTU](#)- advice to workers in the entertainment industry

[The Film and TV Charity](#)- Film and TV Support Line 24/7, helping you to manage issues big and small, on 0800 054 00 00 and live-chat.

[The BFI](#) - visit the BFI website for updates or email [covid-19.queries@bfi.org.uk](mailto:covid-19.queries@bfi.org.uk) with all enquiries.

[IPSE \(Association of Independent Professionals and the Self Employed\)](#) - advice for freelancers and the self employed.

## And for a bit of a break ...

Classical music to stream at home: <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2020/mar/16/classical-music-opera-livestream-at-home-coronavirus>

All the books to read in March: <https://www.dazeddigital.com/life-culture/article/48191/1/all-the-book-releases-to-read-in-march-2020>

The books that always cheer us up: [https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/2020/mar/books-to-cheer-you-up.html?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=Books\\_to\\_cheer\\_you\\_up\\_17\\_03\\_2020](https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/2020/mar/books-to-cheer-you-up.html?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Books_to_cheer_you_up_17_03_2020)

A guide to streaming in (self) isolation: <https://bachtrack.com/article-streaming-online-guide-best-opera-concerts-ballet-march-2020>

Netflix Party – watch your favourite Netflix shows with friends and family (from a safe distance): <https://www.netflixparty.com/>

The Science Museum's Online Collection: <https://collection.sciencemuseumgroup.org.uk/>

Virtual museum tours from Google Arts and Culture: <https://hyperallergic.com/547919/2500-virtual-museum-tours-google-arts-culture/>

Seven movies going online early: <https://www.techhive.com/article/3532460/these-7-movies-coming-to-vod-early-to-help-ease-your-coronavirus-anxiety.html>

Gareth Malone's Home Chorus bringing together isolated singers: <https://www.standard.co.uk/showbiz/celebrity-news/gareth-malone-home-choir-isolation-a4389961.html>