

8 April 2020



BFDG update on COVID-19 advice for members

Although there are now financial measures in place to help the majority of people working in the Film and TV Industry there are still some who cannot access any financial support and we have written to the Treasury on your behalf to address this. If you are one of the people still not eligible for financial support please write to your MP, you can download a template from our FB files.

This week we have added the BFDG's name to a joint letter from the British Society of Cinematographers along with the ACO, GBC, GBFTE and AMPS to the Chancellor voicing our concerns about the financial vulnerability of some people in the film making community of the UK.

Philippa Childs, Head of BECTU, has written to nearly 300 Film and TV Production Companies asking them to furlough their PAYE crew. We urge you to do the same and write to your production company if you were on PAYE.

The Film and TV Charity has now opened its fund that will provide one-off grants from £500 to £2,500 to active behind the scenes workers in film, TV and cinema who are facing significant financial hardship.

We will keep you updated with any more information as we receive it.

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 Employed and Self-Employed:

Advice from the Film and TV Charity:

If you're facing financial hardship you may be entitled to some financial support via the benefits system. [Turn2us](#) are the best people to advise you:

- Self-employed workers who are not eligible for Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) will be able to claim contributory Employment Support Allowance. This will now be available from day one, not after a week
- Universal Credit remains available for self-employed workers. In the recent budget, it was announced that there will be a temporary halt to the minimum floor element of this benefit, which will have a positive impact on self-employed applicants

Government information:

<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-support/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme#who-can-apply>

These Money Saving Expert articles provide a simple summary of financial help and rights for employed and self employed -

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2020/03/coronavirus-self-employed-and-employment-help/>

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/news/2020/03/uk-coronavirus-help-and-your-rights/#wages>

BECTU – Summary of advice: <https://bectu.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Advice from IPSE (the Association of Independent Professionals and the Self Employed) IPSE are running webinars offering advice to freelancers. More information [here](#).

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

[Employment Support Allowance](#)

[Universal Credit](#)

[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 with all enquiries.

BFI & Film and TV Charity Emergency Relief Fund -
<https://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/news-bfi/announcements/covid-19-film-tv-emergency-relief-fund>

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

And for a bit of a break ...

National Theatre at Home: https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home?queueitoken=e_safetys_1585646148~ce_true~rt_safetynet~h_8cb213b26a4be504e8c885477b854125f0e383cb3e1ffbae65a54efb748512f4

Royal Opera House #OurHouseToYourHouse <https://www.roh.org.uk/>

RSC and Marquee TV - the performing arts streaming service are working with the RSC and other arts organisations, is responding to the current closure of theatres by offering everyone a no obligation free 30 day trial to watch some of the best in theatre, dance and opera. <https://www.marquee.tv/>

Soho Theatre on Demand – Fleabag <https://sohotheatre.com/soho-theatre-demand/>

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

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>