

Prime Minister announces £1,000 Christmas grant for 'wet-led pubs'

- One-off £1,000 grant for 'wet-led pubs' across tiers 2 and 3 in lieu of Christmas trade
- additional government support for traditional busy Christmas period
- businesses can apply in addition to existing £3,000 support

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has today (Tuesday 1 December) announced an additional £1,000 Christmas grant for 'wet-led pubs' in tiers 2 and 3 who will miss out on much needed business during the busy Christmas period.

Pubs that predominantly serve alcohol rather than provide food have been asked to make huge sacrifices over the festive season and will be eligible for a one-off £1000 to help make ends meet.

The payment will be a one-off for December and will be paid on top on the existing £3,000 monthly cash grants for businesses. This will cover those in tiers 2 and 3 forced to reduce their operations as a result of the latest regional measures put in place to contain transmission of the virus.

The move bolsters the government's support for the pubs sector, following the extension of the furlough scheme and the business rates holiday which were extended until March 2021.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

Pubs are at the heart of communities across the country and they have been among the businesses which have suffered the most during the pandemic.

While we can't make up for all the trade they will lose over Christmas, I hope this new £1000 grant – on top of the furlough, VAT and business rates relief and existing grants, goes some way to help them weather the economic storm.

As the government prepares to introduce community testing across tier 3 areas and work on vaccines continues to progress, it is vital that we continue to bear down on the virus transmission rate to protect lives and livelihoods and ensure the NHS is not overwhelmed during the winter.

Wet-led pubs in tiers 2 and 3 will be subject to significant measures under the new regional tiered system and it is right for the government to increase its support. Eligible wet-led pubs across these tiers are invited to apply through their local authority who will be responsible for distributing the grants. The payment will be made once per business for the month of December only.

The additional support comes on top of £1.1 billion which is being given to local authorities, distributed on the basis of £20 per head, for one-off payments to enable them to support businesses more broadly. The government has also provided £10 billion business rates holiday for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses lasting until March, as well as £11.7 billion of initial grants of up to £25,000 at the start of the outbreak.

CMA looks to appeal CAT judgment in JD Sports case

News story

After careful consideration, the CMA has today applied for permission to appeal the CAT's recent judgment in the JD Sports/Footasylum case.



Last month, the Competition Appeal Tribunal (CAT) supported the Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) analysis of the evidence, which led the CMA to conclude that JD Sports and Footasylum are close competitors and that the merger would lead to a substantial lessening of competition. However, the CAT ruled that the CMA should have requested further information about the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

It is the CMA's belief that the CAT misapplied the law in reaching this decision. The CMA determined that at the time of the final stages of its investigation – shortly after the UK had entered lockdown – the uncertainty facing retailers and suppliers meant they were not in a position to provide robust evidence on the medium to long term impact of coronavirus from which reliable conclusions could be drawn.

The CAT will now decide whether it will grant the CMA permission to appeal.

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Civil news: tender opportunity for housing possession work

News story

Tender opens 1 December 2020 to deliver services in 2 Housing Possession Court Duty Schemes (HPCDS) and closes 5pm 21 December 2020.



We are inviting tenders from 2018 Standard Civil Contract holders currently delivering housing and debt work to deliver services in the following HPCDS:

The LAA is offering one contract for each of the HPCDS listed above.

This opportunity is open to all 2018 Standard Civil Contract holders currently delivering housing and debt services.

Length of contracts

Contracts will be offered from 1 February 2021 until 30 September 2021, subject to the LAA's right to extend for up to a further 12 months.

How do I tender?

Tenders must be submitted using the LAA's e-Tendering system.

Tender deadline

The tender opens on 1 December 2020 and closes at 5pm on 21 December 2020.

Further information

[Civil tender activity 2020](#) – to find out more and download the 'Information For Applicants' document

[e-Tendering system](#) – to submit your tender

Liz Truss announces four new non-executive board members

Four DIT non-executive board members with extensive experience in investment, business and international affairs, were announced today (1 December) by International Trade Secretary Liz Truss.

The new members have been appointed for at least 3 years and will provide independent advice, support and scrutiny on the department's work, to support the Government's ambitious trade policy agenda.

They will help the department execute its key priorities including striking free trade agreements in markets around the world, operating our own trading system after the transition period, boosting exports and investment across the UK, and championing free trade and shaping global trading rules.

The new board members are:

- Andrew Hood, Founding partner at Oxford Research & Analysis, announced as lead non-executive board member
- Dominic Johnson, Founding Partner and Chief Executive at Somerset Capital Management, announced as chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
- Dr Dambisa Moyo, Economist and Author, will become a new non-executive board member
- Douglas Carswell, former Member of Parliament for Clacton, will become a new non-executive board member

Founding partner at Oxford Research & Analysis, Andrew Hood, will take on the role of Lead non-executive board member, after facing strong competition from a high number of candidates.

He will be joined by Dominic Johnson, who will replace Julie Currie as Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, and by Dr Dambisa Moyo and Douglas Carswell, who will sit on the DIT Department Board.

Sir Stephen O'Brien, and Noel Harwerth will continue in their roles as Non-Executive Board Members.

International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said:

These appointments bring vast experience and expertise to the department at a critical time for the UK as a trading nation.

They will help execute our strategic priorities, in particular driving forward our trade deal negotiations programme, our export and investment campaigns, and our work on reforming and reshaping global trade rules.

All of them are high quality appointments who believe fiercely in rules-based free trade. They will play a big role in re-establishing the UK as a major force in global trade, and will help take our trade agenda to the next level in 2021 and beyond.

The non-executive board members were appointed following an open and fair selection process. There are now six non-executive board members.

Appointee biographies

Andrew Hood – Lead NEBM

- Andrew Hood is a founding partner at Oxford Research & Analysis with 20 years' experience in the private sector working in or on behalf of companies involved with banking, insurance, asset management, broadcasting, AI, social media and cement. Andrew is a former managing partner of Brunswick Group, which is a leading international strategic advisory firm. He has a background in foreign affairs and defence and has worked in North America, the Middle East and Asia.

Dominic Johnson – NEBM and ARAC Chair

- Dominic is Founding Partner and Chief Executive of Somerset Capital Management a \$7bn Global Emerging markets specialist investment company. Prior to starting Somerset Capital in 2007, he helped to build Lloyd George Management from \$1.5bn to \$16bn under management between 2001 and 2007. He has spent the last 25 years in entrepreneurial, international finance, starting his career at Robert Fleming in 1995, before moving to Jardine Fleming, Hong Kong, in 1998, setting up various dotcom business in the early 2000s and ultimately moving into asset management in 2001. He was vice-chairman of the Conservative Party between 2016 and 2019.

Dr Dambisa Moyo

- Dr. Dambisa Moyo is an acclaimed global economist and author.
- Dr Moyo has focused on analysing the macro economy and international affairs to help drive investment decisions, capital allocation and mitigate risk. Her work examines the interplay of international business and the global economy, whilst highlighting the key opportunities for investment; capitalizing on her ability to translate trends in markets, technology, policy, regulatory matters and economics into their likely impact on national economies and business.
- Dr Moyo serves on the boards of the 3M Company, Chevron and Conde Nast. In addition, she serves on the Investment Committee of Oxford

University's endowment. She was named by TIME Magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World," and is the author of four bestselling books.

Douglas Carswell

- Douglas Carswell served as Member of Parliament for Clacton from 2005 to 2017, during which time he was a member of the Public Accounts Committee.
 - He is a visiting fellow, at the John Locke Institute, and Director of The Good Governance Project, which undertakes research into the process of public administration, and publishes proposals for meaningful reform. He is on the steering group of the Commission for Smart Government, an independent initiative to consider how to make public administrative more effective.
 - He was formerly a founding director of Vote Leave, and prior to politics worked for one of the world's leading investment management companies.
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How employers are benefitting from T Level industry placements

Digital

Version 1

IT professional services company Version 1 deliver a range of digital and transformation services to both UK public and private sectors.

With a commitment to support 16-24 year olds as part of their own 'Community First' strategy, Version 1 have also included a range of placement and careers development activities public sector contracts. As part of their IT contract with Harrow Council, Version 1 have supported a student from Harrow and Uxbridge College, studying the digital production, design, and development T Level, by hosting an industry placement.

During his 4-week on-site placement, the T Level student worked on a data centre migration project moving workloads from the council's on-premises Data Centre into Microsoft Azure, as well as developing a governance app for the project using Microsoft Power Apps.

Jude McVitty, Social Value Manager, Version 1 said:

Version 1 is passionate about our social commitment to the employability of young people into our industry. We are excited to

be able to work with the local college and the Local Authority in partnership to facilitate this – and other future – T Level industry placements that we hope will lead to a successful career in the digital sector. The industry placement supported a local employer; and the student gained experience in the workplace, whilst developing their skills and knowledge of IT.

As we work with a range of public and private sector organisations, we will realise more opportunities to support learners on a range of courses to gain the work experience they need. This benefits the students, our customers, our organisation and our industry; a perfect platform for success.

Education and Childcare

Bramble Infant School and Nursey host T Level students on industry placement

Bramble Infant School and Nursery in Portsmouth provides for 343 children, aged from 6 months to 7 years old. With the school values of Succeed, Think, Aspire & Respect, they are as committed to their staff, as they are to their pupils.

Determined to support the future generation of nursery practitioners, teachers and teaching assistants, the school hosted T Level industry placements last year for two students from Havant & South Downs College. Both education and childcare T Level students are returning to the setting in September, with one student continuing to gain further industry experience in the nursery, whilst the other is taking time to work with older children in school.

Whilst on industry placement students shadow a staff member, and pick up the routine to understand what nursery would consider a typical day. Students learn and understand the type of activities nursery provides for children and why they do so and are encouraged to create their own activities for children. This brings many benefits to the school, as they learn from students themselves and the skills they bring with them.

Child development is an important element for students to understand and at Bramble Infant School and Nursey and T Level students have the opportunity to gain further experience of child development, teaching and learning by joining the staff team on completion of their course.

Sharon Widnell Deputy Nursery manager, Bramble Infant School and Nursery said:

Generally, staff model to our students what constitutes a good work ethic. Students need time and support to build upon their skills. The block week placement in our setting allows students to

experience the working world, with a safety net and help them to understand the expectations of employers.

Like the children we care for, students can take small steps to achieve their goals. Every good practitioner started as a student and we understand the importance of our professional development.

T Levels are a fantastic way to ensure students get the right mix of classroom based knowledge and a real taste of the workplace. We will assist any student who wants to achieve a career in childcare.

Construction

VINCI Construction UK supporting technical education

VINCI Construction UK is part of the VINCI Group – a world leader in concessions, construction and energy.

VINCI Construction UK has 4 main divisions, including Building Division (handling the construction, conversion or refurbishment of developments), Taylor Woodrow (civil engineering), VINCI Facilities (providing bespoke solutions within the built environment) and VINCI Technology Centre UK (combining laboratory testing with expertise in sustainability) VINCI Construction UK has around 3600 employees, and as an employer, they support technical education programmes, including T Level industry placements and apprenticeships.

VINCI Construction UK supports T Levels with students completing a period of work experience – enabling students to complete their studies whilst gaining experience of life in the construction industry. Offering industry placements has brought many benefits to the business. In the main, T Levels are supporting the VINCI Construction UK talent pipeline. Industry placements have the opportunity to progress onto apprenticeship programmes, and the employer is benefitting from being able to see individuals in the work environment before they commit to offering an apprenticeship to students.

The company's first two T Level students are currently undertaking placements in the North East, on site on a York based project. These students are studying T-Level in Construction at York College and are undertaking various engineering tasks including setting out, surveying, quality control, work planning and general contributions to the site such as safety management.

[York college working with VINCI](#)

Michelle Curzon, Academy Manager, VINCI Construction UK Ltd said:

Technical education opportunities within VINCI Construction UK include our business hosting T Level industry placements and taking on apprentices.

“Both options provide our business with the skills we need, whilst enabling T Level students and apprentices to progress in their careers. T Levels are one route to an apprenticeship within our business, and many apprentices remain with us on completion of their programme; going on to carve successful careers in construction.

The introduction of incentive payments for employers for both T Levels and apprenticeships means we can continue to support students on both programmes – with incentive payments enabling our business to offer the best training and support possible.