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| **Coronavirus (Covid-19) – briefing**  |

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Issued 15 April 2020

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| **Below is the latest briefing on the activity in managing the response to coronavirus (Covid-19).** **Local updates, council service changes and links to trusted sources of health guidance are published at *www.inverclyde.gov.uk/coronavirus*** |

**Additional support for business**

The Scottish Government has announced the second phase of business funding to protect against the effects of COVID-19.

Around £220 million of further grants are being made available for businesses - including the recently self-employed - to help them deal with the ongoing impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The new package of measures includes £120 million to extend the Small Business Grant scheme to ensure that, in addition to a 100% grant on the first property, small business rate payers will be eligible to a 75% grant on all subsequent properties.

A further £100 million fund is also being made available to protect self-employed people and viable micro and SME businesses in distress due to COVID. This fund will be channelled through local authorities and enterprise agencies to target newly self-employed people and businesses who are ineligible for other Scottish Government or UK Government schemes.

Applications for the £100 million fund will be open by the end of the month, and the new arrangements for the Small Business Grant will be in place to receive applications on 5 May.

**Radio V launched by Volunteer Scotland**

**Volunteer Scotland has launched a new weekly podcast, Radio V - Good Morning Volunteers.**

**It is released on Saturdays at 11am to connect, celebrate and inspire Scotland's volunteer community, particularly during these difficult times.**

The team are looking for amazing people to participate in the weekly podcast over the next three months – volunteers whether new, veterans, old and young, as well people who are being helped by volunteers, or friends and families of both, who would be up for speaking to Radio V.

Tune in for friendly, uplifting and rewarding stories from people of all ages and backgrounds from volunteering communities across Scotland every Saturday, 11am, at: [***www.volunteerscotland.net/covid-19/radio-v/***](https://www.volunteerscotland.net/covid-19/radio-v/)