

COVID-19 - A word from Funders

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations

“SCVO recognises that COVID 19 will have an as yet unknown impact on the organisations it funds. We will be as flexible as possible with our grants and support organisations to do what they need to do in the coming weeks and months”. For more information and to know more about funders responses please visit <https://scvo.org/support/covid-19>

Bank of Scotland Foundation

The foundation recognises that Coronavirus will have an impact on charities throughout Scotland. In many instances, charities will be even more crucial than ever in providing practical and emotional support and tackling isolation. If your charity is affected by the Coronavirus outbreak and you receive funding from Bank of Scotland here some things to know:

- The **next instalment of your grant will be paid on time**, subject to the submission of relevant paperwork. If you are experiencing difficulties achieving some of the outputs or outcomes, we agreed for you grant, please have a conversation with us.
- **If you think you will struggle to meet a reporting deadline, please get in touch with us** so that we can agree a more realistic time for you to get things to us wherever possible.
- **We will be reasonable if you need to move money between budget headings** to ensure your work can continue, for example to cover sickness, purchase equipment, or deliver services differently.
- Whilst the terms and conditions which apply to your grant will continue in force, please be assured that **we will listen to your experiences as a charity and aim to respond to this situation compassionately**.
- **Our grants programmes continue to remain open**, please visit our [funding programmes](#) section should you wish to apply or call **0345 124 1351** for further information.
- We want to reassure you that **we will do whatever we can to support you in the coming weeks and months during these exceptional and difficult times**.

<https://bankofscotlandfoundation.org/press-centre/coronavirus-support>

Comic Relief

“Comic Relief is supporting the organisations that it funds, both in the UK and around the world, as they adapt and respond to the massive challenges around Coronavirus (Covid-19). Whether this is through adapting their activities, reviewing their timeframes, or re-budgeting remaining funds, we are helping all our funded partners as they respond to new needs and vulnerabilities.

Some of the money that is raised through Sport Relief 2020 will go to organisations on the frontline of the response to the Coronavirus, who are able to reach some of the most vulnerable people, likely to be affected.

If you are one of Comic Relief’s funded partners, please do get in touch with your contact person to talk through how this is affecting your work and your teams. We really want to see how we can support you at this very difficult time”. for more information please visit <https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/>

Cattanach

Fully understands how disconcerting the current situation is for our grantees and all those working in the voluntary sector. “We also understand that the virus itself has been and will be presenting disruptions but so may related shocks in the future that can affect your organisation. It is important to us that Cattanach values shine through all we do – **integrity, love, consideration** and **hope** will guide us in our response and if anything, we want to strengthen our relationship with you and your organisation.”

Here are the responses to the COVID-19 outbreak and how they relate to you:

- **For those wanting to submit a new proposal**
Our Trustees decided at the Q1 2020 meeting that we would not accept new proposals for the Q2 2020 meeting in May. This decision was unrelated to the virus and relates to internal changes and improvements. If you would like to submit a proposal for consideration at our **Q3 2020 meeting in September 2020**, please go ahead and [get in touch with us](#). We will work alongside you as usual, keeping interactions virtual (phone/videoconference and email) for the time being, and will hopefully arrange for personal meetings in June/July.
- **For those currently receiving grants from us**
- **Flexibility**
We understand that current and future restrictions will affect your organisations and the beneficiaries you serve. Please rest assured that instalments will be paid as usual even if projects cannot currently be delivered as planned, especially if funding is going towards staff cost. Please make sure to follow the [Scottish Government’s advice](#) as well as the [NHS's latest guidelines](#) on how to operate in your setting to keep beneficiaries and staff safe. If you feel that the situation requires you to spend funds differently – for instance divert funds from project to core funding – please get in touch with us so we can discuss this with you.
- **Reporting**
We will also take into account COVID-19 when it comes to evaluation reports and don’t want to add additional pressure. If you feel that you might struggle to meet a reporting deadline or if you had to adjust your activities, please get in touch. We are here to chat about your concerns so we can find a solution together.
- **Emergency response**
Cattanach will work on plans to further support current grantees during the COVID-19 outbreak, financially and otherwise. Plans will be published on the website so please check back regularly. We are also working on a joint and coordinated response together with other grantmakers across the Scottish Grantmakers and the Scottish Funders Forum as well as through the SCVO.
- **Your thoughts matter**
We are here for you and want to help in any way we can. Please let us know if and when it is the right time for you to have a chat – you know your organisation and beneficiaries best and we are here to listen.
- **For anyone wanting to get in touch with us**
We will do our bit to flatten the curve. Our staff will work from home until further notice and our [landline will not be monitored](#). Please get in touch via [email](#) in the first instance and we will arrange calls and video-conferences with you as soon as possible.

<https://www.cattanach.org.uk/news/cattanach-support-during-covid-19-outbreak/>

Corra Foundation

The foundation wants to reassure people and organisations that they will do all they can to help on this challenging situation. If you will like to apply for funding with Corra foundation please go ahead. If you are currently funded by Corra Foundation, here are a few things to know:

- *Make sure grant payments are processed as normal.*
we know how important this is, particularly where our grant contributes to someone's salary. Any Corra grants that contribute to someone's salary will continue to be paid, even if that person is unable to deliver their role due to the impact of Coronavirus.
- *Offer flexibility around timescales and how funding is used.*
We recognise the current situation could impact in a range of ways. For example: some face-to-face delivery roles may have to be suspended for a period; charities' resources may need to be redirected; support might need to be delivered in different ways; and the timelines you planned may have to change. We're happy to have a conversation if you would like to use your funding differently or over a different time period than originally planned.
- *Allow for the impact of the current situation when reading charities' reports.*
We understand that it might be difficult for you to meet the outcomes of your grant. If you feel a conversation about this would be helpful, please do get in touch. However, we will expect to see this reflected in many organisations' funding reports and given how busy many charities are please don't feel you have to take time out to discuss this with us outside of your regular reporting.

<https://www.corra.scot/> (Update: 3rd Sector Resilience Fund Open Now)

The Robertson Trust

The trust recognises that the coronavirus outbreak presents an extraordinary challenge to the way our communities currently support one another. As many of their funded organisations will be affected in the weeks and months to come, the trust have contacted organisations they work with to make them aware of the following measures put on place to make the months ahead easier and assure them that:

1. The Trust will not ask organisations to return any unspent funds, for example, if a project or services can't be delivered or needs to be postponed.
2. Those in receipt of a restricted revenue award from the Trust, which now needs to be used in a different way as a result of the current crisis, can do so without having to let us know. We simply ask that they update us as part of future reporting.
3. Those with a pledged revenue or capital award from the Trust which has not yet been released will receive an extension to the standard 12-month period if a project is delayed.
4. The Trust understands the pressures placed on the third sector as a result of this crisis. We have written to organisations to let them know that they do not need to ask our permission or tell us about such changes now. However, we have requested that they keep us informed as part of their routine reporting.
5. We have also relaxed the reporting requirements for multi-year grants, simplifying the process and time required for reporting.

<https://www.therobertsontrust.org.uk/news/a-coronavirus-update-for-grant-holders>

Foundation Scotland

The foundation is open as usual- staff are currently working from home as IT systems enable them to work from home with no risk to data security and ensuring there is limited disruptions- all contacts including telephone numbers and email address will remain the same. Foundation Scotland will do what they can to support communities throughout these challenging times.

They will continue to welcome applications for funding but note that their offices are currently close and cannot receive mail. Please scan and email any supporting documents. If you don't have a scanner an option is to download a scanner app onto your smart phone – this uses the camera function to scan the document and convert it into a PDF for e-mail.

To support grantees and continue to deliver all community funds and published grant-making programmes, they are taking the following steps:

1. Relaxing deadlines for monitoring reports
2. Increasing mentoring and support for grantees and investees
3. Establishing payment holidays for social enterprises supported with loans
4. Increasing cash flow support loans to social enterprises
5. Planning to introduce rolling deadlines for some place-based Funds for those delivering any projects that address immediate community needs in light of the Coronavirus
6. Working with other funders to pool resources
7. Working with local community organisations and umbrella groups to gather information about local needs and how best to support these
8. Establishing a Community Resilience and Recovery Fund
9. Giving our staff paid time to work flexibly so that they can care for loved ones and also volunteer and support activity in their local community dealing with needs arising from the Coronavirus
10. Asking you how we can best support your community

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/news/foundation-scotland-%E2%80%93-we-are-open!/>

Creative Scotland

They are currently ensuring that their resources are directed in the most effective ways possible. This is to support people and organisations over the coming weeks and months, and they are committed to keeping information flowing to people as often as possible. Their priority is to ensure the use of their resources as best as possible to support people and organisations over the coming weeks and months. **Open Project Funding Update-** the need for flexibility, minimises administrative requirements, reduces timescales and ultimately best supports people and organisations during this period. In order to accommodate these revisions, we are now suspending acceptance of new applications for OPF. All current OPF applications will still be assessed using the published guidance for the Open Project Fund. To know more visit <https://www.creativescotland.com/what-we-do/latest-news/archive/2020/02/coronavirus-advice>

Impact Funding Partners

Offices in Inverkeithing and Glasgow are closed from Monday 16 March. Their staff are currently working from home and can be contacted by email or through their main number Tel: **01383**

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620780. Unfortunately, all face-to-face meetings and events are cancelled for the foreseeable future as a precaution, but staff will be able to contact you by phone or hold video meetings. Due to the current situation Impact Funders will be working with their partners to support organisations and will take a flexible approach to reporting. Please contact staff in Impact Funding Partners by email in the first instance if you need further information or wish to discuss any concerns.

For more information please visit <https://www.impactfundingpartners.com/news/impact-funding-partners-business-continuity-plan-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Reassuring organisations the fund that they will continue to support organisation throughout these uncertain times. As this is a challenging time for all. They would like to reassure those funded and please contact your grant manager if they can help as they want to be as helpful and supportive as possible. <https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/coronavirus---reassurance-for-those-we-fund>

FirstPort

Following on from the Government's most recent advice, the Firstport team is now working from home. This measure is to protect clients and members of staff, by minimising travel and potential crowded places. As a company and a team, Firstport have the infrastructure and digital tools in place to carry out day to day work as normal. However, you will notice some changes: all calls are diverted to voicemail, the team will be regularly checking voicemail inbox and will be responding accordingly. They would like to encourage people to contact them using the contact form or LiveChat functions from their website. Workshops will now be delivered as webinars. If you are already signed up for one of the upcoming workshops, you will be emailed a link to join the webinar in the coming days.

As the uncertainty regarding how long the current situation will last here are some of the ways Firstport can help:

1. If you are due to close off an award or a financial review for one of the funds, they can be flexible with timescales and deadlines. Please contact your Relationship Manager to discuss your individual circumstances.
2. You may be wondering how to manage cashflows over the next few months or what to do regarding staff, etc. **Do not feel you have to sort it all out alone, FirstPort advisors are here to help.** Please, please get in touch! They can help.
3. Working closely with all their delivery partners to build flexibility and agility into the programmes to ensure they can continue to run them.

To learn more please visit <https://www.firstport.org.uk/news/covid-19-coronavirus-update/>

Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland- Self Management Fund grant holders

From The Health and Social Care Alliance- Scotland they want to reassure their self-management grant holders of the following; as the current situation will impact on organisations delivering services in communities and there may be delays to the work grant holders plan to carry out or increased demands in other areas of their service:

- The next instalment of your grant will be paid on time, subject to the submission of relevant paperwork.

- The Learning Days on 2 and 7 April 2020 for projects funded from October 2019 are cancelled.
- Deadlines for submission of written reports through either the harmonised reporting process or the pre-event questionnaire still stand.

Please be assured that The Alliance will listen to your experiences as an organisation and aim to respond to this situation compassionately and with the wider interests of the communities at the centre of the decision-making. For more information and updates please visit <https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/news/update-for-self-management-funded-projects/>

Heritage Lottery Fund

From the Heritage Lottery Fund, they want to reassure everyone funded that they will be as flexible and supportive as they can be during this very challenging time.

If you are concerned about the impact of the coronavirus on your heritage project or organisation, please get in touch with your Investment Manager/Senior Investment Manager or speak to the team in your local Area or Country office. This will help get a fuller understanding of the extent of the challenges and what support may be needed.

They remind fully operational and open for business and will continue to support you whether you're a grant recipient or currently liaising with their team about developing your project or grant application. Their team is currently conducting much of day to day business remotely and will continue to support you as normal and doing everything they can to ensure to we maintain business as usual.

Furthermore The Heritage Lottery Fund are doing an urgent appeal for evidence from the heritage sector to assess how Coronavirus (COVID-19) is affecting heritage organisation and to help gather information about the immediate and longer-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on those they work with and support across the heritage sector. Find out more on the link below.

Survey- <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheNationalLotteryHeritageFundCoronavirusImpact/>

To find out more please visit <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/coronavirus-update>

Inspiring Scotland

Reassuring all the people, charities and groups they work with that in the coming weeks they will continue to be here for you and your organisation, offering support however they can. A few things to note:

- The full team can work remotely and will continue to support organisation as usual as making full use of digital technology to support this.
- Organisations that are funded will be contacted to discussed how their work may be affected.
- The finance team will make payments to funded organisations as per any agreed payment schedule and will offer financial flexibility to help ensure the work can continue.
- Working closely with other funders and key stakeholders to ensure that can collectively support the third sector and the people we work with. This includes Scotland's Funder Forum, SCVO and Scottish Government. News of emergency funding will be shared with organisations

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- Keeping in touch.

To learn more visit <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/news/message-covid-19/>

National Lottery Fund

Currently the priority is to keep money flowing to support people, communities and the organisations.

We will support organisation and the communities they work with and for by:

- Will be flexible with regards to your current grant:
 - accommodating changes to timelines
 - accommodating changes to activity to respond to the current climate and critical local need.
- Don't worry about deadlines and reporting:
 - will be flexible with regards to reporting
 - if you record any changes you are making to your project, it can reconcile it all later.
- Will support you and your teams through this crisis:
 - continuing to pay staff salary so that you can support existing staff who need to be off sick, self-isolate or have caring responsibilities
 - considering any requests for support if you experience particular financial pressures as a result of the situation

Funding officers can answer questions you might have, do get in touch with them if you need to. For more information please visit <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/news/press-releases/2020-03-17/updated-statement-from-dawn-austwick-ceo-the-national-lottery-community-fund-covid-19>

Social Investment Fund

We want to reassure you that we will do whatever we can to support you in the coming weeks and months. Here are some things to note:

- **Will remain open for business.** SIS will remain open for as long as they are able to. Every member of our team can and will work from home should this prove necessary.
- **We have money available to invest.** As is always the case, we have access to millions of pounds of capital to support social enterprises, charities and community groups across Scotland. This will not change as a result of the current situation.
- **We can be flexible with your loan repayments.** If you are a current customer of SIS, we will be in touch with you soon to discuss how the current situation might be impacting upon you. Social investment is always a flexible form of finance and we will be as flexible as we can be to support you over the coming weeks and months.
- **We will continue to work in partnership.** Across Scotland, funders and partners will continue to work together to support social enterprises. If you need help with something then please [ask us](#).
- **We are looking at other ways in which we might be able to support.** We are exploring how we might create a special fund to support your working capital needs as a result of the Coronavirus. We will share more about this as soon as we can.

If there is anything else that would be helpful, please [get in touch](#) with the SIS team on 0131 558 7706 or hello@socialinvestmentscotland.com. For more information visit <https://www.socialinvestmentscotland.com/covid-19-update/>

William Grant Foundation

A word from William Grant Foundation CEO “Many charities & vol orgs exist to bring people together. With latest restrictions these orgs are entering a new mode of being for an indefinite period – first suspension and survival, then adaptation & innovation” read more here https://twitter.com/N_Addington/status/1239824309201313792

BBC Sport Relief

The BBC’s [Sport Relief](#) raised more than £40m by the end of its live broadcast, with organisers promising a significant portion of the cash will go to those affected by the coronavirus. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-51872636>

Nesta Scotland

From Nesta Scotland “We want to reassure grantees that we stand with them as they respond and continue to support communities, students, older neighbours, those with long-term health needs and other citizens.

We will do what we can to help. In particular, we understand that it may be difficult for grantees to undertake planned work in the next period and to reach the outcomes of a grant when staff or volunteers may be unable to do the work they do, beneficiaries may be unable to connect as usual and events and meetings will be cancelled.” For more information visit https://www.nesta.org.uk/covid-19-nesta-response/?utm_source=Nesta+in+Scotland+Newsletter&utm_campaign=3d74c83c1e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_02_24_09_48_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c7f563444a-3d74c83c1e-182205119

Cycling Scotland Funding Programmes

From Cycling Scotland, a word of reassurance to the organisations they fund “We would like to reassure all Cycling Friendly organisations of our understanding and support for issues you may now be facing in delivering funded projects. If you have applied for or received grant funding from us, please note:

- Where a grant offer has been made, this will be paid on time, subject to the submission of relevant paperwork.
- If you are experiencing difficulties achieving any agreed outputs or outcomes because of the new circumstances, please contact us to discuss.
- Similarly, if you think you will struggle to meet a project delivery or reporting deadline because of restrictions, please contact us to agree a revised time frame.”

Read more here <https://www.cycling.scot/news-article/coronavirus-covid-19-operational-update-and-guidance>

DM Thomas Foundation for Young People

From DM Thomas Foundation they want to let charities know that they are here to help in any way they can:

“Whilst the current climate is undeniably challenging, we would like to raise awareness of our charity partners for their dedication in such times. Teams like [Dingley's Promise](#) who, whilst having to close their physical location, continue to offer support through phone calls, online meetings, and sharing videos that families can watch with their children to continue playing and learning.

For any charities in need, please do contact us. We have marketing materials and resources and we would love to assist in anyway.” [https://www.facebook.com/DMTFYP/?_tn=%kR&eid=ARBs4yKiHzgSK8_fQSEJYToEloz02Al5Lm7c157EJBfPyEAWhsyAgHqsKkpkYSE3VlFvCjtF4uFZ8k8&hc_ref=ARQUCBG3ZnLFFa0_lf7OpOzTj2_Kv1LOUFMAyr6ODObZ6dB6-XE0pNJxOpG3r-E9PnA&fref=nf&xts__\[0\]=68.ARBRAz6sE3Jf4hmfrnzUtrKlkxSGgcU5TODjyB_-3CMLxtYSPVeqBw8JeS8qdgCJnMXFfHJqH57ww8f6BhRN3lLdxIHgjWw-DDuvTU0li2vTw7yM2PFC7RjkbqSSzyWK0SBZThpkkBhZ2ZUcABhWf4928WQg4oAy-elpyhzBnATZ0IOA3_7lVdq3fnzYbp8lySezZsO-J_-b2lbfYYBN2kDPQ2ogLBS6O-XePcl87QTo0TCWoWw6cm0Bv7t8D1jJBcunwDi3XAp8yDv5X0Ai_9zUoSkgAUfStl2lnq3ftOZ9-laZlKmBAMCXpROB_dskt3H7NTYQpGsKrdQg](https://www.facebook.com/DMTFYP/?_tn=%kR&eid=ARBs4yKiHzgSK8_fQSEJYToEloz02Al5Lm7c157EJBfPyEAWhsyAgHqsKkpkYSE3VlFvCjtF4uFZ8k8&hc_ref=ARQUCBG3ZnLFFa0_lf7OpOzTj2_Kv1LOUFMAyr6ODObZ6dB6-XE0pNJxOpG3r-E9PnA&fref=nf&xts__[0]=68.ARBRAz6sE3Jf4hmfrnzUtrKlkxSGgcU5TODjyB_-3CMLxtYSPVeqBw8JeS8qdgCJnMXFfHJqH57ww8f6BhRN3lLdxIHgjWw-DDuvTU0li2vTw7yM2PFC7RjkbqSSzyWK0SBZThpkkBhZ2ZUcABhWf4928WQg4oAy-elpyhzBnATZ0IOA3_7lVdq3fnzYbp8lySezZsO-J_-b2lbfYYBN2kDPQ2ogLBS6O-XePcl87QTo0TCWoWw6cm0Bv7t8D1jJBcunwDi3XAp8yDv5X0Ai_9zUoSkgAUfStl2lnq3ftOZ9-laZlKmBAMCXpROB_dskt3H7NTYQpGsKrdQg)

Henry Smith Charity

Please note the following, “if your community, services or organisation are affected by the Coronavirus outbreak, and you receive grant funding from us, we are committed to, where necessary:

- Adapting activities – we recognise that you may experience difficulties achieving some of the outputs or outcomes we agreed for your grant during the outbreak, and would like to be able to maintain our grant payments to you at originally-agreed levels during this period, so please have a conversation with us if you are affected in this way;
- Discussing dates – we don’t want to add pressure, so if you think you will struggle to meet a reporting deadline please get in touch with us so that we can agree a more realistic time for you to get things to us wherever possible;
- Financial flexibility – we know you may need to use your funding to help cover sickness, purchase equipment, or deliver services differently, and we will be reasonable if you need to move money between budget headings to ensure your work can continue; an
- Listening to you – we are here if you want to talk to us about the situation you’re facing, but we’ll wait for you to call us so that these conversations are at the right time for you.

For more information please click here <https://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/coronavirus-update/>

ESF and ERDF

“Currently we are considering and assessing what we can do to assist Lead Partners whose delivery is affected by the coronavirus. We are urgently seeking clarification from the European Commission about what actions we can take to mitigate the effects of the outbreak in respect of the regulations. As soon as we receive clarification, we will let all Lead Partners know. Though this is a rapidly evolving and unpredictable situation, we are committed to working flexibly with Lead Partners during this difficult period” <https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus/funding/funders>