



Deferred VAT

The coronavirus VAT payment holiday gave businesses the chance to defer the payment of any VAT liabilities between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020.

Paying your deferred VAT

Your VAT payment which was due between 20 March and 30 June 2020 is deferred until 31 March 2021. There are two options available for paying this VAT. Businesses can either:

- pay in full on or before 31 March 2021; or
- opt into a scheme that allows payment in instalments.

To pay now

If you can pay in full before 31 March 2021:

- go to **GOV.UK** and search 'paying VAT'
- choose 'pay your VAT bill' and follow the instructions. Please ensure you use the correct reference when making payment.

No interest or penalties will accrue on deferred payments that are paid by the 31 March 2021 and there is no requirement to contact HMRC.

To pay in instalments using the new payment scheme

The new VAT deferral payment scheme allows businesses the option to pay their deferred VAT in smaller interest-free payments.

The new scheme will allow businesses to select the number of equal monthly instalments from 2 to 11 (depending on when they join the scheme). Businesses will need to sign up by 19 March 2021 to benefit from the maximum number of instalments. Businesses must also meet certain conditions to use the scheme including being up to date with their VAT returns.

To access this scheme, please use the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferral-of-vat-payments-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19#join-the-vat-deferral-new-payment-scheme>

This scheme opened on 23 February 2021 and will close on 21 June 2021.

Business Tax Account

Whatever your chosen option, you will need a 'Business Tax Account' to make payment. This can be accessed using your Government Gateway user ID and password. If you don't have a 'Business Tax Account' you can set one up as part of this process.

If you need further help to pay

We know that many businesses are facing financial difficulties due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

For more information about what to do if you're not able to pay your deferred VAT, please contact HMRC by telephone on 0800 024 1222 by 30 June 2021 and they will be able to discuss the available options with you.

Protect yourself from scams

We're aware of an increase in scam emails, calls and texts. If someone gets in touch claiming to be from HMRC, saying that you can claim financial help or that you're owed a tax refund, and asks you to click on a link or to give information such as your name, credit card or bank details, please don't respond. You can forward suspicious emails claiming to be from HMRC to phishing@hmrc.gov.uk and texts to 60599.

You can also access the National Cyber Security Centre's new guide on how to stay secure online and protect yourself and your business against cyber crime, go to **GOV.UK** and search 'Cyber Aware'.