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Gemeente Leiden
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Telefoon 14 071, keuze 4
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Ons kenmerk Z/20/1505951
Onderwerp Support for Leiden entrepreneurs

Dear Leiden business owners,

The coronavirus and the measures taken to prevent the spread of the virus are having significant consequences on our lives. These are also affecting Leiden's economy.

You will, like us, undoubtedly have great concerns about this. The current situation is creating many uncertainties, both for you and your staff. We can imagine that you - as business owner - will have many questions. The aim of this letter is to inform you about national measures and local measures we are taking in Leiden. We would also like to ask you to participate in a survey among Leiden business owners. This information is being sent to you on behalf of the Municipality of Leiden, Stichting Ondernemend Leiden and VNO-NCW West.

Visit the digital information hub

The municipality is extremely concerned about the welfare of our city's business owners. In all sectors. However, Leiden business owners do not need to face this situation on their own. As municipality, we are working with Ondernemend Leiden and affiliated business associations (see attachment 1) to find solutions to support businesses. Together, we have opened a digital information hub:

www.leiden.nl/entrepreneurs-corona. This website provides an up-to-date overview of all national and local measures that business owners can use. The information is also available in English. Information on incentive schemes and local initiatives can also be found here. The most important measures are included with this letter (see attachment 2).

We will continue to work hard in mapping the impact of the national economic support measures and arranging for these measures to be implemented in practice. We are also taking our own measures to offer additional support in the city and region where possible and desirable.

Additional local measures and support for each other

In consultation with Ondernemend Leiden, the Municipality of Leiden will be working on various additional local measures in the coming period. You can find the latest news about this on the digital information hub www.leiden.nl/ondernemers-corona. We would also like to appeal to those businesses who are not facing difficulties in this period. Please help your co-business owners who currently have

very little income by, for instance, paying invoices more quickly. This is one of the measures that the municipality has also taken to support businesses.

Take part in the business owner survey

We are conducting a survey among business owners to gain a better impression of the impact of the coronavirus crisis on Leiden businesses. The outcomes will help us to analyse whether the measures we are taking are clear for everyone. We can then decide whether we need to produce additional information. We understand that many of you are currently extremely busy just trying to keep your heads above water. However, we would be very grateful if you could complete the survey. Visit the Dutch page www.leiden.nl/ondernemers-corona and click on the button Enquête. An English version is available. Your data will be processed anonymously. You can indicate in the survey whether you would like someone to contact you. The survey can be completed until Sunday 19 April. We will also share the results via the digital information hub.

Stronger together

Dear business owners, one thing is certain: Leiden as City of Discoveries is built on a strong foundation of Entrepreneurship, Art, Knowledge and Culture: a sound basis for us to join forces to survive this crisis. We need to support each other and be aware of those in need so that we can emerge from this crisis even stronger. We wish you every strength in running your business during this period and even more importantly: stay safe and healthy!

Our best wishes and sincere regards,

Yvonne van Delft
Alderman for Work, Income, Economy and Culture

Paul Dirkse
Alderman for Knowledge, Sport, Education and Finances

Nico Tates
Chair of Ondernemend Leiden

Martijn van Pelt
Chair of VNO-NCW West



Attachment 1: Contact details for Municipality of Leiden, business associations, national public bodies

Municipality of Leiden

1. Online information hub with an up-to-date overview of all national and local measures that business owners can use: www.leiden.nl/entrepreneurs-corona
2. Municipality of Leiden helpdesk: call 14071 (on working days between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm), select option 4 for general questions, select option 1 for financial support for self-employed professionals. The municipality employees are ready to answer your questions. Or complete the contact form and we will answer your questions as quickly as possible: www.leiden.nl/contactformulier

You can also contact the business account managers at the Municipality of Leiden by e-mail:

- Leiden Bio Science Park, Stationsgebied Zeezijde, Verbeekstraat, Vondellaan;
 - Anja van der Meer: a.van.der.meer@leiden.nl
- Binnenstad and Stationsgebied stadszijde;
 - Hans Gennotte: h.gennotte@leiden.nl
- Business parks, shopping precincts and other areas
 - Hilde de Boer: h.de.boer@leiden.nl
 - Henk Solingen: h.solingen@leiden.nl

BSGR - Tax Cooperative Gouwe Rijnland

- 071 – 525 6200 on working days from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon (changed opening hours)

Business associations

The Municipality of Leiden, Ondernemend Leiden and VNO-NCW West have established an Economy Crisis Team. All business and sector associations are represented in this. An overview of the participating organisations is given below. Contact details are included for most of these, so you can get in touch if you have questions.

Stichting Ondernemend Leiden (Leiden Enterprise Foundation):

- www.ondernemendleiden.nl
- E-mail: info@ondernemendleiden.nl
- Tel: 06 - 41281238

Centrummanagement Leiden (Leiden City Centre Management):

- for business owners in the city centre who are part of the Haarlemmerstraat, Hartje Leiden, Beestenmarkt, de Bree, HerenDoeza and Pieterskwartier business owners associations
- www.centrumvanleiden.nl
- E-mail: info@centrumvanleiden.nl
- Tel: 071 - 5140435

BV Leiden (for affiliated members):

- www.bvleiden.nl
- E-mail: info@bvleiden.nl
- Tel: 071 - 5127885

Leiden Bio Science Park business association:

- for companies on the Bio Science Park
- <https://leidenbiosciencepark.nl/ov-bsp/about-the-entrepreneurs-association-ov-bsp>
- E-mail: info@ov-bsp.nl
- Tel: 06 - 22478305

Bedrijvig Leiden (Leiden Enterprise):

- E-mail: info@ondernemendleiden.nl
- Tel: 06 - 41281238

VNO-NCW West (Business Network)

- <https://www.vno-ncwwest.nl>
- E-mail: info@vno-ncwwest.nl
- Tel: 070 - 3490810

Vastgoed Binnenstad Leiden (Leiden City Centre Property)

- <https://www.vastgoedbinnenstadleiden.nl/>
- E-mail: info@vastgoedbinnenstadleiden.nl
- Tel: 071 - 5233277

Hoteloverleg Leiden (Leiden Hotel Consultation)

- E-mail: info@jetsecretariaat.nl

Koninklijke Horeca Nederland afdeling Leiden e.o (Leiden Division of association representing hospitality businesses) (for affiliated members):

- www.khn.nl
- E-mail: info@khn.nl
- Tel: 034 - 8489489 (national number)

Turkse Ondernemersvereniging Rijnland (TOVER):

- for Turkish business owners
- www.tover.eu
- E-mail: info@tover.eu
- Tel: 071 - 5122070

Moroccan business owners who have questions can contact:

- Outman Mgharbi, representative of Moroccan business owners
- E-mail: Outman@easymakelaars.nl

National public bodies

1. **Chamber of Commerce Corona Desk** 0800 2117 on working days between 8.30 am and 5.00 pm
2. **UWV** 088 - 898 92 95 on working days from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm
3. **RVO** 088 - 042 25 00 on working days from 8.30 am to 8.00 pm
4. **Qredits** 0546 - 534010 on working days from 08.30 am to 9.00 pm and on Saturdays from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm
5. **Tax Office** 0800 - 0543 Mondays to Thursdays from 8.00 am to 8.00 pm. And on Fridays from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm.



Attachment 2: National and local measures for business owners

National government measures

The most up-to-date status of the national measures can be found on the Chamber of Commerce Corona Desk website: <https://www.kvk.nl/corona/het-coronavirus-check-hier-je-regelingen>

You can also find information here about various schemes that we will not be covering here, namely: the SET Covid19 scheme: Digital care incentive; banks offering deferral of payment; pension funds offering deferral of payment; the Dutch Customs measure package; and EU initiatives.

1. Expansion of the SME credit guarantee scheme (BMKB): BMKB-C. The SME credit guarantee scheme (BMKB) has been relaxed to help particularly SME business owners affected by the coronavirus crisis. Companies can use the scheme to loan money from the bank under more favourable conditions. The SME credit guarantee scheme (BMKB) runs to 75% of the credit provided by the financing party. The government guarantee covers 90% of this credit guarantee. This reduces the business owner's personal guarantee from 25% to 10%. Visit the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) website for more information: <https://www.rvo.nl/actueel/nieuws/coronavirus-verruimde-bmkb-regeling-voor-ondernemers-versneld-open>
2. Temporary Emergency Bridging Measure for Sustained Employment (NOW): NOW aims to compensate employers facing turnover losses. This enables employers to continue to pay their employees on both permanent and flexible contracts. NOW replaces the unemployment benefit during short-time working. The unemployment benefit during short-time working scheme is no longer available. NOW is being implemented via the UWV. UWV is working to ensure that the scheme can start from Monday 6 April. The period over which you can receive compensation does not depend on this date. You can also receive compensation for a loss of turnover starting from 1 March 2020. You can expect to receive the first advance payment from UWV within 4 weeks of your application. More information is available on the UWV website: <https://www.uwv.nl/werkgevers/veelgestelde-vragen/coronavirus/detail/now>
3. Temporary bridging measure for self-employed professionals (TOZO): the scheme is available for self-employed professionals, including self-employed persons without employees who are in a difficult situation due to the coronavirus crisis. Self-employed professionals can receive up to 1,500 euros net per month via this scheme. The scheme is based on the existing Bbz (Financial support for self-employed professionals), but the process and payment have been accelerated. The scheme conditions have been relaxed due to the unique situation in which the Netherlands finds itself: for instance the income support for subsistence does not need to be paid back. For self-employed professionals in the Municipality of Leiden, applications are being processed by the RBZ: Regional Self-Employed Persons Bureau in Rotterdam. If you would like to know if you qualify for this scheme, please contact the Municipality of Leiden by calling 14071 (select 1). They will discuss whether you can be referred to the Municipality of Rotterdam's Regional Self-Employed Persons Bureau (RBZ). RBZ is working for various municipalities, including Leiden and Leiderdorp. Also check out the RBZ Coronavirus measures on (www.rotterdam.nl/rbzcorona).
4. Compensation for entrepreneurs in affected sectors COVID-19 (TOGS): 4,000 euros is available for business owners who are affected directly: The compensation is intended for SME companies (with and without personnel), that have suffered damage due to necessary closure of their enterprise, the restriction of meetings and/or curtailment of travel. You qualify if your company complies with the conditions and your main activity is in accordance with one of the SBI codes mentioned in the scheme. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency website (RVO), <https://www.rvo.nl/subsidie-en-financieringswijzer/tegemeetkoming-schade-covid-19> describes which companies can use the TOGS scheme. The list with SBI codes will be updated periodically. Please keep an eye on the RVO website.

5. Deferral from the Tax Office: if you are experiencing problems as a consequence of the coronavirus crisis, you can ask the [Tax Office](#) for a deferral of your tax returns. This can include your income tax, corporation tax, VAT and payroll tax returns. If you pay your taxes too late in the coming months, the Tax Office will not issue a late payment penalty. If you are expecting lower profits as result of the current situation it is also advisable that you request a reduction of the provisional assessment.
6. Expansion of Business Finance Guarantee Scheme (GO): SMEs and large companies that are facing difficulties in obtaining bank loans and guarantees can use the [Business Finance Guarantee Scheme \(GO\)](#). With the GO scheme, the government is offering a 50% guarantee on bank loans and bank guarantees. The maximum per company is set temporarily at 150 million euros. This enables SMEs and large companies to take out loans more easily as these are 50% guaranteed by the State.
7. Interest rate deduction on Qredits microcredit for small companies: Qredits compensates existing customers affected by the coronavirus crisis in coping with their financial pressures. The microcredit provider offers a 6-month deferral of repayment. The interest in this period will be reduced to 2%. The measure is intended to support small businesses for instance in the hospitality industry, retail trade, personal care, construction and business services. Small businesses and self-employed professionals who do not yet have credit from Qredits, can contact them to apply for a loan or bridging credit as a consequence of the coronavirus crisis. See <https://qredits.nl/>
8. Temporary Guarantee for agricultural and horticultural companies: a temporary guarantee for work capital will become available under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Agriculture (BL). With this scheme, the Cabinet will act as guarantor for the loans granted to agricultural enterprises. The scheme has not yet started, but is due to start as quickly as possible. The conditions will also be announced at that time. For more information visit [Ondernemersplein.kvk.nl: https://ondernemersplein.kvk.nl/borgstellingskrediet-voor-de-landbouw/](https://ondernemersplein.kvk.nl/borgstellingskrediet-voor-de-landbouw/)



Local measures from the Municipality of Leiden:

1. Deferral of local taxes: the Municipality of Leiden is offering a deferral of local taxes that are processed by the BSGR - Tax Cooperative Gouwe Rijnland. These include the charges for wastewater and waste disposal and property tax bills for owners and renters. It has been decided to offer this deferral until 31 August 2020.
Note:
You must apply to the BSGR for this yourself. You can read how to apply for a deferral on the BSGR website. It is possible that your request for a payment waiver and the BSGR direct debit happen at the same time. If this happens, please contact BSGR to ask for the money to be refunded, preferably by telephone on 071 - 525 6200 (on working days from 9.00 am - 12.00 noon) or via the BSGR contact form. Do not arrange the refund yourself as the bank will then try to debit the amount again at a later date.
2. Tourist tax: the provisional 2020 tourist tax assessment will not be imposed earlier than late August. The final assessment over 2019 has, however, already been invoiced in March of this year. You can request a deferral of payment from the BSGR until 31 August 2020.
3. Accelerated payment of invoices by the Municipality of Leiden: the municipality is doing its utmost to pay invoices as quickly as possible. It has abandoned the statutory payment terms. As soon as an invoice has been approved by employees, it will be paid. Payments take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
4. Invoicing and collection of credits: invoicing for services delivered and supplies from the municipality will continue but the active recovery of invoices has ceased until further notice. This includes reminders, warnings, notices of default and debt collection agency activities. Reminders and warnings will continue in some areas as there is no reason to stop these, such as construction fees. Individual debtors could already arrange payment schemes and such arrangements are still possible.