

Coronavirus and your money

Help is at hand



The impact of the coronavirus on household finances is wide-reaching for families of all levels of income.

Many will be worried about paying the mortgage and household bills and servicing debts from credit cards to car finance loans during lockdown and beyond.

One important step is to know what your rights are, what financial support you're entitled to and what to do if you think you won't be able to pay your bills. Here are the places to find the information you need for you and your family.

Charities

The **Money Advice Service** offers a detailed round up of all the government measures and how they work, as well as contact information for lenders. It offers help via phone, email, webchat and Whatsapp.

🔗 <https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/coronavirus-and-your-money>

Debt charity **Step Change** has a comprehensive website and an email service should you have any extra questions or need advice. The phone lines are currently closed.

🔗 <https://www.stepchange.org>

Citizens Advice offers advice online about your money and benefits available.

🔗 <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

Turn2Us runs a helpline and online benefits calculator that directs applicants to the benefits they might be entitled to. Turn2Us can also step in by providing grants of up to £1,000 within 10 days of application.

🔗 <https://www.turn2us.org.uk>

Entitled to is another useful charity that offers online help on what money is available for struggling households and how to access it. It doesn't, however, answer questions about your individual benefit entitlements.

🔗 https://www.entitledto.co.uk/help/coronavirus_help

Charities warn that response times to emails and wait times on helplines are likely to be longer than usual.

General information

Money Saving Expert Martin Lewis's website has many answers to money issues and a huge amount of information with the latest government measures and how they work.

 <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com>

Newspapers and their affiliated websites are keeping a close eye on the financial implications for people.

Podcasts

There are a number of podcasts that can help you with how to handle your money, taking the big personal finance issues from the week and breaking them down.

Consumer group **Which? Money** produces a weekly podcast with a round-up of news, tips and advice. The hosts - Lucia Ariano, Gareth Shaw and Jenny Ross – chat each Thursday on current money affairs and your rights.

 <https://www.which.co.uk/money/podcast>

Money blogger **Andy Webb** shares his tips on how to spend your money more wisely. It covers every personal finance topic you can think of and guides you through each issue.

 <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/cash-chats/id1196341949>

Financial news website **This is Money's** podcast is presented by Georgie Frost and features journalists and experts from This is Money including editor Simon Lambert.

 <https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/podcast/index.html>

If you have a problem repaying debts whether it be your mortgage, overdraft, credit cards or personal loans, it's important not to ignore it.

For mortgages, there's the option of taking a three-month repayment holiday and banks might be willing to help on unsecured debts for a period of time.

A debt charity can advise you, and act on your behalf, free of charge to help with unsecured debts. But if you need immediate help it might be better to approach your lender directly with so many people needing help.

There's plenty of resources – don't suffer in silence.

like minds

This article was created for our **Money Minded** solution, helping individuals feel better about their money.

Find out more:

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