**RDA UK update 30 March 2020**

This bulletin contains:

* Taking care during essential RDA activity
* A note about RDA group orders
* Latest advice from British Equestrian Federation (BEF) on help for the self-employed and guidance on riding.

**Taking care during essential RDA activity**

BEF have issued guidance around riding (see below). In addition to this, we would ask everyone who continues to undertake any essential activities within an RDA environment to take extra care with everything they do. You should also consider updating risk assessments to include the risks associated with reduced numbers of people on the yard, hygiene protocols and social distancing.

**RDA Group Orders**

Unfortunately, we are unable to process group orders at the moment. We will let you know as soon as this service is up and running again.

**Latest update from BEF**

**Government help for the self-employed**

Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced his eagerly awaited support package, which will benefit a number of equestrian sector workers. In simple terms:

* The government will pay the self-employed a taxable grant worth 80% of their average monthly profits over the last three years up to £2500 per month
* The grant will be available for three months and will be extended if necessary
* People can claim these grants and continue to do business
* The aim is to pay at the beginning of June (three months backdated) directly into your bank account.

The grants will be available to anyone who meets all the criteria:

* Be self-employed or a member of partnership;
* Have lost trading/partnership trading profits due to COVID-19;
* File a tax return for 2018-19 as self-employed or a member of a trading partnership. Those who have not yet filed for 2018-19 will have an additional four weeks from this announcement to do so;
* Have traded in 2019-20; be currently trading at the point of application (or would be except for COVID 19) and intend to continue to trade in the tax year 2020 to 2021
* Have trading profits of less than £50,000 and more than half of your total income come from self-employment. **This can be with reference to at least one of the following conditions:**
  + Your trading profits and total income in 2018/19
  + Your average trading profits and total income across up to the three years between 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19.

**What do you need to do to access a grant?**

HMRC will contact you directly and you’ll have to fill out a form to indicate your business has been impacted by the pandemic.

Businesses set up since April 2019 won’t be eligible as there will be no filed tax return on record. For these new start-ups, there is other help available such as Universal Credit if you hold savings below £16,000 and business continuity loans where they have a business bank account.

Further information and details of the scheme will be released shortly by HMRC and we’ll pass on any relevant information.

Further Details can be found at - [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals%20%20%20)

**Riding**

Government has not issued any restrictions on riding but we would continue to urge everyone to carefully consider the risks and what is ‘essential’ and not ride. The emergency and health services are working at full capacity to combat the virus and as a community we shouldn’t add to that burden. If you choose to ride, we’d strongly suggest avoiding activity with heightened risk and keeping to your own property.

The BEF will continue to provide regular updates as the situation is ever changing with new information, clarification and updates coming through. Here are some links from our colleagues you may find helpful:

BHS - <https://www.bhs.org.uk/>

WHW - <https://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/>

BEVA - <https://www.beva.org.uk/coronavirus>

BFBA - <https://www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk/bfba/index.htm>

BGA - <https://britishgrooms.org.uk/coronavirus>

EEA - <https://equestrianemployers.org.uk/coronavirus>