

# Update for open businesses

## 25 March 2020 Update on who can remain open

Following the release of the below on 23 March 2020, the government have since released additional information on which businesses can remain open. For the full list, please visit the [dedicated page on the government's website](#).

### Can my business remain open?

Boris Johnson initially stated that "Travelling to and from work [is permitted], but only where it is absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home". This caused some confusion in that it wasn't entirely clear whether the work had to be necessary, or whether the travel to get there had to be necessary.

An hour or so later, the government published a document, "*Full guidance on staying at home and away from others*" which stated, "*Travelling to and from work [is permitted], but only where this absolutely cannot be done from home*" suggesting that the work did not need to be 'necessary', merely that it 'absolutely cannot' be done from home.

Next, the government sent out a tweet saying: "The only reasons you may leave home [are]: ... to go to work (if you're a key worker)" which suggested that the work had to be necessary and if not (ie if you were not a key worker) you should not attend work.

Late last night, the Mayor of Manchester, Andy Burnham tweeted:

*"OK, final tweet tonight everyone. Have now spoken to No10 & had it confirmed that people CAN leave home to work - as long as they fully observe the 2m distancing rule. Seems to me to be in conflict with the big #StayAtHome message. But that's the official policy. Over & out!"*

In view of the above, as it stands, it is safe to assume that anyone can go to work provided their work cannot be done from home. Obviously it goes without saying they should still be advised to implement sensible rules aimed at minimising staff coming into contact/within 2 metres of each other.

The government have a website section dedicated [to guidance on staying at home and away from others](#).

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