



AVRO Statement

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Key Workers and UK Wide Lock Down

6th January 2021

On Monday 4th January 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced another UK wide Lock Down which included an order for several businesses to remain closed and individuals to remain at home unless certain criteria are met. The effects of this lock down will be widely felt but are necessary to ensure that we combat the ever-growing threat from the new variant of COVID-19.

The roadside recovery industry and its operation is fundamental to the economy of the United Kingdom, it must continue to operate to ensure that UK roads are kept clear and free flowing and those, including critical care workers, supply chains and emergency services are supported and not left in places of danger following breakdown, road traffic collision or other vehicle failure.

The Government released guidance titled ***Guidance for schools, childcare providers, colleges and local authorities in England on maintaining education provisions*** which was updated on 5th January 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> this details Government advice on what businesses are 'critical sectors' and as a result employees working within these sectors were classed as 'key workers' and would still be entitled to childcare provisions as well as being able to continue working. This guidance states the following:

Transport and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

AVRO believes this guidance covers the services the roadside recovery industry provides and as such it should be classed as a critical sector and its employees as key workers. The roadside recovery industry works solely upon the transport system, namely the public highway, keeping it clear, keeping it moving and keeping any supply chain supported and operational.

Therefore, AVRO recommends that the roadside recovery industry can remain operational throughout the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, however we recommend that individual operators assess their individual operations to ensure that the services they are providing remain in compliance with Government guidance.

Many roadside recovery operators within the industry also operate some form of garage services. Within Government guidance titled **Guidance: National Lockdown: Stay at Home** published on 4th January 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#businesses-and-venues-which-can-remain-open> this document stipulates which businesses, and venues can remain open.

The document states the follow as a category of business that can remain open:

- *businesses providing repair services may also stay open, where they primarily offer repair services*
- *petrol stations, automatic (but not manual) car washes, vehicle repair and MOT services, bicycle shops, and taxi and vehicle hire businesses*

Therefore, AVRO recommends that garages can remain open throughout the response to COVID-19, however we recommend that individual operators assess their individual operations to ensure that the services they are providing are in compliance with Government guidance.

AVRO strongly always recommends that all operators and businesses adhere to Government advice and guidelines, including the practice of social distancing and other measures recommended by the Government. Further advice can be found at the www.gov.uk website. Guidance on working safely in vehicles can also be found [here](#).

AVRO strongly recommends its members to familiarise themselves with the support available to employers and the self-employed, including sole traders and limited company directors. You may be eligible for loans, tax relief and cash grants, whether your business is open or closed.

Use the COVID checker tool to find out what coronavirus financial support is available for your business [here](#).

A list of financial support measures for businesses during coronavirus is available [here](#)