



## AVA Newsletter: 8th February, 2021

### VAT Reduction: Extension Campaign - Take Action Now!



The VAT reduction from 20% to 5% introduced for Hospitality, Foodservices, Catering and Vending last year is due to end on 31st March. As would be expected, accounting for this reduction was not straightforward, but provided a welcome boost to struggling businesses throughout our sector.

If you need more detail and guidance it can be found on the AVA website [HERE](#)

#### **LOBBY YOUR MP NOW**

Working together with partner Trade Associations the AVA has been lobbying for an extension of this reduction - before The Chancellor's Budget on 3rd March.

You can take action too. Lobby your local MP. This is made easy by using the special tool on the UKHospitality website appealing for:

- an extension of the VAT cut to 5% for a further 12 months, and to ensure that it applies across the broad hospitality sector, to stimulate economic activity.
- The enactment of a further business rates holiday for hospitality for 2021/22 to protect communities and repair businesses.

Just add your postcode. You can edit the letter or simply add your details to the one it provides.

[\*\*Local MP VAT Letter\*\*](#)

The more letters sent - the more chance of success!

## Local Restrictions Support Grant and Additional Restrictions Grant



### Additional Restrictions Grant - Regional Variation

From speaking to members, it would seem that grant claims being made in England are successful. Varying amounts, but payments are being made by Local Authorities.

Scotland though - not a one! It is not a case, as in Wales, where payments are 'on hold' awaiting a decision. Grant applications are being turned down.

If you have made a successful claim in Scotland, then please let us know. If you have been rejected, again, let us know, with details and the rationale provided.

The AVA will continue to campaign on our members' behalf. You may have seen the recent letter from David Llewellyn to The Times, Financial Times and The Times Scotland. See the AVA Press Release [HERE](#)

These ARGs were set up specifically "*to help those businesses which – while not legally forced to close – are nonetheless severely impacted by the restrictions. . . businesses which supply the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors.*"

You will find more information [HERE](#) but should apply directly through your Local Authority. Details of which can be found on the same website.

### DIARY DATES

The only thing we can be certain of this year is that dates, events and timings will probably move!

Keep in touch by regularly checking the [AVA Industry Events Calendar](#)

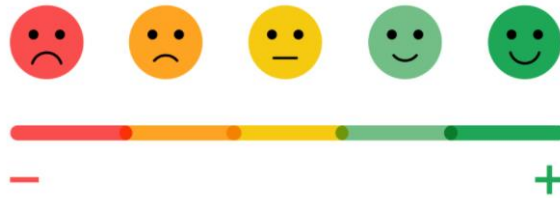
If you are planning (or re-planning) an event, let us know.

### Workplace Testing

A reminder that the Government is, until the end of March, providing workplace Covid-19 testing kits free of charge to businesses with 50 or more employees (this is 50 employees in total whether or not on a single site). The aim is for staff to be tested on a weekly basis as part of the drive to find and isolate those who are asymptomatic. Public Health England has now confirmed that lateral test results no longer require a PCR confirmatory test.



[WORKPLACE COVID-19 TESTS](#)



### AVA Member Survey

Every year, we ask our members to complete an anonymous survey so that we can gauge member satisfaction and look at development areas for this year.

We know 2020 was an 'exceptional' year and we have worked hard to assist you along the way. Please let us know how you feel.

Here is this year's survey for any feedback on our performance for 2020.

### [AVA SURVEY](#)

We appreciate both positive and constructive feedback and thank you for taking the time to respond.

# AVA ENGINEERS' TRAINING PROGRAMME

### Engineers Electrical Safety Courses

The AVA recently successfully held its very first online version of the Engineers' Training Programme. The course went well and it received very positive feedback from attendees.

We will be hosting a series of online Part 1 courses throughout 2021.

For any business which currently has employees on furlough, don't forget that these members of your team are still able to take part in training.

For more detail on the course you can head to the members area of the website, here: [AVA Members Training - Engineers Training Programme](#)

### Message from Phil & Jenny Reynolds:

It seems that exhibition organisers - Vendex included, are the latest targets for scammers. According to the Association of Event Organisers, these scammers are "Scraping" events websites and sending emails out to exhibitors offering visitors or pre-registered visitors databases. These scammers appear to be operating from America and are therefore out of reach of our legal jurisdiction.

If you are getting these emails offering a Vendex database - IGNORE IT.

Fortunately, we are a very small team so the ONLY THREE NAMES who will ever contact you are:

Phil Reynolds, Jenny Reynolds, Sylvie Brown (Accounts)

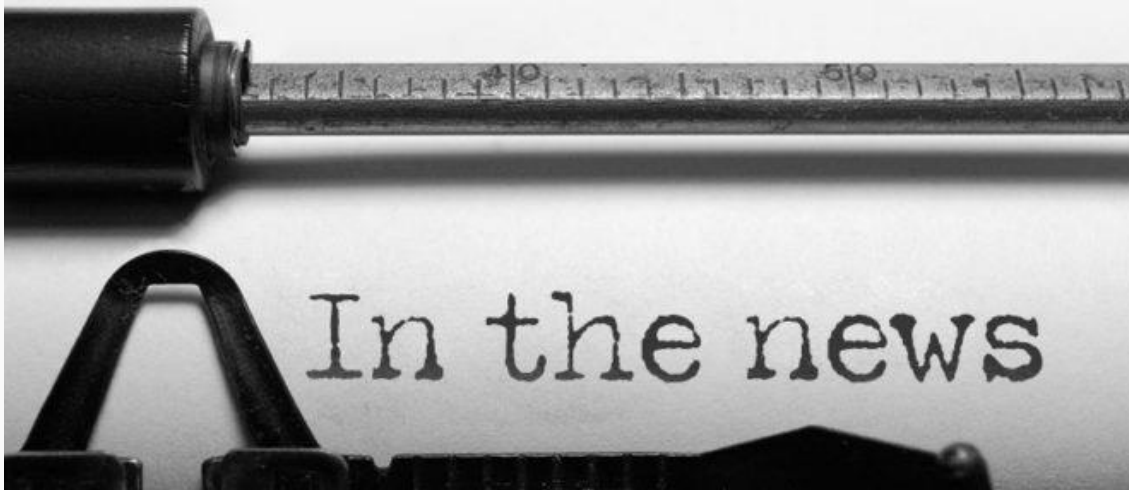


## AVA Jobs Page

This is a new, free service the AVA is offering to all members.

With the impact of Covid-19 and many businesses having to restructure, there is a great deal of 'fluidity' in the vending market. Especially with some companies having to look at moving roles to part-time or laying off of staff members.

So, if you are looking to fill any sort of role within your business, without having to pay agency fees at a time when every additional cost matters. Contact [Penny.Rowell@the-ava.com](mailto:Penny.Rowell@the-ava.com) for details. We will post your advert on the new AVA Jobs page: [Jobs – AVA \(the-ava.com\)](https://www.the-ava.com/jobs)



### AVA in the News - Recent Articles:

- [FMUK](#)
- [HOSTEL VENDING](#)
- [VENDING INTERNATIONAL](#)
- [PLANET VENDING](#)