**Perennial Coronavirus COVID-19 news update**

16th July 2020

**Perennial’s helpline is operating as usual on** **0800 093 8543 or visit** [**Perennial.org.uk**](https://perennial.org.uk/?utm_source=corporate-news-bulletin-(16th-july-2020)&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news-bulletin-16-july) **to fill out the** [**contact form**](https://perennial.org.uk/home/ways-we-can-help/services-contact-form/?utm_source=corporate-news-bulletin-(16th-july-2020)-contact-form-&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news-bulletin-16-july)**. The confidential helpline is currently open Monday and Wednesday, 9.30am – 5pm and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9am – 5pm.**

Since our last bulletin a few weeks ago, there have been some new developments announced (8th July) by the UK Government, with a VAT cut for the hospitality industry, stamp duty holiday, restaurant discounts and a suite of measures to boost hiring as part of the mini-Budget. We have also launched our back to school campaign to help those in horticulture that are struggling with the rising cost of school uniform. We also have updates to our mental wellbeing pages. Ever thought about doing a skydive now is the time to get involved as skydives are open again from mid-July. The Legal helpline is still available to many people in our industry, so get in touch now if you have any queries but it’s only available for a limited time.

A group of people posing for the camera

Description automatically generated**Back to School**

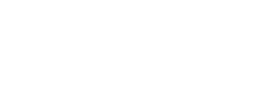
At Perennial we want every child to have a happy and healthy childhood. Parents and carers work hard to give their children the best start at school, but we know that for families living on low incomes this is a huge challenge. The cost of school uniform and PE kit is putting even more financial pressure on families working in horticulture. We have recently launched our ‘Back to School’ campaign and can support you to meet these rising costs. To find out more and apply for help [**please click here**](https://perennial.org.uk/home/ways-we-can-help/back-to-school/?utm_source=corporate-news-bulletin-(16th-july-2020)-back-to-school&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news-bulletin-16-july).

**Mental wellbeing**

It’s natural to feel anxious at different times in our lives, and normally these feelings pass. However, if things which wouldn’t normally worry you are feeling overwhelming then it’s time to act now. We can help you with many stressful events, such as ill health, accident, bereavement, redundancy and money worries. Visit our [**online mental wellbeing community page**](https://perennial.org.uk/home/ways-we-can-help/mental-wellbeing/online-community/?utm_source=corporate-news-bulletin-(16th-july-2020)-mental-wellbeing-online-community&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news-bulletin-16-july) to find out more about getting support during these times. We can support you through many of life’s challenges that you may find overwhelming, just contact our confidential Perennial helpline on **0800 093 8543.**

**Government announcement**

Last week (8th July) the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak announced the UK Government was introducing more measures to help individuals and businesses, with a VAT cut for the hospitality industry from 20% to 5% for six months, stamp duty holiday for people purchasing property, ‘Eat Out to Help Out’ discount scheme providing restaurant discounts and a suite of measures to boost hiring as part of the mini-Budget. Check out our website for more [**advice on ways we can help**](https://perennial.org.uk/home/ways-we-can-help/coronavirus-support/tab=adviceforbusinesses?utm_source=corporate-news-bulletin-(16th-july-2020)-advice-for-business&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news-bulletin-16-july) your business.



**Advice for Businesses**

The government Coronavirus Support Finder Tool helps employers and the self-employed find out what support is available for their business during the coronavirus. You can also find the full range of business support measures available on the government website, including specific advice for small and medium-sized businesses. We understand this is a very unsettling and difficult time for self-employed people in horticulture. Follow this link for free advice for small and medium sized businesses with help to recover from the impact of Coronavirus. Businesses can access advice and support from experts on topics from accounting to advertising, HR and legal affairs for free until 31st December 2020. [**Click here for more information.**](https://perennial.org.uk/home/ways-we-can-help/coronavirus-support/tab=adviceforbusinesses?utm_source=corporate-news-bulletin-(16th-july-2020)-advice-for-business&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news-bulletin-16-july)

**LIMITED TIME ONLY! Access to a FREE Legal Helpline!**

If you have any legal queries at this time, please get in touch soon. Getting a helping hand with some legal advice can be a huge benefit across many areas of life for people in horticulture and their families and doing so can prevent issues from arising in the future. [**Our new FREE legal helpline**](https://perennial.org.uk/home/ways-we-can-help/free-legal-helpline/?utm_source=corporate-news-bulletin-(16th-july-2020)-legal-helpline&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news-bulletin-16-july) is available to support you during this difficult time. We have partnered with Irwin Mitchell solicitors, they have legal experts available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to support the horticultural community with their extensive knowledge across all areas of law.

If you need[**legal support**](https://perennial.org.uk/home/ways-we-can-help/free-legal-helpline/?utm_source=corporate-news-bulletin-(16th-july-2020)-legal-helpline&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news-bulletin-16-july), please call the Perennial helpline in confidence and our team will be ready to help you or refer you to the legal helpline on **0800 093 8543** or complete our [**contact form**](https://perennial.org.uk/home/ways-we-can-help/services-contact-form/?utm_source=corporate-news-bulletin-(16th-july-2020)-contact-form-&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news-bulletin-16-july). **The helpline will be available for a limited time only.**

**Skydives open again**

Ever thought of doing a skydive? Airfields are just starting to open up again from mid-July, with a few additional safety measures in place for protection against covid.

Due to the current crisis, income has dropped significantly, so any funds raised will be going to those in horticulture that are most in need.

There is no rush quite like skydiving! But if skydiving is not for you there are other amazing [**challenge events available just check out our webpage for inspiration**](https://perennial.org.uk/home/how-you-can-help/hortaid/tab=events?utm_source=corporate-news-bulletin-(16th-july-2020)-challenge-events&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=news-bulletin-16-july). Youcouldget involved in any of these spectacular challenges from wing walking to trekking Costa Rica and don’t forget to rope in your friends and colleagues to join you.