

***Quick Guide to
Business Advice***



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GETTING STARTED IN YOUR BUSINESS

Business Gateway

Practical help advice and support for new and growing businesses in Scotland

[http://www.bgateway.com/bdotg/action/layer?
r.l1=1073858790&topicId=1073858805&r.lc=en&site=202&r.s
=m](http://www.bgateway.com/bdotg/action/layer?r.l1=1073858790&topicId=1073858805&r.lc=en&site=202&r.s=m)

Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The ultimate business network

<http://www.ayrshire-chamber.org/links.asp>

Scottish Enterprise

Do you have an idea for a business with the potential to grow strongly? We help researchers and academics to turn research into business. We can also help high growth startups.

[http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/sedotcom_home/
start-your-business.htm](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/sedotcom_home/start-your-business.htm)

Public Contracts Scotland

Free access to contract opportunities in Scotland

<http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/>

Federation of Small Business

The UK's leading business organisation

<http://www.fsb.org.uk/default.aspx?loc=general&id=0>

FUNDING ADVICE

Business Gateway

Practical help advice and support for new and growing businesses in Scotland

[http://www.bgateway.com/bdotg/action/layer?
topicId=1073858790&r.lc=en&site=202&r.s=m](http://www.bgateway.com/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=1073858790&r.lc=en&site=202&r.s=m)

Small Business

Helping your business think big

[http://www.smallbusiness.co.uk/channels/small-business-
finance/](http://www.smallbusiness.co.uk/channels/small-business-finance/)

New Business

Better business advice

<http://www.newbusiness.co.uk/articles/banking-finance>

Growth Business

Your gateway to entrepreneurial success

[http://www.growthbusiness.co.uk/channels/raising-
finance/](http://www.growthbusiness.co.uk/channels/raising-finance/)

Local Councils

North, East and South Ayrshire

<http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/sn1/businessandtrade.asp>

<http://www.open4business.info/northayrshire/Default.aspx>

[http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/business/
business_assistance.asp](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/business/business_assistance.asp)

West of Scotland Loan Fund

<http://www.wslf.co.uk/>

TRAINING ADVICE

Skills Development Scotland

A shared vision to drive forward real, positive and sustained change in Scotland's skills performance.
<http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/>

Hot Courses

The UK's largest course finder
<http://www.hotcourses.com/community/homePage.jsp?x=16180339&y=&a=0>

Glasgow Chamber of Commerce

Keeps you up to date with all the latest business news in the Business News area.
<http://www.glasgowchamberonline.org/>

IT Training Courses

IT Training Scotland will always have the right course
<http://ittrainingscotland.co.uk/>

Scottish Enterprise

If you have questions about growing your business, now's the time to ask.
http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/sedotcom_home.htm

Workers' Educational Association Scotland

The model supports small companies by providing a training needs analysis. It enables delivery of training by releasing staff for learning while production is kept going through the employment of formerly unemployed people.
<http://www.weascotland.org.uk/index.php?/jobrotation>

EXPORTING ADVICE

Business Gateway

Practical help advice and support for new and growing businesses in Scotland
<http://www.bgateway.com/bdotg/action/search?resultPage=1&expression=export&site=202>

UK Trade and Investment

Go further. Export.
https://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/appmanager/ukti/home?_nfls=false&_nfpb=true

Europe Trade and Export Control

The Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform is committed to helping British industry increase productivity and develop world-class competitiveness.
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/europeandtrade/index.html>

HM Revenue and Customs

Import and Export
http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageImportHome

EMPLOYMENT ADVICE

Job Centre Plus

Part Of The Department For Work And Pensions
<http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/index.html>

Partnership Action for Continuing Employment - PACE

Scottish Government's national strategic partnership framework for responding to redundancy situations.
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/support>

Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service - ACAS

Improve organisations and working life through better employment relations.
<http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1953>

Ayrshire Chamber Commerce

The ultimate business network
<http://www.ayrshire-chamber.org/memberbenefits.asp?p=12>

Business Gateway

Taking on staff, pay and pensions, managing your staff, improving staff performance, problems and incidents
<http://www.bgateway.com/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=5001004299&site=202&r.s=sl>

Croner

The home of employment law and health & safety advice and consultancy.
http://www.croner.co.uk/croner/jsp/CronerHome.do?channelId=-238414&linkName=CM_home&cache=true&BV_UseBV_Cookie=yes&invokingPortal=Croner

BUSINESS ORGANISATION ADVICE

Ayrshire Chamber Commerce

The ultimate business network
<http://www.ayrshire-chamber.org>

Federation of Small Business

The UK's leading business organisation
<http://www.fsb.org.uk/default.aspx?id=8&loc=FSBbenefits>

Elite Ayrshire Business Circle

A recently formed association of some of the top companies in Ayrshire.
<http://www.eliteayrshire.com/>

Ayrshire Association of Business Women – AABW

The leading business, entrepreneurial and professional women's group in Ayrshire.
<http://www.aabw.org.uk/>

Women into Business

Can help your business achieve its full potential.
<http://www.scottishbusinesswomen.com/>

Real Help for Scotland

Produced by the UK Government, details all the help and sources of information available to businesses
<http://www.realhelpnow.gov.uk>

Women into Business

Can help your business achieve its full potential.

<http://www.scottishbusinesswomen.com/scottishbusinesswomen/womenintobusiness.htm>

Business Gateway

Women into Business

<http://www.bgateway.com/bdotg/action/layer?topicId=5001004286&site=202>

Network Enterprise Europe Scotland

Welcome to Europe's largest Innovation and Business Network

<http://www.enterprise-europe-scotland.com/sct/>

Ayrshire Business Connections

Dedicated to establishing a localised business database providing company information in a user friendly format for browsers to search.

<http://www.ayrshirebusiness.co.uk/about.asp>

PROCUREMENT ADVICE

Supplier Development Programme - SDP

Linking Local businesses

<http://www.sdpScotland.co.uk/>

British Chambers of Commerce

The Business Network Online

<http://>

www.britishchambers.org.uk/6798219245524076281/the-business-network-online.html

Compete For 2012

CompeteFor is a free service and is the chosen site of London 2012 for the publication of Games-related contract opportunities

<https://www.competefor.com/london2012business/login.jsp>

Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games

Procurement opportunities for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014 will fall into three broad categories and timescales

<http://www.glasgow2014.com/GetInvolved/Procurement/>

Network Enterprise Europe Scotland

Enterprise Europe Scotland offers Scottish businesses help and assistance regards public procurement in Europe.

[http://www.enterprise-europe-scotland.com/sct/services/tender_information.asp?](http://www.enterprise-europe-scotland.com/sct/services/tender_information.asp?ContentID=015&BackTo=0&savemsg=&CustomMessage)

[ContentID=015&BackTo=0&savemsg=&CustomMessage](http://www.enterprise-europe-scotland.com/sct/services/tender_information.asp?ContentID=015&BackTo=0&savemsg=&CustomMessage)

[ContentID=015&BackTo=0&savemsg=&CustomMessage](http://www.enterprise-europe-scotland.com/sct/services/tender_information.asp?ContentID=015&BackTo=0&savemsg=&CustomMessage)

MISCELLANEOUS ADVICE FOR BUSINESSES

Scottish Enterprise

In tough times ask the right questions
<http://www.nowsthetimetask.co.uk/>

British Chambers of Commerce

<http://www.britishchambers.org.uk/>

HM Revenue & Customs

What to do if you cannot pay the VAT due to HM Revenue & Customs
<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/vat/pay-cannotpay.htm#1>

Federation of Small Businesses

Small Business Bonus Scheme 2008-2009, Percentage relief available, subject to eligibility
<http://www.fsb.org.uk/default.aspx?id=0&loc=010>

Health and Safety Executive

10 point list showing the key actions required by law
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/business/must-do.htm>

National Minimum Wage

Applies to nearly all workers and sets hourly rates which pay must not be allowed to fall.
<http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/employment/pay/national-minimum-wage/index.html>

DEBT RECOVERY ADVICE

Debt Collection Agencies in Scotland

<http://www.scottishlaw.org.uk/lawfirms/seradebt.html>

Business Gateway

Recover your debts
<http://www.bgateway.com/bdotg/action/layer?r.l1=1073858790&r.l3=1075135408&topicId=1075135408&r.lc=en&r.t=BLTTOOL&site=202&r.i=1077731036&r.l2=1074453392&r.s=m>

BizHelp24

Debt recovery Tips
<http://www.bizhelp24.com/debt-collection/2.html>

REDUNDANCY

The Scottish Government

National redundancy Packs
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/support/15419/17415>

Citizens Advice Bureau Scotland

What is redundancy, what counts as redundancy
http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/scotland/life/employment_scotland/redundancy_an_introduction.htm

ACAS

Redundancy and notice

<http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1611#top>

Job Centre Plus

Help with Recruitment

<http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/Employers/redundancies/index.html>

HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE

Employers Health and Safety Responsibilities

Health and Safety of Employees and Visitors

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/HealthAndSafetyAtWork/DG_4016686

ACAS

If you employ 5 or more people you must produce a written health and safety statement

<http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1279>

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVICE

Carbon Trust

Loans for energy saving equipment

<http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/energy/takingaction/about-loans.htm>

Energy Savings Trust

Let us help you turn energy and resource savings to your business advantage

<http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Scotland/Scottish-small-businesses-and-community-groups/Financial-assistance>

Waste Aware Business

Raise awareness of how businesses can deal with their waste more substantially

<http://www.wasteawarebusiness.org.uk/>

Please get in touch with the Chamber if you have any other websites that you feel would be of benefit to others.

If you would like an electronic copy

Tel: 01292 678666

Email: enquiries@ayrshire-chamber.org