

# BUSINESS FUNDING SUPPORT

<b><u>Funding Programme</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Contact</u></b>
<b>Beyond Scotland Market Development Grant</b>	Support for Perth & Kinross based SMEs to explore new international export markets, and also those across the wider UK. Grants of 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum of £2,500 per project including attending trade exhibitions, trade missions, the provision of specialist export training, new market research or other new market/export capacity building activity.	Contact Graham Glover, PKC Market Development & International Trade Adviser on <a href="mailto:gglover@pkc.gov.uk">gglover@pkc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Business Loans Scotland</b>	Offers gap loan funding to SMEs within the area of participating Scottish local authorities (including Perth & Kinross). Funding level cannot exceed 50% of the overall funding package for the project proposed and should be between £25k up to a max of £50k for PKC area.	<a href="http://www.bls.scot">www.bls.scot</a>
<b>The Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme</b>	Facilitates business finance to smaller businesses that are viable but unable to obtain finance from their lender due to having insufficient security to meet the lender's normal requirements. In this situation, EFG provides the lender with a government-backed 75% guarantee against the outstanding facility balance, potentially enabling a 'no' credit decision from a lender to become a 'yes'.	<a href="http://british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/supporting-business-loans-enterprise-finance-guarantee/">http://british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/supporting-business-loans-enterprise-finance-guarantee/</a>
<b>Customs Training and IT Grants Scheme</b>	<p>HMRC is providing two grants to help your business complete customs declarations, in preparation for the UK leaving the EU. Funding is available for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• training that helps your employees to complete customs declarations and processes</li> <li>• IT improvements to help your business complete customs declarations more efficiently</li> </ul> <p>To apply for the training grant, your business must either: complete customs declarations for yourself or someone else (or intend to in the future); import from, or export to the EU and complete customs declarations (or intend to complete customs declarations in the future). To apply for the IT improvements grant, your business must currently complete customs declarations for importers and exporters, and have 250 employees or fewer.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/grants-for-businesses-that-complete-customs-declarations">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/grants-for-businesses-that-complete-customs-declarations</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.customsintermediarygrant.co.uk/registration/">https://www.customsintermediarygrant.co.uk/registration/</a></p>

<b>Scottish Co-Investment Fund (SCF)</b>	<p>The Scottish Co-investment Fund (SCF) is designed to address a finance gap alongside accredited co-investment partners. Investment can be made in companies from start up, early-stage to expanding businesses seeking to develop products and/or markets. The fund can match <b>accredited investment partners</b> up to a maximum of 50% of the total funding package on a commercial basis providing from £10,000 up to £1.5 million, as part of a total deal size ranging from £20,000 up to £10 million. This is an equity fund (Scottish Enterprise will subscribe for shares), with deals brought forward to by partners. The Scottish Investment Bank invests on equal terms with the investment partner.</p>	<a href="http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/scottish-coinvestment-fund/scif-overview">www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/scottish-coinvestment-fund/scif-overview</a>
<b>Scottish Venture Fund</b>	<p>This fund can invest alongside private sector investors on equal terms, up to a maximum of 50% of the total funding package on a commercial basis. They can provide from £10,000 up to £2 million, as part of a total deal size ranging from £20,000 to £10 million. The fund is primarily equity-based (Scottish Enterprise will subscribe for shares) however, it will consider other forms of investment.</p>	<a href="https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/scottish-venture-fund/svf-overview">https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/scottish-venture-fund/svf-overview</a>
<b>Funding Circle</b>	<p>Peer to peer lending for small business. UK operations supported by the UK government's British Business Bank.</p>	<a href="http://www.fundingcircle.com">www.fundingcircle.com</a>
<b>Lending Crowd</b>	<p>Scotland's leading peer to business crowd funding organisation.</p>	<a href="http://www.lendingcrowd.com">www.lendingcrowd.com</a>
<b>DSL Business Finance</b>	<p>DSL is a Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI), a member of the Community Development Finance Association and the European Microfinance Network. It provides business start-up and growth loans for small businesses and social enterprises that can't access funding from banks and other traditional sources. Includes delivery of the Scottish Micro Finance Fund loan scheme which provides loans of up to £25000 at 6%.</p>	<a href="http://www.dsl-businessfinance.co.uk">www.dsl-businessfinance.co.uk</a>
<b>Princes Youth Business Trust Scotland</b>	<p>Programmes for disadvantaged youth from 18-30 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will it work? – up to £250 grant to test the market;</li> <li>• Start-up loan – up to £5k at 6% and reduced initial payments;</li> <li>• Growth loans – up to £25k follow-on loan for previous start-up recipients.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/support-starting-business">https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/support-starting-business</a>
<b>Digital Development Loan</b>	<p>The Digital Development Loan was created by the Scottish Government to provide loans to companies who wish to improve their digital capabilities and processes in areas such as cyber security, data analytics and software engineering. The loan also covers staff digital skills development as part of the Scottish Government's drive to improve economic productivity. £5k to £50k at 0% for up to 60 months for eligible businesses.</p>	<a href="http://digitaldevelopmentloan.org/">http://digitaldevelopmentloan.org/</a>

<p><b>The Angel's Share</b></p>	<p>The Angel's Share in Perth &amp; Kinross aims to find the best possible match for both the business and the investor. This is not only in terms of the capital investment but also the matching of skills, experience, personality and vision.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.theangelsshare.org.uk">www.theangelsshare.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Connect Local Regional Food Fund</b></p>	<p>This is a competitive fund and applicants can apply for grants up to a maximum of £5000. This fund will support initiatives and projects in Scotland which celebrate and promote locally sourced and produced food and drink. The fund is for collaborative projects where groups of producers and food &amp; drink businesses benefit from these initiatives, and projects are expected to deliver benefits over the long-term.</p>	<p><a href="https://connectlocal.scot/funding/regional-food-fund/">https://connectlocal.scot/funding/regional-food-fund/</a></p>
<p><b>Food &amp; Drink Collaborative Innovation Fund</b></p>	<p>A £650k fund, which aims to encourage a culture of collaborative innovation by addressing key opportunities or challenges in the food and drink sector. The programme is focused on small to medium sized enterprises (SME's) within Scotland's food and drink sector. Larger companies may be part of the collaboration but should have at least one SME in their project. Companies must be registered in Scotland or be able to demonstrate that its principal business operation is based here. Essentially, there must be a collaborative relationship between a group of companies, organisations, Scottish Higher Education Institute or research facility. Key interests are in incremental and disruptive product, process or business model innovation that leads to new growth in the food and drink sector.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/develop-new-products-and-services/competitive-collaboration-innovation-fund/are-you-eligible">https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/develop-new-products-and-services/competitive-collaboration-innovation-fund/are-you-eligible</a></p>
<p><b>Regional Selective Assistance (RSA)</b></p>	<p>Businesses in Perth &amp; Kinross may be eligible for RSA if their investment will create or safeguard jobs while also serving more than just the local market. Grants covering 10-20% of costs for small business or 10% for medium-sized depending on location.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/regional-selective-assistance/overview">www.scottish-enterprise.com/services/attract-investment/regional-selective-assistance/overview</a></p>
<p><b>LEADER (Perth &amp; Kinross)</b></p>	<p>LEADER is a rural development programme which aims to support individuals, organisations and communities in rural Perth and Kinross. The target groups are Women, Young People, Micro and Small Businesses and Self Employed and Social Enterprises.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.pkleader.org">www.pkleader.org</a></p>
<p><b>Interface – Start-up or Growth</b></p>	<p>Business to University research and development funding to help with prototype development, upscaling challenges, testing and market feasibility. Initial £5K with potential £20K follow-up (latter subject to matched funding).</p>	<p><a href="http://www.interface-online.org.uk">www.interface-online.org.uk</a></p>

<b>Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund</b>	<p>The Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund aims to bring together the UK's world-leading research with business to meet the major industrial and societal challenges of our time. This is part of government's £4.7 billion investment in R&amp;D over 4 years.</p> <p>By investing in and supporting UK businesses and researchers, the fund will ensure that research and innovation takes centre-stage in government's <a href="#">Industrial Strategy</a>. It is delivered by <a href="#">UK Research and Innovation</a>.</p>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund-joint-research-and-innovation">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/industrial-strategy-challenge-fund-joint-research-and-innovation</a>
<b>Tasgadh – Small Grants for Traditional Arts Scotland</b>	<p>Support for traditional artists and organisations in Scotland to create, perform, tour and showcase work. An allocation of £31,500 is available for the funding of small traditional arts projects. Applicants can apply for an award of between £250 and £1,000.</p>	<a href="http://www.feisean.org/en/tasgadh/">http://www.feisean.org/en/tasgadh/</a>
<b>The Pitch – for innovative small companies</b>	<p>An annual competition which aims to find the UK's most exciting and innovative small companies. Entrants will be chosen from five regions to present their product or service to a panel of leading business experts. Winners will then go through to a live grand final in Bristol. The winner will secure the business support package and be crowned The Pitch Champion. At least one entrepreneur will also receive a cash investment.</p>	<a href="http://www.thepitch.uk">www.thepitch.uk</a>
<b>Culture and Business Fund Scotland</b>	<p>A fund that enables collaboration between businesses and arts and heritage organisations based in Scotland. An arts or heritage organisation may receive match funding worth between £1,000 and £40,000 in any one financial year (between 1 April and 31 March). A business or business unit may receive funding worth up to £40,000 of additional sponsorship benefits against their investment within one or more arts and heritage organisations in the first financial year of application.</p>	<a href="http://www.aandbscotland.org.uk/culture-and-business-fund-scotland/">http://www.aandbscotland.org.uk/culture-and-business-fund-scotland/</a>
<b>ScotEDGE</b>	<p>Private sector led entrepreneurial fund offering up to £50k to successful pitches with ambitious growth, commitment and innovative content.</p>	<a href="http://www.scottishedge.com">www.scottishedge.com</a>
<b>Zero Waste Scotland</b>	<p>A range of grant and loan schemes plus advice for SMEs to build a zero and circular waste economy.</p>	<a href="http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/funding">http://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/funding</a>
<b>Co-operative Loan Fund</b>	<p>Loans from £10k to £85k are available to assist the start-up and development of co-operative enterprises in the UK.</p>	<a href="http://www.co-operativeloanfund.coop">www.co-operativeloanfund.coop</a>
<b>Local Energy Scotland</b>	<p>Funding for business and communities for more efficient energy systems.</p>	<a href="http://www.localenergyscotland.org">www.localenergyscotland.org</a>
<b>Energy Saving Trust Low Carbon Transport Loan</b>	<p>Interest free loans from £500 to £50k for low carbon transport solutions for businesses.</p>	<a href="http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/lowcarbontransportloans">www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/lowcarbontransportloans</a>

<b>R&amp;D Tax Relief Credits from HMRC</b>	Tax relief (of up to 26%) for qualifying R&D work that companies undertake to improve their products, processes and services that does not involve simply the application of readily available or deductible solutions. All sectors and size of companies can claim.	Expert help in making applications is advisable e.g. <a href="http://www.jumpstartuk.co.uk">www.jumpstartuk.co.uk</a>
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*Note: This is a selection of more popular funding options not an exhaustive list for all sectors. A wider list is available at <https://www.mygov.scot/funding-advice-search/find-government-funding/> and wider guidance at [www.betterbusinessfinance.co.uk](http://www.betterbusinessfinance.co.uk). Valuable free advice, mentoring and training is also available (e.g. from Business Gateway ([www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com)), Scottish Enterprise ([www.scottish-enterprise.com](http://www.scottish-enterprise.com)) and, for tourism, Visit Scotland (<https://www.visitscotland.org/supporting-your-business/funding>.) All information is correct from programme websites at time of publication (Sept 2019). No responsibility is accepted for errors in external funding sources.*