



Supporting the Wedding Sector

A £25 million fund to support the wedding sector and its supply chain began taking applications last week.

In recognition of the on-going challenges faced by the sector, a further £10 million has been added by The Scottish Government to the £15 million announced in December.

Launching on Thursday (28 January) the fund will provide one-off grants of up to £25,000 for eligible businesses in the sector impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including wedding venues, photographers, caterers and suppliers.

The fund will be managed regionally by Scotland's three enterprise agencies - South of Scotland Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Businesses must be in one of the following sectors;

- Venues
- Videographers
- Photographers
- Marquee Hire (includes tipi)
- Wedding Attire
- Florists & Event Stylists
- Caterers
- Cakes
- Celebrants
- Transport (not including taxis)
- Event Supplies (Cater hire, decorative items)
- Hairdressers & Make-up Artists (Non-mobile)
- Entertainment (Band, DJ, Piper, String Quartet)
- Jewellery Designers/makers/seller
- Wedding Exhibitions/Events

For more information on how to apply, visit [FindBusinessSupport.gov.scot](https://www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot)

ERCAB Good News Story

A client who had originally applied for PIP in April 2019 but was awarded neither the Daily Living nor Mobility Component approached ERCAB in August 2019 for assistance in submitting a Mandatory Reconsideration which did not amend the original decision. ERCAB then continued with an appeal to HMCTS to have this overturned. Numerous delays followed due to admin errors at HMCTS. The Tribunal finally taking place in January 2021.

On-going support from ERCAB throughout this period and representation at the Tribunal resulted in Enhanced Rate Awards for both Daily Living and Mobility until April 2023. The resulting client financial gain recorded a backdated payment, to the date of the original claim, of £13,000 and income of £151.40 a week going forward. The client was delighted with the outcome and said she would have given up due to the length of time the process had taken without support. On the basis of this new PIP award ERCAB are now able to help the client to challenge her UC work capability status to achieve the Limited Capability for Work Related Activity grade, which could potentially generate an additional income of £341.92 a month.

Help To Claim Project

Our Help to Claim advisers continue to help clients with the early stages of their Universal Credit claim:

work out entitlement / fill in the Universal Credit application / prepare for first Jobcentre appointment / check first payment is correct

You can read our online advice on Universal Credit at any time.

Lockdown continues to affect the way we all work & how we support our clients, particularly vulnerable clients. We currently offer face to face appointments in exceptional circumstances but we continue to offer phone support for clients locally by calling the bureau on 0141 881 2032 or advisers' mobiles (Helen 07395965393, John 07388628543 & Mark 07552466506)

We also have a National Help to Claim free helpline. This is available 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday on 0800 023 2581.

Please feel free to distribute the contact details for our advisers provided on our Facebook page. Clients can also get in contact with the bureau via:

Email - bureau@eastrenfrewshirecab.casonline.org.uk

Tel - **0141 881 2032**