

## Guernsey's Finance Sector Uses Skills and Knowledge to Benefit Local Businesses

Are you a Guernsey company struggling with the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on your business? Could you benefit from professional advice but are unsure of whether you can afford it at this time?

Guernsey's finance sector is one of the world's leading financial centres. On our island, financial services play a key role in our economy and touch a large proportion of our population in some way. We often hear of the community and charitable initiatives firms are taking part in, but during the Covid-19 pandemic they have gone one step further.

A group of professional advisers under the umbrella of the Guernsey International Business Association (GIBA) have come together to provide a Covid-19 Business Support Programme and use their expertise to benefit businesses locally.

GIBA Chair Tony Mancini said: "As a business association whose focus is mainly on bringing business into Guernsey, we felt the need for on-island businesses was so great at this time that our skills and resources could be of benefit on a much more localised level. The scale of this pandemic and its economic impact have never been seen in recent times so any support we can give we hope will have a positive impact on Guernsey's economy."

More than 50 firms and individuals are offering their professional advice services free of charge to a wide range of local companies which have faced difficulties or unexpected challenges during this crisis.

The help on offer ranges from accountancy advice to legal matters and strategic support.

Richard Stapley, who is offering general business and accounting advice, said: "It's important that businesses in Guernsey which are facing difficulties have someone they can reach out to. Not everyone is an expert in everything and this programme can help plug knowledge gaps and hopefully make this situation easier for some."

Guernsey is facing one of the most difficult times in the island's history and many businesses, both large and small, have been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. GIBA feels this is one way they can make an immediate impact locally.

If you would like to find out more about the GIBA Covid-19 Business Support Programme you can visit: <a href="www.giba.gg/covid-19-business-support">www.giba.gg/covid-19-business-support</a>. Any business in any sector of Guernsey's economy is welcome to take part in the programme.