

Finance facilities available to UK borrowers in response to the COVID-19 crisis

This document sets out the five main finance facilities currently available to UK corporate borrowers who are facing liquidity tightening as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The finance facilities listed below are in addition to any other available relief under existing central bank regimes, for instance, the Bank of England's Asset Purchase Scheme under which it will increase its holdings of sterling non-financial investment-grade corporate bonds which it buys on the secondary market.

Additional forms of relief in response to the COVID-19 crisis have also been provided by the Government, and further information can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses.

This document does not consider government reliefs that indirectly impact on corporate borrowers, such as the Term Funding Scheme, which provides additional funding to lenders to increase their lending to small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Scheme	UK government-backed COVID Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)	UK government-backed COVID Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLS)	UK government-backed COVID Large Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CLBILS)	Bank of England (BofE) COVID Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF)	UK government-backed "Future Fund" scheme for start-ups (FF)
Summary of measure	This scheme encourages the provision of debt facilities by accredited lenders to eligible small and medium-sized enterprises. Such facilities may include term loans, overdrafts, invoice finance and asset finance up to the value of £5 million. Accredited lenders are provided with a government-backed guarantee that, in the event the borrower fails to repay the debt facility, the Government will instead pay the lender up to 80 per cent of the outstanding balance.	This scheme will offer a loan for 25 per cent, of an eligible business's (SMEs) turnover to a maximum of £50,000. The Government will guarantee 100 per cent of sums borrowed under the scheme.	This scheme is similar to CBILS but is intended to help mid-sized and large businesses with a turnover of over £45 million that are losing revenue and facing disruption to cash flows as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Accredited lenders are provided with a government-backed partial guarantee (80 per cent) against the outstanding balance of a debt facility provided to eligible borrowers in the event of a failure to repay.	This scheme intends to help support liquidity among larger businesses by helping them to bridge disruption to their cash flows caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. This will be achieved by the BofE purchasing short-term debt instruments in the form of eligible commercial papers issued by such businesses via their bank. Note the business is still eligible even if they have never issued commercial paper before. The BofE will be making such purchases between 10am and 11am daily. Any business which believes it is	This scheme is a convertible loan scheme for innovative, high-growth start-up companies facing financial difficulties to the COVID-19 pandemic who are unable to access the CBILS. In accordance with the scheme, the Government will make unsecured bridge funding available alongside third party investor(s) on a matched basis; such funding must be used for working capital purposes only.



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			include term loans and revolving credit facilities (including overdrafts) up to an amount of £200 million, and invoice finance and asset finance up to the value of £50 million, each for businesses with a turnover exceeding £45 million. The upper limit of what is able to be borrowed depends on certain metrics (see 'Finance Terms' below).	an application to the BofE (via their bank or a bank participating in the scheme).	
			Note that various changes were made to CLBILS that took effect from 26 May 2020; those changes are reflected in this table.		
Who are the target firms, and what are the eligibility criteria?	Debt facilities are only available to SMEs that: • are UK-based in their business activity; • have an annual turnover of up to £45 million (for firms that form part of a group, 1 this should be calculated on a group	It will be available to SME's that: • are UK- based in their business activity and established by 1 March 2020; • have been adversely impacted by COVID-19; • is not currently using a	The borrower must: • be UK-based in their business activity; • have an annual turnover exceeding £45 million; • not have received a facility under the CCFF;	The issuer (i.e. the business issuing commercial paper via their bank) must be making a "material contribution to the UK economy" Factors the BofE will take into account include whether the issuer: • is a UK incorporated company (which includes UK companies with	In order to be eligible for the scheme, each of the investor(s) and the company must meet specific criteria. The investor must fall within the following categories: an "investment professional" within the meaning given to that term in article 19 of the

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¹ It is unclear what is meant by the term 'group'. The FAQs refer to a control relationship on a legal or de facto basis. Further guidance on what this actually means may be provided at a later date.



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	basis taking into account the position in the 12 months preceding the application. More than one entity in the group can apply under CBILS provided the consolidated group turnover does not exceed £45 million); • generate more than 50 per cent of their turnover from trading activity; • will use the facility to primarily support trading in the UK; • have a borrowing proposal which, were it not for the COVID-19 pandemic, would be considered viable by a lender; and • must self-certify that they has been adversely impacted by COVID-19 The persons that are able to benefit from the CBILS comprise the following, provided their business activity is operated through	government-backed COVID-19 scheme; and was not an 'undertaking in difficulty' on 31 December 2019 and does not breach State aid restrictions; at the time of submitting their loan application, the business is neither in bankruptcy, debt restructuring proceedings, liquidation or similar; and more than 50% of the income of the business (together with that of any member of any group of which it is a part) is derived from its trading activity. The following trades and organisations cannot apply: banks, building societies, insurers and reinsurers (but not insurance brokers); public-sector bodies; State-funded primary and secondary schools;	 generate more than 50 per cent of its turnover from trading activity; self-certify that it has been adversely impacted by COVID-19; and have a borrowing proposal which: a) the lender would consider viable, were it not for the current pandemic; and b) the lender believes will enable the business to trade out of any short- to medium-term difficulty. Businesses from any sector can apply, except the following: credit institutions, building societies, insurers and reinsurers (but not insurance brokers); public-sector bodies; further education 	foreign-incorporated parents) with a genuine business in the UK; is a significant employer in the UK; is headquartered in the UK; generates significant revenue in the UK; serves a large number of customers in the UK; and has number of operation sites in the UK. Be able to demonstrate that it was in "sound financial health" prior to the COVID-19 pandemic This translates as an issuer who, as of 1 March 2020, had a short or long-term rating of investment grade. There are different ways issuers may be able to demonstrate they were 'investment grade': a) By having or acquiring a public investment grade rating from one of the major credit ratings agencies (S&P, Moody's, Fitch or DBRS Morningstar). An	Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (FPO); • a high net worth company, unincorporated associated or high value trust falling within article 49(2) of the FPO; • a "certified sophisticated investor" or a "self-certified sophisticated investor" within the meaning given in articles 50 and 50A respectively of the FPO; • a "certified high net worth individual" within the meaning of article 48 of the FPO; • an equivalent professional, high-net worth, institutional or sophisticated investor in accordance with applicable law and regulation in such investor's home jurisdiction; • an association of high networth or sophisticated investors; • an association of high networth or sophisticated investors within the meaning of article 51 of the FPO; or
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a business account: sole traders; freelancers; body corporates; limited partnerships; limited liability partnerships; and Any other legal entity carrying out business in the UK with an annual turnover up to £45 million. The following trades and organisations cannot apply: banks; insurers and reinsurers (but not insurance brokers); public-sector bodies further education establishments; employer, professional, religious or political membership organisations; and trade unions. Note that on 1 April 2020, the Finance and Leasing Association (FLA)	and • an individual other than a sole trader or a partner acting on behalf of a partnership.	establishments (if grant-funded); and • State-funded primary and secondary schools.	investment grade rating means either: (i) a short-term credit rating of A3/P3/F3/R3 or above; or (ii) a long term credit rating of BBB-/Baa3/BBB-/BBB (low) or above. Note that if multiple ratings have been obtained; it is the lowest rating that will be considered and must also be equivalent to investment grade. b) In the event an issuer does not have a public credit rating, by applying to the BofE for a credit rating (which will essentially be achieved by the BofE aggregating estimates from the largest UK banks). An issuer thinking of this route should first check with their main bank if their business was rated by the bank as investment grade internally. c) In the event an issuer believes it is unlikely they were rated investment grade by multiple banks; by seeing an assessment	as a "professional client" within the meaning given in the glossary to the FCA Rules. The company must: • be UK-incorporated (unless it is eligible as a non-UK parent company that participated in an Accelerator Programme before 19 April 2020 see below for more detail). • If your business is part of a corporate group, it must be the ultimate parent company to be eligible; • have raised in the past five years (from 1 April 2015 to 19 April 2020, inclusive), at least £250,000 in equity investment from private third party investors in previous funding rounds; • not have any of its shares or other securities listed on a regulated market, a multilateral trading facility, a recognised investment exchange and/or any other similar market, stock exchange or listing venue; • be incorporated on or



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	published a statement clarifying that following discussions with the Government (via the British Business Bank (BBB)), independent and non-bank lenders will be able to access funding as borrowers. Certain other financial services firms, such as FCA-regulated intermediaries and advisers, may be eligible to apply for funding if they satisfy the relevant criteria. From the 30 July 2020 previous businesses that were classed as undertakings in difficulty and as a consequence were unable to access the CBILS can now do so due to EU changes in State Aid Law provided they: • have fewer than 50 employees; • have a annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total of less than £9 million; • are not subject to a collective insolvency			from one of the major creit rating agencies mentioned above (with such assessment considering the position as of 1 March 2020) which can then be shared with the BofE and HM Treasury. The following entities will not be eligible: • financial sector entity (i.e. firms regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority/Prudential Regulation Authority); • leverage investment vehicle; • companies within a group that is predominantly active in businesses subject to Financial Services regulation; and • public bodies or authorities. Notwithstanding the above, a business can be: A finance subsidiary (In these cases, the BofE will require an acceptable guarantee from the parent company. Where	 before 31 December 2019; and at least one of the following is true (if you are non-UK jurisdiction company this applies to your ultimate parent company): half or more employees are UK-based; or half or more revenues are from UK sales. The eligibility criteria was expanded on 30 June 2020 to include innovative companies that participate in accelerator programmes based outside the UK. To benefit from the FF, such non-UK companies must: be equivalent of a UK limited company in the relevant non-UK jurisdiction; have participated in an accelerator programme (open and competitive programmes which are designed to select and foster early stage companies outside of the UK), on or before 19 April 2020, and participation in the accelerator mandated



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	procedure under national law; and are not in receipt of rescue aid (which has not been repaid) or restructuring aid (and are still subject to a restructuring plan).			the parent company is not UK incorporated, the guarantor should provide a legal opinion on the guarantee. Pro forma documents are available).	incorporation of the ultimate parent company in a non-UK jurisdiction; if the group (or any entity within the group) was in existence before the company was incorporated, the ultimate parent company of the group (or the sole entity, if applicable) must have been incorporated in the UK; be the ultimate parent company of a group which contains at least one subsidiary operating company incorporated in the UK on or before 31 December 2019; and have received investment from the accelerator programme on or before 19 April 2020. Please note that all applications for accelerator companies will be assessed against UK government investment standards on specific jurisdictions.



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What are	Finance terms:	Finance Terms:	Finance Terms:	The commer		Finance Terms:
the eligibility criteria of financial instrumen	There is no guarantee fee for SMEs to access the CBILS. The maximum value of a	A loan for 25 per cent of an eligible business's turnover (for amounts between £2,000 - £50,000).	The minimum maturity is three months and the maximum maturity is three years.	or at least, be standard com	nmercial paper ICMA standard	The minimum amount of the loan to be provided by the Government will be £125,000 and the maximum £5 million.
ts, or features of the debt facility?	facility is £5 million, available on repayment terms of up to six years for term loans and asset	The government has set the interest rate for this facility at 2.5% per annum.	The financing can take the form of: • a term loan;		making its navailable for MA members.	The amount being provided by the Government must be matched such that the Government's provision is no
	finance. For overdrafts and invoice finance facilities, terms will be up to three	The UK Government will guarantee 100 per cent of the loan and will pay fees and interest for the first 12	revolving credit facility (including an overdraft),		standard extendibility or	more than 50 per cent of the overall bridge funding being provided. Note that there is no
	years.	months.	each up to a maximum of £200 million, and:	subordination) approved.) will not be	cap on the matched amount provided by third party investors
	The Government will guarantee to the lender up to 80 per cent of the outstanding guarantee facility balance. The borrower remains 100 per cent liable for the debt. For borrowers, the Government will provide a 'Business Interruption Payment' equivalent to 12 months of interest and fees payable on the facility. Some lenders have	he Government will uarantee to the lender up to 80 per cent of the utstanding guarantee oricility balance. The corrower remains 100 per tent liable for the debt. No principal repayments will be due during the first 12 months. No guarantee fee for businesses or lenders to access the scheme.	 invoice financing; or asset financing, each up to a maximum of £50 million. The Government will 	The documen include key st such as the d being governe	tandard terms locumentation ed by English g subject to the	(which can therefore exceed the amount provided by the Government). Funding must not be used to (a) repay any borrowings;(b) pay any dividends for a period of twelve months from the date of
		Tenors will be up to six years but early repayment is allowed without early repayment fees.	guarantee to the lender up to 80 per cent of the outstanding guarantee facility balance. The borrower remains 100 per cent liable for the debt. The amount borrowed	Be issued directly to into it Euroclear and/or it is into it into it is into	Where longer- term debt is issued, this may be subject to other asset purchase	the relevant convertible loan agreement; (c) pay any bonuses; (d) pay any advisory fees. The loans will have a minimum of 8 per cent per annum (non-
	confirmed they will not charge an arrangement fee or early repayment charge to SMEs taking advantage of the CBILS. Fishery,	In contrast to the CBILS, there will be no forward- looking tests of business	should be a maximum of the higher of: a) double the annual wage bill in respect of	am f	frameworks. Euroclear and Clearstream usually take 10 business days	compounding) interest charge applied. This interest will be higher if the company and the investor(s) agree between themselves. Unlike a typical



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		viability. Security and guarantees No personal guarantees are allowed, and no recovery action can be taken over a principal private residence or principal private vehicle.	the UK business of the borrower for 2019; b) 25% of the total turnover of the borrower's UK business in 2019; or c) with appropriate justification and based on selfcertification of the borrower of its liquidity needs, an amount to cover the liquidity needs of the UK business for the 12 months following the granting of the relevant facility, or such other amount as is notified to the lender by the guarantor from time to time. Unlike the CBILS: a) the Government will not pay the first 12 months of interest charges and any arrangement fees but; b) the CLBILS	to approve documentation Be issued in sterling The minimum size of an individual security to be purchased from any individual issuer is £1 million, and offers must be rounded to the nearest £0.1 million. For primary market purchases, the BofE will impose individual issuer limits, the quantum of which depends on differing factors. An indicative guide to the maximums dependent on ratings is set out below: Rating/eq Initial issuer limit uivalent A1/P1/F1/ Up to £1 billion A2/P2/F2/ Up to £600 million A3/P3/F3/ Up to £300 million Restrictions of Use CCFF participants that wish	bank loan, the interest is not payable on a monthly basis and instead will accrue until the loan converts. At this point, the interest will either be repaid or convert in equity. Investors and the FF both invest using a convertible loan agreement, which is predefined and cannot be negotiated.
	basis.		guarantee will cover interest and fees, as	to borrow money beyond 12	



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	The financing will take the form of a bridge loan which shall mature after a maximum of 36 months; and be subject to a minimum of 8 per cent per annum interest. The loan shall convert into the most senior class of shares in the company upon either: a) the company's next qualifying funding round (this being where the company raises and amount in equity capital equal to the aggregate amount of the bridge funding) at a minimum conversion discount of 20 per cent; or b) the company's next non-qualifying round (this being where the company raises less equity capital than the aggregate amount of the bridge funding) at the election of the majority of matched investors. In the event of a sale or		well as principal. Security and guarantees: For facilities under £250,000, no personal guarantees may be taken. For facilities above £250,000, claims on personal guarantees cannot exceed 20 per cent of losses after all other recoveries have been applied. Restrictions of use Companies that are borrowing more than £50 million through CLBILS will be subject to restrictions on dividend payments and share buybacks during the period of the loan. There will be a ban on awarding any cash bonuses or pay rises to senior management except where:	months from 19 May 2020 will be subject to restrictions on dividend payments, senior pay and share buy-backs during the period of the loan, including a ban on dividend payments and cash bonuses, except where they were previously agreed.	
	IPO, or maturity of the loan; the loan shall either convert		a) it was agreed in writing before the		



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	into equity at a Discount Rate or be repaid with a redemption premium. The Government shall be entitled to transfer the loan to an institutional investor acquiring a portfolio of loans in at least ten companies; or to entities within or wholly owned by central government departments. Further detail will be published prior to the launch of the scheme in May 2020.		facility was taken out; or b) is in keeping with similar payments made in the preceding 12 months; and c) does not have a material negative impact on the borrower's ability to repay the facility.		
Procedura I items and further informatio n	Procedural items: Borrowers should approach their own bank, via its website in the first instance or, approach one of the 40+ accredited lenders. Rejection from one CBILS accredited lender does not mean an SME is unable to approach other accredited lenders. Further information From 25 March 2020, the BBB is accelerating accreditation for some	Procedural items: Borrowers should check the BBB website to find out which lenders provide the BBLS. There will be a short online application form on their lender's website, which will self-certify whether they are eligible. In the first instance, businesses, where possible, should approach their own BBLS accredited provider. If a business has successfully received loans	Procedural items: The BBB will operate the CLBILS via its accredited lenders. Lenders who wish to offer larger loans over £50 million will need to undergo further accreditation checks. A prospective borrower will need to approach a lender who has the discretion to determine whether to lend. Rejection from one accredited lender does	Procedural items: Offers from issuers to sell commercial paper should be submitted by phone to the BofE's sterling dealing desk between 10am and 11am. The BofE requires issuers wishing to offer securities in the primary market to first contact the BoFE directly to discuss eligibility or submit their completed application to CCFF-applications@bankofengland.co.uk. The application forms are available online. (Note that a	Procedural items: The BBB will operate and accept applications for the FF. Investor applies: The investor, or lead investor of a group of investors, certifies they meet the scheme eligibility criteria and provides key investment details. Company confirms: The company confirms the accuracy of the investment application details provided, before submitting the full



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	existing lenders to be able to provide additional variants of CBILS, and accepting applications for new lenders to undergo accreditation. Lenders must pay a fee to access the scheme.	as part of the CBILS, it will be able to transfer amounts up to £50,000 to the BBLS prior to 4 November 2020. Businesses should discuss the mechanics with their accredited lender.	not mean a prospective borrower is unable to approach other accredited lenders. Accredited Lenders making use of the scheme will pay a small fee in order to benefit from a partial (80 per cent) government guarantee on each CLBILS facility. Fees for accredited lenders under the scheme will vary according to the length of the facility.	guarantee may be needed if the commercial paper is issued by an entity other than the primary entity in the group, and the issuer is not rated as investment grade by credit ratings agencies. Conditions apply to the content or form of that guarantee). Eligible counterparties that wish to offer commercial paper to the BofE in the secondary market must confirm the eligibility of specific securities with the BofE prior to offering them for sale, using the template on the BofE's website, and should contact CCFF-applications@ bankofengland.co.uk. The BofE aims to confirm the eligibility of commercial paper as soon as possible. Provided confirmation is received from the BofE before 4pm on a working day, the issuer will be able to sell commercial paper to the BofE the next working day via their bank. A confidentiality agreement	application. Contract is finalised: In the case of approved applications, all parties will execute an agreement (in the template form provided) and satisfy certain conditions set out in the agreement before the funds are released.



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				with the BofE will need to be signed; names of issuers and securities will not be made public.	
				Settlement will normally take place on a T+2 basis.	
				The BofE is able to reject applications without explanation.	
				Further information	
				Where two or more issuers are part of the same group, an aggregate limit may be applied.	
				The CCFF will purchase securities at a spread above a reference rate, based on the current sterling overnight index swap (OIS) curve, with spreads set such that pricing is close to the market spreads prevailing before COVID-19. Differing pricing provisions exist in relation to primary and secondary market purchases.	
Applicable	Starts: 23 March 2020	Starts: 4 May 2020	Starts : 20 April 2020	Starts: 23 March 2020	Starts: 20 May 2020
dates	Although note that the 'expanded scheme' to enable the eligibility of borrowers who are able to	Finishes: 4 November 2020	Finishes: 20 October 2020 (with the Government having the right to extend this to 31	Offers from issuers to sell to the BofE must be received and accepted by 31 December 2020. Firms are	Finishes: The scheme will initially run until the end of September 2020



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	provide security (i.e. who were previously ineligible because they could not provide security) opened on 3 April 2020 and became operational on 6 April 2020. Any loans made to such borrowers since 23 March 2020 can be brought within the CBILS retrospectively, provided that the borrower meets the CBILS eligibility criteria. Finishes: this scheme will initially run for six months		December 2020)	encouraged to apply as early as cash flow pressures arise. Finishes: it is scheduled to last for at least 12 months, and will continue for as long as necessary to relieve cash flow pressures on eligible firms. The BofE will provide six months' notice of withdrawal of the CCFF.	
Useful links	(likely until 30 September 2020)	This page provides a list of accredited lenders: https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-schemes/bounce-back-loans/current-accredited-lenders-and-partners/ This page provides the press release from HMT 27 April 2020: https://www.gov.uk/gov	This page provides a list accredited lenders: https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartner s/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils-2/current-accredited-lenders-and-partners/. British Business Bank Scheme Overview: https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartner	HMT/BofE press release of 17 March 2020: https://www.bankofengla nd.co.uk/ news/2020/march/ hmt-and-boe-launch-a-covid-corporate-financing-facility BofE Market Notice of 18 March 2020: https://www.bankofengla nd.co.uk/ markets/market-notices/2020/ccff-market-notice-march-2020	The Future Fund BBB portal: https://www.uk-futurefund.co.uk/s/ This page provides the UK Government's guidance as well as the convertible loan agreement: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/future-fund#how-to-apply British Business Bank Scheme Overview: https://www.britishbusiness-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-



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	coronavirus-business- interruption-loan- scheme-cbils-2/cbils- faqs-for-smes/.	ernment/news/small-businesses-boosted-by-bounce-back-loans The UK Government's guidance page: https://www.gov.uk/guid ance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan British Business Bank FAQs: https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-schemes/bounce-back-loans/faqs-for-small-businesses/#f2	s/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-schemes/clbils/ British Business Bank FAQs: https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-schemes/clbils/faqs-for-businesses/#f10	 BofE information for issuers of 20 March 2020: https://www.bankofengla nd.co.uk /news/2020/march/the-covid-corporate-financing-facility. BofE further information for issuers: https://www.bankofengla nd.co.uk/ markets/bank-of-england-mark et-operations-guide/information-for-participants ICMA Euro commercial paper materials: https://www.icmagroup.or g/News /news-in-brief/icma-euro-commercial-paper-ecp-materials-to-be-made-available-to-the-wider-market/ Details of banks that can assist with commercial paper issuance are listed on UK Finance's page: https://www.ukfinance.or g.uk/ covid-19-corporate-financing-facilities 	interruption-loan-schemes/future-fund/ British Business Bank FAQs for Companies: https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-schemes/future-fund/faqs-for-companies/



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