

# Thinking about starting a business?

Here's your quick guide to free tools, expert advice, and local support.

## ▶ Quick start

**Access our Planning to Start tool**  
Answer a few questions to receive a tailored start-up toolkit and action plan.

[Get started](#)

## ✓ Key resources at a glance

**Guides, video tutorials & templates**  
Access a range of resources to support your business journey:

- [Business plan template & guide](#)
- [Test your idea is viable](#)
- [Legal structures: The basics](#)
- [Planning your first business website](#)
- [Innovation, research & development](#)
- [Build a digital marketing plan](#)
- [Digital skills support](#)
- [Research service](#)

### **Webinars & events**

Stay informed about upcoming webinars and events:

[Find out what's on](#)

## 📍 Local support

### **Free 1:1 adviser support**

We have local offices with experienced business advisers in every area of Scotland.

[Find your local office](#)

### **Funding & grants advice**

Learn about various funding options, including grants and loans, to support your business.

[Contact your local office](#)

### **Success stories**

Hear from the businesses we've supported across Scotland.

[Be inspired](#)

## Smart start tips

- ▶ **Validate early:**  
Test your idea before investing.
- ▶ **Be realistic:**  
Anticipate challenges and setbacks.
- ▶ **Go digital:**  
Secure your domain and set up social media channels.
- ▶ **Know your market:**  
Research your customers and competitors.
- ▶ **Protect your brand:**  
Consider trademarks and legal safeguards.
- ▶ **Build your network:**  
Connect with other business owners and mentors.

## ➔ Next steps

Begin your journey with a tailored action plan.

[Use our Planning to Start tool](#)

Connect with a local adviser for personalised support.

[Contact your local office](#)

Stay informed with upcoming events & webinars.

[Find out what's on & sign up](#)

Utilise our guides, templates, and tutorials to support your business.

[Explore our online resources](#)