

Thinking about starting a business?

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

▶ Quick start

Complete our Business Support 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](#)
- [Starting a business: The basics](#)
- [Test your idea is viable](#)
- [Legal structures: The basics](#)
- [Planning your first business website](#)
- [Innovation, research & development](#)
- [Build a digital marketing plan](#)
- [Research Service](#)
- [Market reports](#)

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](#)

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 Business Support Tool](#)

Connect with your local team for personalised support

[Contact your local office](#)

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

[Explore our online resources](#)

Keep up to date with the latest business news, support, and opportunities.

[Sign up to the Business Gateway Newsletter](#)