Borrowing Readiness Checklist

FINANCE FOR FORCES

Use this checklist to see if you're ready to borrow money to start or grow your business. Tick each item you can confidently say YES to. If you're unsure about any, Finance for Forces can help.

QUESTION 01

What types of funding are available to small businesses?

Term loans, revolving credit facilities, invoice finance, asset finance, merchant cash advances, and more – each has pros and cons.

QUESTION 02

What's the difference between secured and unsecured lending?

Secured lending is backed by assets (property or equipment), reducing risk for the lender. Unsecured lending doesn't require collateral but often has higher interest rates.

QUESTION 03

Will I need a personal guarantee?

In most cases, yes – especially for early-stage businesses. A personal guarantee means you repay the loan personally if your business can't.

QUESTION 04

How much can I borrow as a new business?

It depends on creditworthiness, your business plan, trading history, and sector. Startup loans often range from £1,000 to £25,000.

QUESTION 05

Does my credit score matter?

Secured lending is backed by assets (property or equipment), reducing risk for the lender. Unsecured lending doesn't require collateral but often has higher interest rates.

QUESTION 06

How fast can I get funded?

Some approvals happen within 24–48 hours, especially for short-term or unsecured funding. Larger or secured loans take longer.

QUESTION 07

What documents will I need?

Typically: ID, business plan, bank statements (3–12 months), financial forecasts, and possibly tax returns or company accounts.

QUESTION 08

Can I repay early?

Sometimes – but check for early repayment charges. Some products are flexible, others penalise early exit.

QUESTION 09

Should I use a broker?

Yes. Brokers can save time, help avoid costly mistakes, and access lenders you might not find yourself.

QUESTION 10

What if I get declined?

Don't panic. Find out why, improve your application, and try again. Support is available to strengthen your case or explore other options.