

## Cyber Resilience Voucher

Digital Technology has revolutionised the way we do business today, but are you taking the correct precautions to ensure you are using digital technology safely?

### Know the risk

Businesses from across different industries and sectors are targeted by cyber criminals on a daily basis for financial gain or to steal their customer data and intellectual property. Research has shown that although SMEs are among those under threat, they often underestimate their risk.

Last year, more than 60% of SMEs in Scotland experienced a security breach but 65% still think they are not a target. Nearly 40% spend nothing on security.

The average financial cost of a cyber attack for an SME in Scotland is £3,000. However this is just the tip of the iceberg for many with several businesses suffering a seriously damaged reputation, denied access to business critical services such as customer details or their website taken offline denying them access to their sales channels.

### What can businesses do to protect themselves?

Cyber security should be seen as similar to physical security: passwords are locks, firewalls are fences, anti-malware is the alarm system and backing up data is contents insurance.

By getting the basics right businesses can protect themselves from up to 80% of the common threats such as phishing emails or ransomware. More information on getting the basics right can be found at <https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk>.

### Digital Scotland Support

Digital Scotland Business Excellence Partnership is providing the **Cyber Resilience Voucher** for micro and SME businesses to help them take these basic steps.

The voucher is an up to £1,500 award which allows your business the opportunity to work with an expert supplier to build cyber resilience in to your organisation. In addition the voucher also allows you to get the results of your work with the expert checked by the Government and Industry backed Cyber Essentials Scheme - <https://www.cyberaware.gov.uk/cyberessentials>.

### How to apply

There is a simple application form which you can get from your local Business Gateway contact or if you are account managed by Scottish Enterprise or Highlands and Islands Enterprise speak to your contact there that can help guide you through the process.

If you plan to apply please be quick as there are a finite number of vouchers and we would not want your business to miss out.

<http://www.bgateway.com/news/cyber-resilience-voucher-for-micro-and-sme-businesses>