

COVID-19: Support for Businesses & The Self-Employed (as of 30th March 2020)

The UK Government has set out a package of temporary and targeted measures to businesses through this period of disruption caused by COVID-19. The information below summarises the schemes according to the size of the business and other factors.

All Businesses



Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme: HMRC will reimburse 80% of 'furloughed' workers (i.e. workers who have been asked to stop working but have not been made redundant) wage costs, up to £2,500 per month. The scheme is open for at least 3 months starting from the 1st March 2020.

How: An online services is being urgently established and an online service should be available by the end of April 2020.

Deferred VAT & Income Tax Payments: deferred VAT payments for 3 months applied from 20 March 2020 until 30 June 2020.

How: automatic offer with no applications required. Taxpayers will be given until the end of the 2020 to 2021 tax year to pay any liabilities that have accumulated during the deferral period. VAT refunds and reclaims will be paid by the government as normal.

Scaling up of HMRC 'Time to Pay' offer: for all firms and individual who are in temporary financial distress as a result of COVID-19 and have outstanding tax liabilities. **How:** contact HMRC dedicated helpline: 0800 0159559.



Large Businesses

COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF)

The Bank of England will buy short term debt to support a company if it has been affected by a short-term funding squeeze to enable the finance of short-term liabilities.

Eligibility: the company must have had a short or long-term rating of investment grade, as at 1 March 2020, or equivalent. Other criteria is whether the company makes a material contribution to UK economic activities; is UK headquartered and is incorporated in the UK (including those with foreign-incorporated parent companies) and other factors.

How: details are on the Bank of England's website

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/market-s/market-notices/2020/ccff-market-notice-march-2020>



SMEs*

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

Access to working capital of up to £5m in value & for up to 6 years. Scheme now open.

Eligibility: must meet other British Business Bank criteria

How: apply to your bank (all major banks are participating)

Reclaiming Statutory Sick Pay

Legislation is being brought forward to allow SMEs to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) for sickness absence due to COVID-19 for a period of up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work due to COVID-19.

How: a rebate scheme is being developed and details will be provided once legislation has passed.



Retail, Hospitality & Leisure

Cash Grants

Funding of up to £25,000 for businesses with property with a rateable value of between £15,000 and £51,000. Rateable value of under £15,000 may be eligible for a grant of £10,000. Rateable value of between £15,001 and £51,000 may be eligible for a grant of £25,000.

Eligibility: England based businesses with occupied 'hereditaments' being used as shops, cafes, hotels, etc.

How: the relevant Local Authority will write to the eligible businesses.

Business Rates Holidays

For the 2020 to 2021 tax year.

Eligibility: businesses that pay business rates in England

How: no action required. This will apply to April 2020 council tax bills.



Low / exempt for Business Rates

Small Business Grant Scheme

One-off grant of £10,000 to eligible businesses to help meet their ongoing business costs.

Eligibility: businesses based in England and that already receive Small Business Rate Relief and Rural Rate Relief.

How: the Local Authority in which the business is based will write to the business if they are eligible.

*SME definition – a company employing fewer than 250 staff & annual turnover of no more than £45m. The Government has stated that the size of an employer will be determined by the number of people they employed as of 28th February 2020.



COVID-19: Support for Businesses & the Self-Employed (as of 30th March 2020)

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The UK Government has set out a package of temporary and targeted measures to businesses through this period of disruption caused by COVID-19. The information below summarises support for the Self-Employed.



The Self-Employed

Support for self-employed through the Self-employment Income Support Scheme

The Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will support self-employed individuals (including members of partnerships) who have lost income due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

This scheme will allow the self-employed to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months. This may be extended if needed.

Eligibility: those who are a self-employed individual or a member of a partnership are eligible if they:

- have submitted your Income Tax Self Assessment tax return for the tax year 2018-19
- traded in the tax year 2019-20
- are trading when applying, or would be except for COVID-19
- intend to continue to trade in the tax year 2020-21
- have lost trading/partnership trading profits due to COVID-19
- self-employed trading profits must also be less than £50,000 and more than half of income come from self-employment.

How: applications cannot yet be taken. HMRC will contact those eligible for the scheme and invite them to apply online.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

For government information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>



For further information / queries – contact Nigel Wilcock, Executive Director of the IED nigelwilcock@ied.co.uk