

Advice during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Please find below some brief guidance on support from HMRC during these troubling times. Guidance has been changing very rapidly and this may not be fully up to date but, as far as I was able to, this was up to date as at 10 April 2020.

Self-Employed

- Systems not ready until June to make applications
- No further information on how this will work, whether clients will have to apply themselves or if we are able to apply on your behalf.
- Able to work during lockdown (Keeping to social distancing) as well as claiming grant.
- Grant not repayable but must be declared on next year's tax return as income (2020/21 Return)

Limited Companies

- Sole Directors are able to furlough themselves
- Only entitled to 80% of wages based on wages paid February 2020.
- No work to be carried out that would generate income.
- Good tip: Directors are able to work for other companies whilst furloughed and even offer their services that they would usually do but not through their limited company.

Staff

- 80% of wages grant based on wages paid February 2019.
- Unable to claim for employees who were taken on in March.
- Grant not repayable.
- Employees able to work/volunteer elsewhere whilst furloughed as long as there is no breach of their contract of employment.
- Application portal will be live on 20 April 2020. If we process your payroll, we will be able to apply through our HMRC Agent Account. However, if you wish to do this yourselves please let me know.
- Unsure how long grants will take to come through, they will be paid directly into your bank account. If not through by usual pay date and funds not available to pay employees, please be upfront and honest with them but assure them that application is being processed.

VAT

- Payments due between 20 March 2020 and 30 June 2020 now deferred until 31 March 2021.
- VAT Returns MUST still be submitted.

Self-Assessment Payments due 31 July 2020

- Payments deferred until 31 January 2021

Other Taxes (Corporation tax, PAYE)

- These remain payable when due, however I have heard HMRC are being very helpful (for a change) and will be lenient with time to pay arrangements. Covid-19 Helpline is 0800 024 1222

Other Support

- Business with premises - Grants available from your local council.
- Universal credit - Minimum Income Floor level temporarily removed during Covid-19 crisis.