



## 1. CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) JOB RETENTION SCHEME (CJRS) – FURTHER EXTENSION

Following the start of 'Lockdown 3' in December 2020, the Chancellor announced that the current CJRS 'furlough' scheme will now be extended to 30 April 2021.

Originally, the Chancellor had stated that the grant amounts and/or the amount of employees salaries being contributed by Employers under the CJRS scheme would be reviewed in January 2021, however:

1. eligibility criteria for the UK-wide scheme will remain unchanged, and
2. 80% of salaries will continue to be paid by the Government under the 'furlough' rules
3. Employers will only be required to pay wages, National Insurance Contributions (NICs) and pensions **for hours worked**; and NICs and pensions **for hours not worked**.

It is expected that the Chancellor's Budget provisionally planned for 3rd March 2021 will set out what further support will be forthcoming from the Government.

**PLEASE NOTE** that the Budget is circa 45 days before the end date of the CJRS scheme **-required consultation period for redundancies with large Employers.**

## 2. CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) LOANS + FINANCIAL SUPPORT – FURTHER EXTENSION

For businesses and Employers who are still considering applying for (or adding to any existing loans) under the Government-guaranteed COVID-19 business loans, the deadline(s) have now been extended by two months to 31 March 2021. **(These COVID related loans had been due to close at the end of January 2021)**

Essentially this provides businesses with more time to access the **Bounce Back Loan Scheme, Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) etc.**

## 3. SELF ASSESSMENT TAX RETURNS 2019/20

At present all Self Assessment tax returns for the tax year 2019/20 remain due for submission on **31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**, with all relevant tax payments also due by that deadline date !

There are already acknowledged allowances for any tax returns that may **be submitted late** due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) reasons, however it is likely **(although not yet confirmed)**, HMRC may provide a 2/3 month extension from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 for tax payments due on that date.

**PLEASE NOTE** that this is not yet confirmed and, if it occurs is likely to only be announced at the last minute – **so our suggestion is to agree a 'Time to Pay' arrangement in the interim, if this is likely to be required !**



#### 4. CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) SELF EMPLOYMENT INCOME SUPPORT SCHEME (SEISS)

The SEISS scheme (for Self employed tax payers) also continues to be available through to the end of April 2021, with the availability of both **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grant payments** to those eligible under the scheme !

To make a claim for the third grant your business must have been impacted by coronavirus on or after 1 November 2020.

The eligibility criteria for the SEISS scheme remain unchanged from the original scheme in 2020, - but with the addition of some additional criteria – however where you remain eligible, a claim can be made for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grant payment to HMRC on or before 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**PLEASE NOTE** that even where you may not have needed to make a claim for the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grant payments, once you are eligible under the scheme, you can now make a claim for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grant payment.

See our recent Blog for further information on the SEISS scheme extension - <https://www.sakurabusiness.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme-seiss-2021-12th-october-2020/>

Anyone making a claim must ensure that all the eligibility criteria are met AND HMRC will check claims and take appropriate action to withhold or recover payments found to be dishonest or inaccurate.

#### 5. CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) TIER 4 & 'LOCKDOWN 3' - LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANTS

Following the start of the further lockdown period in December 2020, businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors will receive a **one-off top-up grant** worth up to £9,000 to provide financial support through to the Spring.

The **one-off top-ups** will be granted to '**closed businesses**' as follows:

- £4,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under
- £6,000 for businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- £9,000 for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000.

The cash grants will be provided on a **per-property** basis to support these specific businesses through the latest restrictions.

The **new one-off grants** along with other grants under the LRSG and ARG schemes will be provided to relevant businesses through their local councils.

**PLEASE NOTE that Local Councils will generally contact businesses directly but you can review and apply for these grants via your local council website !**



## LOCAL RESTRICTIONS SUPPORT GRANT (CLOSED)

Businesses that were open as usual and were then required to close due to local Tier 2, Tier 3 or Tier 4 restrictions may be eligible for **LRSB (Closed)** or **LRSB (Closed) Addendum: Tier 4 grants**

All eligible businesses are entitled to a cash grant from their local council for each 14 day period they are closed.

### Eligible Businesses

Grants can be applied for where your business is either:

- in an area of local Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions and has been required to close because of local restrictions that resulted in a first full day of closure on or after 9 September
- in an area of local Tier 4 restrictions and has been required to close because of local restrictions that resulted in a first full day of closure on or after 19 December
- the full list of eligible businesses i.e. **those specifically requires to close due to restrictions – will be listed on the Local council website !**

### Non Eligible Businesses

Businesses specifically excluded from the funding include the following:

- where they can continue to operate during the period of restrictions e.g. do not depend on providing direct in-person services from your premises (accountants etc)
- where the substantive business is as a 'take-away'
- where they have chosen to close, but have NOT been required to close as part of national restrictions
- the business is in administration, insolvent or has been struck off the Companies House register
- permitted state aid limits have been exceeded (€200,000)

### Grant Amounts

The grant will be based on the rateable value of the property on the first full day of restrictions-

- If your business has a property with a rateable value of £15,000 or less, you may be eligible for a cash grant of up to **£667 for each 14 day period.**
- If your business has a property with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000, you may be eligible for a cash grant of up to **£1,000 for each 14 day period.**
- If your business has a property with a rateable value of £51,000 or above, you may be eligible for a cash grant of up to **£1,500 for each 14 day period.**

**PLEASE NOTE** therefore that grants where the business is closed for 28 days (or 2 payment cycles), will receive £1,334, £2,000 or £3,000, depending on the rateable value of the property.

**The Government has allocated additional funds to local authorities/councils to enable them to provide grants to businesses that have been severely impacted by coronavirus restrictions, or have been unable to access other COVID-19 government support.**



## **ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT**

The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) provides local councils with grant funding to support closed businesses that

1. do not directly pay business rates, as well as
2. businesses that do not have to close but which are impacted by restrictions. In addition, larger grants can be given than those made through LRSG (Closed).

Local councils can determine which businesses to target and determine the amount of funding from the ARG.

This could include:

- businesses which supply the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors
- businesses in the events sector
- business required to close but which do not pay business rates

**PLEASE NOTE that you should visit your local council's website to find out how to apply !**