



**CORONAVIRUS INFO UPDATE 27 MARCH 2020**

HELP AVAILABLE	Who is it for?	What support is available?	More information
<p><b>Support for self-employed workers</b></p> 	<p>Self-Employed</p>	<p><b>Self-Employed Income Support Scheme</b></p> <p>Self-employed people will be able receive a taxable grant of 80% of their average monthly profits up to £2500 per month to help with the impact of the current health crisis.</p> <p>The scheme is open to any self-employed person with trading profits of up to £50,000 p.a and who make the majority of their income from self-employment, based on three years of accounts. Only those already in self-employment, who have a tax return for 2019 can apply although the Chancellor confirmed that people would have an additional four weeks to file a 2019/20 tax return from today 26<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>Payments are expected to be available from the beginning of June but will be backdated until March. He said that anyone in immediate financial hardship could apply for Universal Credit and said that advance payments should be available almost immediately after the online claim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universal Credit: <a href="http://www.universal-credit.service.gov.uk">www.universal-credit.service.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Advice NI Benefits Helpline – 0808 802 0020</li> <li>• Mortgage payment holidays of three months negotiated with banks – see your own lender for details</li> <li>• Make the Call: Helpline for benefits and supports entitlements: 0800 232 1271 <a href="https://bit.ly/2QI8Suz">https://bit.ly/2QI8Suz</a></li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://bit.ly/2QP18hw">https://bit.ly/2QP18hw</a></p>

<b>Universal Credit/Income Support</b>	Self-Employed	If you have had a significant interruption to income applications for Universal Credit can be made online:  <a href="http://www.universal-credit.service.gov.uk">www.universal-credit.service.gov.uk</a>	UC Helpline: 0800 012 1331
<b>Hardship/emergency payments</b>	Self-Employed	If you need access to an emergency payment, contact:  Department for Communities Finance Support service: 0800 587 2750  Make the Call 0800 232 1271 Helpline for benefits and supports entitlements	<b>Advice NI</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• @Advice NI</li> <li>• Benefits Helpline – 0808 802 0020</li> <li>• Money/Debt Helpline 0800 028 1881</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.adviceni.net">https://www.adviceni.net</a></li> </ul>
<b>Income Tax</b>	Self-Employed	Income Tax Self-Assessment, payments due on the 31 July 2020 will be deferred until the 31 January 2021. No application is needed.	<a href="https://bit.ly/3dqzavT">https://bit.ly/3dqzavT</a>  HMRC Coronavirus Helpline 0800 015 9559
<b>Domestic Rates</b>	All	Domestic rates <b>delay</b> . Rates bills will be issued in June rather than April, but ratepayers will have to pay the same amount owed in the year.	<a href="https://bit.ly/2JeKwoQ">https://bit.ly/2JeKwoQ</a>
<b>What else could help?</b>	All	For individuals, this gateway number can be helpful in identifying the range of benefits and supports that you may be eligible for.  Make the Call 0800 232 1271 Helpline for benefits and supports entitlements	<a href="https://bit.ly/2QL8Suz">https://bit.ly/2QL8Suz</a>

<b>Business Rates</b>	All businesses	<p>Business rates <b>rebate</b> of 25% for all businesses. Rates bills will be issued in June rather than April with no rates charged for April, May and June 2020</p> <p>All existing rates hardship schemes remain in place too:</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3aib4RT">https://bit.ly/3aib4RT</a></p>	<a href="https://bit.ly/3duKtD9">https://bit.ly/3duKtD9</a>
<b>Business Support Grant</b> 	Small businesses	<p>Details of this scheme have just been published, covering a grant of £10,000 to be available to all small businesses who are eligible for Small Business Rates Relief, (that is with a rateable value of up to £15,000). Payments will be made directly into the bank accounts of eligible businesses through the rates system.</p> <p>Follow the instructions at the online web portal here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.covid-19smallbusinessgrants.economy-ni.gov.uk">https://www.covid-19smallbusinessgrants.economy-ni.gov.uk</a></p>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2WHkBhy">https://bit.ly/2WHkBhy</a>
<b>Retail, Tourism &amp; Hospitality Business Grants</b>	Small businesses in these sectors	<p>A grant of £25,000 will be provided to companies in the retail, tourism and hospitality sectors with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000. Payments will be administered directly as with the £10k payment.</p> <p><b>Tourism NI</b> have also set up a Business Support helpline: 028 9592 5313</p>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2WHkBhy">https://bit.ly/2WHkBhy</a>
<b>Job Retention Scheme</b> 	All businesses	<p>Businesses who have had to give some staff a temporary leave of absence can now get support to keep them on the payroll until they are able to return to work.</p> <p>The scheme will cover 80% of salary and employers may make up the remaining 20% but are not obliged to do so.</p>	<a href="https://bit.ly/33NB71b">https://bit.ly/33NB71b</a>

		The scheme will be administered through HMRC and is expected to be available to make end of April salary payments. HMRC have put up more detailed information	
<b>Statutory Sick Pay</b>	Businesses (>250 staff)	Employers will be able to reclaim SSP paid to any staff who are absent from work due to coronavirus sickness or because they have to self-isolate. The payment to employers will be delivered as a rebate with details to be announced following legislation.	<a href="https://bit.ly/2WDgKCh">https://bit.ly/2WDgKCh</a>
<b>Business Interruption Loans</b>	Businesses	Coronavirus Business Interruption Scheme (CIBILS) is a loan from an accredited lender. Lenders are given a government guarantee on repayments meaning they can lend more freely, but the responsibility for the loan remains with the business/borrower.	<a href="https://bit.ly/33JB46f">https://bit.ly/33JB46f</a>
<b>VAT</b>	All businesses	VAT payments for the next quarter (i.e. the period from 20 March to 30 June 2020) will be deferred, although businesses will have to pay all VAT for the year by 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021. A VAT return must still be completed.  HMRC's Time to Pay scheme remains first point of call for discussions about timing of tax payments.  <b>HMRC Helpline: 0800 015 9559</b>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2UvM5Ea">https://bit.ly/2UvM5Ea</a>
<b>Annual Accounts</b>	All businesses	All businesses will receive a three month extension for the filing of annual accounts to companies house.	<a href="https://bit.ly/2WH0y2N">https://bit.ly/2WH0y2N</a>
<b>Annual Return to Charity Commission NI</b>	Charities	The NI Charity Commission has stated that:  <i>"no charity will be penalised for missing its annual reporting deadline, which includes that no charity will be marked as in default on the register of charities if</i>	<a href="https://bit.ly/2WM23wO">https://bit.ly/2WM23wO</a>

		<p><i>they fail to meet this deadline. We would ask that if charities find themselves in this position that they contact us via email to <a href="mailto:admin@charitycommissionni.org.uk">admin@charitycommissionni.org.uk</a> where possible, to keep us apprised of their situation.”</i></p>	
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