

WAKEFIELD FIRST

I'M SELF EMPLOYED. WHAT HELP IS THERE FOR ME?

The UK Government recognises the continued impact that coronavirus (COVID-19) has had on the self-employed and has taken action to provide support.

The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme Grant Extension provides critical support to the self-employed in the form of two grants, each available for three month periods covering November 2020 to January 2021 and February 2021 to April 2021.

1. WHO CAN CLAIM?

To be eligible for the Grant Extension self-employed individuals, including members of partnerships, must:

- have been previously eligible for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme first and second grant (although they do not have to have claimed the previous grants)
- declare that they intend to continue to trade and either:
 - are currently actively trading but are impacted by reduced demand due to coronavirus
 - were previously trading but are temporarily unable to do so due to coronavirus

2. WHAT THE GRANT EXTENSION COVERS

The extension will last for six months, from November 2020 to April 2021. Grants will be paid in two lump sum instalments each covering a three-month period.

The first grant will cover a three-month period from 1 November 2020 until 31 January 2021. The Government will provide a taxable grant covering 55% of average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months' worth of profits, and capped at £5,160 in total.

The grant will be increased from the previously announced level of 40% of trading profits to 80% for November 2020. This therefore increases

the total level of the grant from 40% to 55% of trading profits for 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2021.

The Government are providing broadly the same level of support for the self-employed as is being provided for employees through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in November due to its extension. And then the Job Support scheme in December and January.

The second grant will cover a three-month period from 1 February 2021 until 30 April 2021. The Government will review the level of the second grant and set this in due course.

The grants are taxable income and also subject to National Insurance contributions.

3. HOW TO CLAIM

The online service for the next grant will be available from 30 November 2020. HMRC will provide full details about claiming and applications in guidance on GOV.UK in due course.

In the meantime **keep checking the government website for updates** on this scheme.