

Written 18 May 2020

C19 BUSINESS NEWS UPDATE

GUIDANCE FOR EMPLOYEES, EMPLOYERS AND BUSINESSES

The Government has updated its Guidance on supports for businesses and the self-employed.

See: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19?utm_source=3aeb15f-0b6d-4116-84e6-57a28c3d1250&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

This guidance will assist employers and businesses in providing advice to their staff on:

- coronavirus COVID-19
- how to help prevent spread of COVID-19
- what to do if someone has symptoms of COVID-19 has been in business settings
- eligibility for sick pay

This guidance also provides details of support available to businesses including:

- a Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
- deferring VAT and Self-Assessment payments
- Self-employment Income Support Scheme
- statutory sick pay relief package for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- a 12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery businesses in England
- small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief
- grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme to support long-term viable businesses who may need to respond to cash-flow pressures by seeking additional finance
- a new lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms, helping them bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through loans
- the HMRC Time To Pay Scheme to help with tax

It is clear that this guidance will be updated regularly as the situation changes and you are asked to refer to the web page above regularly for updates.

ADVICE FOR THE FREIGHT TRANSPORT INDUSTRY

Freight industry guidance on international travel during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, following government advice for British nationals.

International and domestic freight transport (including by air, ship, road, and rail, including roll-on/roll-off transports) is classified by UK government as an essential activity in the context of its travel advice. The advice against non-essential travel is not intended to apply to international and domestic freight transport.

FCO travel advice remains under constant review and is being updated regularly with the latest information on restrictions and other measures in place in each country/territory. Check the latest travel advice and sign up for email alerts for all countries where you are travelling.

See guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-freight-transport?utm_source=f5d3c708-8a76-4651-a629-74846b4ee4da&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

SELF EMPLOYED DEFERMENT OF SECOND PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT

Option for self-employed to defer their second payment on account due 31 July 2020

Choose how and when you can delay making your second payment on account for the 2019 to 2020 tax year.

You have the option to defer your second payment on account if you are:

- registered in the UK for Self-Assessment and
- finding it difficult to make your second payment on account by 31 July 2020 due to the impact of coronavirus

You can still make the payment by 31 July 2020 as normal if you are able to do so. HMRC will not charge interest or penalties on any amount of the deferred payment on account, provided it is paid on or before 31 January 2021.

If you want to pay in full

You can pay your second payment on account bill in full any time between 31 July 2020 and 31 January 2021 using the online service.

If you want to pay in instalments

You need to contact HMRC if you already have overdue tax which you are paying through a Time to Pay instalment arrangement and want to include your second payment on account in that arrangement.

If you do not have other overdue taxes, you can make your payment in instalments any time between now and 31 January 2021 by setting up a budget payment plan.

Payments made by Direct Debit

If you choose to defer and normally make your payments on account by Direct Debit, you should cancel your Direct Debit through your bank as soon as possible so that HMRC will not automatically collect any payment due. You can cancel online if you are registered for online banking.

After the deferral ends

The usual interest, penalties and collection procedures will apply to missed payments.

How to get help

If you are still struggling to pay your tax bill by 31 January 2021, or you're experiencing other financial difficulties you can contact HMRC's Time to Pay service.

Telephone: 0300 200 3835

Full text: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defer-your-self-assessment-payment-on-account-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>