

Government July Stimulus Supports

Updated August 4, 2020

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Announced by Minister Catherine Martin on July 24th

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Support/Funding	Overview
Employment Wage Support Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Employment Wage Support Scheme (EWSS) is an enterprise support that will give a subsidy to qualifying employers on the basis of the numbers of paid employees. • The EWSS will be in place until 31 March 2021 and will replace the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme from the 1 September 2020. Both schemes will run in parallel from 31 July until the TWSS ceases at the end of August. • From 31 July, any employers who have not previously availed of the TWSS are only eligible to apply for the EWSS. • Employers whose turnover has fallen 30% from 2019 figures will receive a flat-rate subsidy of up to €203 per week per employee, including for seasonal staff and new employees. • To provide additional flexibility in circumstances where employees were not previously eligible to be paid via TWSS, for example in the case of new hires and certain seasonal workers, employers who have already availed of the TWSS may make an additional claim for non-TWSS employees in the EWSS from 31 July and, if applicable, some claims may be backdated for employees who have been paid from 1 July 2020.
Additional Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary qualifying criteria is that the employer must be able to demonstrate that they are operating at no more than 70% turnover from July to December 2020 compared with the same period in 2019. • The level of subsidy the employer will receive is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For every employee paid more than €203 gross per week, the level of subsidy is €203 per week ○ For every employee paid between €151.50 and €202.99 gross per week, the subsidy is €151.50 per week ○ A nil subsidy is payable for employees paid less than €151.50 or more than €1,462 gross per week. • A 0.5% rate of employers PRSI will continue to apply for employments that are eligible for the subsidy. • Based on the minimum wage of €10.10, the above rates will require at least 15 hours of paid work per employee per week.

How to access support

- The scheme will be administered by Revenue and continue to operate on a “self-assessment” basis with employers making declarations as to their eligibility. Payments will be made in line with the employers regular payroll systems.
- The EWSS will re-establish the normal requirement to operate PAYE on all employee salaries providing for the regular deduction and remittance of income tax, USC and employee PRSI.
- The position in relation to the EWSS does not affect any legal obligations that the employer may have to their employee as regards any terms, conditions, or entitlements of their employment, including pay.
- The legislation contains a number of safeguards to minimise abuse and specifies excluded employees. A list of employers who availed of the EWSS will be published.
- Proprietary Directors have been reinstated to the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) from 1 September where they meet the objective of the scheme of retaining ordinary employees on payroll.
- Guidance will issue from the Revenue Commissioners in good time for the commencement of the scheme on 1 September. Any legislative amendments will be included in the Finance Bill later in the year.

Further details are available [here](#)

Support/Funding	Overview
<p>Tax Considerations</p>	<p><u>Income Tax Relief</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A change will be made to provide for a new once-off income tax relief for self-employed individuals carrying on a trade or profession who were profitable in 2019 but, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, incur losses in 2020. • These provisions will allow such individuals to claim to have those losses (and certain unused capital allowances) up to a maximum amount of €25,000 carried back and deducted from their profits for the tax year 2019. This will reduce the amount of income tax payable in respect of those profits.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provisions will also allow for claims for the relief to be made on an interim basis to give a cash flow boost to those taxpayers during 2020. <p><u>Corporation Tax</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above, businesses who pay corporation tax that were profitable in 2019 but incurred a loss due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 will be able to claim a refund of tax paid of some or all of corporation tax paid. <p><u>Tax Warehousing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government will also pass legislation to confirm the previously announced warehousing of tax liabilities. This will allow for businesses affected by Covid-19 to delay payment of their PAYE and VAT debts in part or in full for a set period with no interest or penalties.
How to Apply	Further details will be provided by Revenue shortly and pending the passing of required legislation.

Support/Funding	Overview
Restart Grant for Enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A further €300m is being provided to businesses through the enhanced Restart Grant. The maximum grant available will rise to €25,000 (up from €10,000) and the minimum payment will be €4,000 (up from €2,000). Firms that accessed the Restart Grant will be eligible to apply for a second top-up payment to a total combined value of the revised minimum and maximum grant levels. The criteria for accessing the scheme will include Enterprises that have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 250 employees or less Turnover of less than €100,000 per employee Reduced turnover by 25% as a result of COVID-19 Under the revised Restart Grant, support will also be provided for enterprises that could not access the original grant scheme. Non-rated B&Bs and rateable sports businesses will be eligible for a grant payment of €4,000.

<p>How to access support</p>	<p>Applications for the enhanced grant will open in due course through the Local Authorities.</p> <p>Non-rated B&Bs will be eligible to apply to Fáilte Ireland – Details to follow.</p> <p>Further details will be provided shortly.</p>
<p>Support/Funding</p>	<p>Overview</p>
<p>Commercial Rates Waiver</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 100% waiver, in the form of a credit in lieu of commercial rates will be applied to the rate accounts of all businesses, for a six-month period (27 March to 27 September), with a small number of categories excepted. This shall be applied as a credit on the rate bill for 2020. • There is no application required for the waiver. Local authorities should automatically apply a 100% credit in lieu of commercial rates, for a six-month period, to classes and categories of occupied rateable property where the occupying business is not in an excluded category. • The waiver is applied automatically and no direct individual notice to ratepayers will be issued. • Hotels, whether with annual rates bills of over €100k or otherwise, are not excluded from availing of the 6 month credit in lieu of commercial rates. The references to individual office premises and individual industrial premises in the list of excluded categories does not include property categorised as hospitality by local authorities for rates purposes. • If you have already paid your rates bill for 2020, a refund or a credit towards the 2021 bill will be arranged by the relevant local authority
<p>How to Apply</p>	<p>Businesses should contact their Local Authority directly with any queries relating to the scheme.</p>

Support/Funding	Overview
Stay and Spend Incentive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay and Spend Incentive will see any taxpayer spending up to €625 on accommodation, food and non-alcoholic drinks, between October 2020 and April 2021, able to claim back up to €125 through a tax credit.
Additional Information	Further details will be provided shortly.

Support/Funding	Overview
Covid-19 Credit Guarantee Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be a €2 billion credit guarantee scheme. It will be available to COVID-19 impacted firms through the Pillar Banks (AIB, Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank). The Government to act as guarantor for 80% of loans drawn down Loan facilities of between €10,000 to €1m will be available at terms of between 3 months to 6 years. Interest rates to be in region of 3% - 4% with capital and interest repayment moratorium of up to 12 months The scheme will operate by providing an 80% guarantee to participating finance providers on qualifying loans to SMEs. SMEs will be able to go directly to the banks in the Scheme to apply.
How to access support	<p>Businesses should apply directly to their banks to avail of this scheme.</p> <p>Scheme FAQs can be found here</p> <p>Further information can be found here</p>

Support/Funding	Overview
Microfinance Ireland/ Local Enterprise Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A package of liquidity and enterprise investment measures worth €55 million will be put in place to support small and micro companies through additional resources for MicroFinance Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices. • This will include measures to reduce interest rates on lending for micro and small businesses, including grants equivalent to 0% interest on the first year of SBCI and MFI loans.
How to access support	<p>Talk to a Business Advisor in your Local Enterprise Office for more information.</p> <p>Applications have not yet re-opened for Microfinance Ireland loans, but you can pre-register your interest on their website and they will email you with more information and the relevant application documents.</p>

Support/Funding	Overview
Future Growth Loan Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future Growth Loan Scheme is being expanded from €200 million to €500 million • This scheme will be available to eligible SME and Small Mid-Cap businesses (up to 499 employees). • Loans will range from €100,000 (€50,000 for farmers) to €3 million per eligible business, with unsecured loans up to €500,000. • The initial maximum interest rate is capped at 4.5% for loans up to €249,999 and 3.5% for loans more than or equal to €250,000 for the first six months.
How to access support	<p>The first step in the process will be to complete an SBCI online application and receive eligibility letter. Once the eligibility letter is received, the business can then approach their preferred bank to begin the loan process.</p> <p>For loans in excess of €250,000, a Business Plan must be completed as part of the application process.</p>

Further Information	Further information on this scheme can be found here .
Support/Funding	Overview
Pandemic Unemployment Payment	<p>The Pandemic Unemployment Payment will be amended as follows:</p> <p>From September 17th, 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be three rates of payment instead of two. • The new top rate of €300 (down from €350) will apply to those who earned over €300 per week before the pandemic. • Those who earned €200-€300 pre-Covid will see their payment fall from €350 to a new rate of €250. • Claimants who earned less than €200 per week prior to the pandemic will continue to receive €203. <p>From Feb 1st, 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who earned €200-€300 pre-pandemic will move from the €250 Pandemic Unemployment Payment rate to Jobseekers' Benefit of €203. • Those who previously earned over €300 will see their PUP payment fall to €250. <p>From April 1st, 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remaining PUP claimants will be required to apply for the standard Jobseekers' Allowance, and the PUP scheme will be closed.
Additional Information	<p>For additional details please click here.</p> <p>Please note that the scheme will close to new applicants on September 17th, 2020.</p>

Support/Funding	Overview
Fáilte Ireland Adaptation Grant Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €26m will be made available for tourism and hospitality businesses to support the costs they have of physically adapting their premises to allow them to operate in the pandemic • These funds will be provided in addition to any funding that eligible businesses receive from the Restart Grant
Additional Information	Further details will be provided shortly.

Support/Funding	Overview
Coach Tourism Business Continuity Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In recognition of the difficult challenges the sector faces, a fund of €10m will be provided to address the specific needs of the coach tourism sector
Additional Information	Further details will be provided shortly.