

# Budget 2021 & Other Government Supports

Updated October 15, 2020

- [Budget 2021](#)
- [Employment Wage Support Scheme](#)
- [Tax Considerations](#)
- [Restart Grant Plus](#)
- [Enterprise Support Grant for Self-Employed Business Owners](#)
- [Commercial Rates Waiver](#)
- [Covid-19 Credit Guarantee Scheme](#)
- [Microfinance Ireland/Local Enterprise Offices](#)
- [Future Growth Loan Scheme](#)
- [Pandemic Unemployment Payment](#)

Support/Funding	Overview
<b>Budget 2021</b>	<p data-bbox="577 379 1265 406" style="text-align: center;"><u>Key Measures for Tourism &amp; Hospitality Businesses</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="483 443 2085 507">1. VAT: The VAT rate for the hospitality and tourism sector will be cut from 13.5% to 9% with effect from November 1 until 31 December 2021.</li> <li data-bbox="483 549 2107 986">2. Covid Restriction Support Scheme (CRSS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="533 580 2085 644">• A new scheme to provide targeted support for businesses worst hit by Level 3 C-19 controls. The scheme will be effective from Budget Day until 31 March 2021.</li> <li data-bbox="533 651 2107 715">• To qualify on the basis of reduced turnover, that turnover cannot exceed 20% of the 2019 turnover (e.g. to cover take-away/outdoor only in restaurants) or in the case of new businesses 20% of 2020 turnover.</li> <li data-bbox="533 721 2107 880">• Payments will be calculated on the basis of of average VAT exclusive turnover for 2019. They work out as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="577 778 1200 805">▪ 10% of annual turnover up to €1m (1/52),</li> <li data-bbox="577 812 1256 839">▪ 5% of annual turnover above €1m (1/52), and</li> <li data-bbox="577 845 976 873">▪ to a maximum of €5,000;</li> </ul> </li> <li data-bbox="533 887 1496 914">• Accommodation, food services, arts entertainment others to benefit.</li> <li data-bbox="533 920 2107 984">• Qualifying businesses can apply to the Revenue Commissioners for a cash payment in the form of an advanced tax credit for trading expenses for the period of restrictions.</li> </ul> </li> <li data-bbox="483 1027 1809 1054">3. Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme: To be extended beyond March 2021 with details to follow.</li> <li data-bbox="483 1096 2018 1123">4. The Recovery Fund: It will be targeted and will help to stimulate increased domestic demand and employment.  Given the evolving nature of Covid-19 and Brexit, the Fund will be flexible in its design in order to provide Government with the means to react swiftly to a constantly changing environment. It will focus on three main areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="577 1251 994 1278">• infrastructure development</li> <li data-bbox="577 1284 943 1311">• reskilling and retraining</li> <li data-bbox="577 1318 1061 1345">• supporting investment and jobs.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

The Recovery Fund is worth €3.4 billion.

5. Tourism:

- a. Tourism Business Support Scheme €55mn
- b. Tourism Product Development €5mn

6. Some other general business supports:

- a. Extension of the commercial rates holiday until the end of this year.
- b. €1.1bn to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to support local enterprise, SMEs. Money also to be used to fund the Credit Guarantee Scheme and the Future Growth Loan Scheme.

7. Greenway investment flagged

8. Insurance reforms to stay on the agenda

9. Regarding the arts:

- a. €50m will be provided in Live Entertainment Supports and
- b. Arts Council funding is increasing to €130m, up €50m

Support/Funding	Overview
<b>Employment Wage Support Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>From 31 July, any employers who have not previously availed of the TWSS are only eligible to apply for the EWSS.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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, <b>or</b> for businesses that were not operating in 2019 they need to demonstrate that turnover from the July-December 2020 period is at no more than 70% of pre-Covid 19 projected turnover for 2020.</li> <li>The level of subsidy the employer will receive is as follows:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For every employee paid more than €203 gross per week, the level of subsidy is €203 per week</li> <li>For every employee paid between €151.50 and €202.99 gross per week, the subsidy is €151.50 per week</li> <li>A nil subsidy is payable for employees paid less than €151.50 or more than €1,462 gross per week.</li> </ul> </li> <li>A 0.5% rate of employers PRSI will continue to apply for employments that are eligible for the subsidy.</li> <li>Based on the minimum wage of €10.10, the above rates will require at least 15 hours of paid work per employee per week.</li> </ul>

### 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.
- The application for sweepback payments for July & August for eligible employees will become available on the Revenue Online Service from September 15. All applications for sweepback payments **must** be submitted before October 14.

### Further Details

Revenue Guidelines for the operation of the EWSS can be found [here](#).

Revenue Guidelines on the operation of the sweepback payments can be found [here](#).

You can review a Fáilte Ireland webinar on Transitioning from the TWSS to the EWSS [here](#).

Support/Funding	Overview
<b>Tax Considerations</b>	<p><u>Income Tax Relief</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p><u>Corporation Tax</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p><u>Tax Warehousing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VAT and PAYE (employer) deductions</li> <li>• Liabilities incurred during restricted trading and the first bi-monthly VAT period after a business has resumed trading will be parked for a period of 12 months</li> <li>• Non-Covid related debts will be charged at a low interest of 3% p.a.</li> <li>• Business contacts Revenue</li> <li>• Helps with cashflow difficulties</li> </ul>
<b>How to Apply</b>	<p>Please contact Revenue to discuss warehousing debt. Further details on the scheme can be found here:  <a href="https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/documents/debt-warehousing-reduced-interest-measures.pdf">https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/documents/debt-warehousing-reduced-interest-measures.pdf</a></p>

Support/Funding	Overview
<b>Restart Grant Plus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A further €300m is being provided to businesses through the enhanced Restart Grant Plus.</li> <li>• The grant will be based on the amount of the rates assessment for the premises for 2019 (excluding arrears) with a new minimum grant of €4,000 and a maximum grant of €25,000 (Increased from €2,000 min and €10,000 max).</li> <li>• Eligible firms now include medium-sized firms and independent hotels with up to 250 employees, as well as small firms (increased from 50 employees).</li> <li>• Businesses impacted by a 25% reduction in turnover will be eligible provided they commit to reopening and to hiring and sustaining employment.</li> <li>• A turnover of up to €25m is now allowable, increased from €5m. There is a cap of €100,000 turnover per employee.</li> <li>• Commercial sports businesses and trading charity shops in rated premises can now apply for the grant.</li> <li>• The hospitality sector, restaurants, pubs, activity centres and tourist attractions, for example, galleries, museums, are eligible if they are operating from a rated premise.</li> <li>• Under the revised Restart Grant, support will also be provided for enterprises that could not access the original grant scheme. Non-rated B&amp;Bs and rateable sports businesses will be eligible for a grant payment of €4,000.</li> </ul>
<b>How to access support</b>	<p>Applications for the Restart Grant Plus are available through the Local Authorities.</p> <p>Non-rated B&amp;Bs will be eligible to apply to Fáilte Ireland.</p>

Support/Funding	Overview
<p><b>Enterprise Support Grant for Self-Employed Business Owners</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Enterprise Support Grant is available to assist eligible self-employed business owners with a once-off grant of up to €1,000 to restart their business which was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• The Grant will be awarded to self-employed people who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ are tax and PRSI compliant</li> <li>○ are <b>not</b> liable for commercial rates</li> <li>○ have been in receipt of the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment and have closed their claim on or after 18 May 2020</li> <li>○ have reopened their business which was closed due to the pandemic</li> <li>○ employ less than 10 people</li> <li>○ have an annual turnover of less than €1 million</li> <li>○ are <b>not</b> eligible for the <a href="#">COVID-19 Business Restart Grant</a> or similar COVID-19 business restart grants from other government departments</li> <li>○ can produce VAT receipts/invoices in respect of business restart costs and expenses claimed, if requested to do so by the department.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Funding will be awarded for eligible costs up to a maximum of €1,000. Grants will be awarded on costs related to reopening your business, including safety measures, business advice or mentoring, repairs, fuel, and wages. Normal business costs are not generally included.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How to access support</b></p>	<p>Details of the scheme, including application forms, can be found <a href="#">here</a>. Application forms must be returned to your local Intreo office.</p>



<b>Support/Funding</b>	<b>Overview</b>
<b>Commercial Rates Waiver</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 further three month period, up to the end of 2020.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The waiver is applied automatically and no direct individual notice to ratepayers will be issued.</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
<b>How to Apply</b>	Businesses should contact their Local Authority directly with any queries relating to the scheme.

Support/Funding	Overview
<b>Covid-19 Credit Guarantee Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>How to access support</b>	<p>Businesses should apply directly to their banks to avail of this scheme.</p> <p>Scheme FAQs can be found <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>Further information can be found <a href="#">here</a></p>

Support/Funding	Overview
<b>Microfinance Ireland/ Local Enterprise Offices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 <a href="#">MicroFinance Ireland</a> and the <a href="#">Local Enterprise Offices</a>.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>How to access support</b>	<p>Talk to a Business Advisor in your <a href="#">Local Enterprise Office</a> for more information.</p> <p>Applications have not yet re-opened for Microfinance Ireland loans, but you can pre-register your interest on their <a href="#">website</a> and they will email you with more information and the relevant application documents.</p>

Support/Funding	Overview
<b>Future Growth Loan Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Future Growth Loan Scheme is being expanded from €200 million to €500 million</li> <li>• This scheme will be available to eligible SME and Small Mid-Cap businesses (up to 499 employees).</li> <li>• Loans will range from €100,000 (€50,000 for farmers) to €3 million per eligible business, with unsecured loans up to €500,000.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>How to access support</b>	<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>
<b>Further Information</b>	<p>Further information on this scheme can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

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