**The coronavirus (COVID-19) Self-employment Income Support Scheme**

This scheme will allow you to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of your trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months. A single grant payment will be made into the applicant’s bank account. Unlike the support scheme for furloughed employees, self-employed individuals may continue to undertake work if this is practically possible.
This may be extended if needed.

**Who can apply**

You can apply if you’re a self-employed individual or a member of a partnership and you:

* have submitted your Income Tax Self Assessment tax return for the tax year 2018-19
* traded in the tax year 2019-20
* are trading when you apply, or would be except for COVID-19
* intend to continue to trade in the tax year 2020-21
* have lost trading/partnership trading profits due to COVID-19

Your self-employed trading profits must also be less than £50,000 and more than half of your income must come from self-employment. This is determined by at least one of the following conditions being true:

* having trading profits/partnership trading profits in 2018-19 of less than £50,000 and these profits constitute more than half of your total taxable income
* having average trading profits in 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 of less than £50,000 and these profits constitute more than half of your average taxable income in the same period

If you started trading between 2016-19, HMRC will only use those years for which you filed a Self-Assessment tax return.

If you have not submitted your Income Tax Self-Assessment tax return for the tax year 2018-19, you must do this by **23 April 2020.**

HMRC will use data on 2018-19 returns already submitted to identify those eligible and will risk assess any late returns filed before the 23 April 2020 deadline in the usual way.

**How much you’ll get**

You’ll get a taxable grant which will be 80% of the average profits from the tax years (where applicable):

* 2016 to 2017
* 2017 to 2018
* 2018 to 2019

To work out the average HMRC will add together the total trading profit for the 3 tax years (where applicable) then divide by 3 (where applicable), and use this to calculate a monthly amount.

It will be up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for 3 months.

HMRC will pay the grant directly into your bank account, in one instalment.

**How to apply**

You cannot apply for this scheme yet.

HMRC will contact you if you are eligible for the scheme and invite you to apply online.

Individuals do not need to contact HMRC now and doing so will only delay the urgent work being undertaken to introduce the scheme.

Once HMRC has received your claim and you are eligible for the grant, they will contact you to tell you how much you will get and the payment details.

If you claim tax credits you’ll need to include the grant in your claim as income.

**How Can we Help**

BTMR are here to help our clients through the claim process once HMRC has notified you of your eligibility. Furthermore, in the event that you are not considered eligible by HMRC, we can assist you with any appeal process if we believe they are incorrect in their assessment of your circumstances. Please do not hesitate to contact us on any aspect of this scheme if you require assistance.

**Other help you can get**

The government is also providing the following additional help for the self-employed:

* Deferral of Self Assessment income tax payments due in July 2020 and VAT payments due from 20th March 2020 until 30 June 2020
* Grants for Businesses that pay little or no business rates
* Business Interruption Loan Scheme
* Increased amounts of Universal Credit

Again, please do not hesitate to contact us for any assistance on these matters.