

Subject: COVID - Allens Community

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ALLENSACCOUNTS

Please see below for today's key developments;

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

We have already covered what we know and don't know in yesterday's update, and have not heard any more from the Government on this today.

However the ICAEW have today issued some detailed guidance that includes a worked example of how the scheme could work. Their understanding is that the HMRC grant will cover 80% of all employment costs i.e. gross salary, employer's NIC and employers' pension contribution (up to the £2,500 cap).

<https://www.icaew.com/insights/viewpoints-on-the-news/2020/mar-2020/coronavirus-iob-retention-scheme->

[furlough-guidance](#)

The ICAEW have confirmed that the employer will be required to pay the employee and HMRC in the usual way. The grant will be paid directly to the employer through a separate portal to be built by HMRC.

The earnings period used to determine the grant has still yet to be clarified, however ICAEW do note that options being considered are likely to include the average salary for a prior period - such as the 12 months to 1st March 2020 (and possibly the month of February alone for a new employee).

We have had many questions regarding staff **being moved in and out of being furloughed**, should work become available, and then ceases again. This has yet to be clarified, but the ICAEW consider it very likely that they will. The scheme is being designed to allow for flexibility so that furloughed staff can be brought back to work to replace those still working who later become sick. The ICAEW anticipate that a minimum period of furlough may be built in as a requirement before the person can return to work.

We are also being regularly asked whether directors will be eligible for the scheme. Unfortunately this is also yet to

be clarified but some commentators think not as they will need to continue working to run the company.

We will update you as soon as we hear more.

Self-employed and Freelancer workers

The Government has said that there will be an announcement tomorrow (Thursday 26th March) on what measures are to be introduced to help the self-employed.

Protection for Commercial Tenants

Commercial tenants who cannot pay their rent because of Covid-19 will be protected from eviction. Many landlords and tenants are already having conversations and reaching voluntary arrangements about rental payments due shortly but the Government recognises businesses struggling with their cashflow remain worried about eviction. The Government have therefore announced that no business will be forced out of their premises if they miss a payment in the next 3 months.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-protection-for-businesses-with-ban-on-evictions-for-commercial-tenants-who-miss-rent-payments>

Companies House filing Extension

From today companies will be able to apply for an automatic 3-month extension to the filing period with Companies House. Applications can be made through a fast-tracked online system which we have used today and is very straightforward.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/companies-to-receive-3-month-extension-period-to-file-accounts-during-covid-19>

Coronavirus Scams

We are unfortunately hearing that text messages purporting to be from the Government are being sent asking for people to click on a link to receive a 'goodwill payment' to help support them through the current period.

These are a scam so please do not click on any links or supply any information.

<https://fullfact.org/online/coronavirus-phishing-scams/>

As always, if you want to discuss any of the above, please

As always, if you want to discuss any of the above, please get in touch.

The Allens Team



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