

COVID 19 - Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme

Employers Qualification criteria:

The requirements based on the information available to date are as follows:

- The scheme is to support businesses and the revenues approach will be based on a presumption of honesty. The revenue expect businesses to approach the scheme in a similar manner.
- Eligibility is based on self-assessment and the declaration made by the employer (copy attached). Revenue will carry out verification in certain cases over time.
- You must be experiencing significant economic disruption due to COVID-19
- You must expect to experience a minimum of 25% downturn in business for Quarter 2 2020.
 - This may be based on a reduction on expected turnover in Quarter 2 or some other reasonable basis.
 - The basis for arriving at this conclusion should be clearly documented together with all supporting paperwork. In the situation of a review by revenue, this will be specifically looked at.
 - Attached document sets out an illustrative list of information that should be available. Please note it is not exhaustive.
- You must have an inability to pay wages as normal.
- You agree to retain Employees on the payroll during this time and operate the scheme through the payroll.
- You must have a firm intention to continue to employ these individuals beyond this emergency period.
- An employer that has been hit by a significant decline in business but has strong cash reserves, that are not required to fund debt, will still qualify for the scheme. In this situation the Government would expect the employer to continue to pay a significant proportion of the employee's wages.
- The employees covered on the scheme must have been submitted on a payroll submission in February 2020.
- Employees are not receiving a payment from the DEASP. We encourage you to maintain a signed declaration from your employees stating this. If they applied for the Covid-19 Emergency payment and you are taking them back on the payroll, they should confirm in writing that they have ceased claiming this payment from the DEASP.
- You agree to maintain records which can prove the downturn, can prove Employee salaries and can prove amounts paid to employees before and during the scheme.

This transitional phase is expected to last until April 20th when the operational phase will kick in. Revenue expect that they will be in a position to ensure the subsidy amount is accurate in the operational phase, but further information is not available at present. Both phases combined are expected to last 12 weeks (subject to change).