

### **Self-Employment Income Support Scheme**

HMRC has [published a 15-minute video](#) providing information on how to claim the third Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) grant. Information relating to the fourth grant, covering the period February to April 2021 will be published in due course.

### **Additional support for closed businesses**

The Government has introduced a [Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment](#) (CBLP) to support businesses that have been required to close due to the national restrictions that began on 5 January 2021. Eligible businesses in England may be entitled to a one-off cash grant of up to £9,000 from their local council.

The [Additional Restrictions Grant](#) (ARG) is also available from local councils to support closed businesses that do not directly pay business rates as well as businesses that do not have to close but which are impacted. Local councils have the freedom to determine the eligibility criteria for these grants.

### **Employers asked to support workplace testing**

The Government has [confirmed that rapid, regular testing](#) for people without symptoms of coronavirus will be made available across the country from this week.

Eligibility of the [community testing](#) programme is being expanded to all 314 local authorities across England, who are being encouraged to target people unable to work from home.

The Government is also asking employers to introduce asymptomatic workforce testing to help protect employees who can't work from home to curb the spread of the virus. Employers can find out more by emailing [employee.testing@beis.gov.uk](mailto:employee.testing@beis.gov.uk).

1-in-3 with Covid have no symptoms and Lateral flow tests can return results within 30 minutes, without needing to be sent to a lab.

### **Almost half of British workforce is working from home**

The Office for National Statistics' [latest survey looking at the social impacts of coronavirus](#) shows that during the week to 17 January, the proportion of working adults in Britain that worked from home was at its highest since June 2020, at 45%, compared with 43% the previous week.

The proportion of working adults that travelled to work either exclusively or in combination with working from home remained the same as the previous week at 48%.

### **Latest case rates by local authority**

The Government has published its weekly [Covid cases by local authority](#) showing that just over half (53%) of all local authorities have reported an increase in the number of case rates per 100,000 population during the past seven days.

Knowsley, Barking & Dagenham, Newham and Slough have seen the highest figures, all with case rates exceeding 1,000. In contrast, three areas in the South West reported the lowest figures with the Isles of Scilly, Torridge and North Devon reporting case rates of 45, 76 and 104 respectively.

### **More test sites for hauliers**

Cullompton, Sandbach northbound and Ferrybridge services have been added to the [list of haulier advice sites](#) where drivers and crew of HGVs, LGVs, coaches and vans can get free Covid-19 tests and border readiness checks before transporting goods to the EU.

Haulage drivers and crew are advised to get a negative test before they travel to Kent or other Channel crossing points.

### **Further restrictions for entering the UK**

Two more locations have been added to the [list of countries](#) where travel bans into the UK have been applied. People who have been in or transited through those countries in the last 10 days will not be granted access to the UK.

This does not include British and Irish Nationals, or third country nationals with residence rights in the UK, who will be able to enter the UK but are required to self-isolate for 10 days on arrival along with their household.