

Self-employed invited to get ready to make their claims for support

[HMRC is beginning to contact customers](#) who may be eligible for the Government's [Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#).

Those who are eligible will be able to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their average trading profits up to a maximum of £7,500 (equivalent to three months' profits), paid in a single instalment.

You can [check your eligibility using the new online checker tool](#). Once the online check is complete, those who are eligible will be given a date when they can submit their claim.

The claims service will open on 13 May and is being delivered ahead of the original timetable. The claims process will be very simple, and those eligible will have the money paid into their bank account by 25 May, or within six working days of completing a claim.

There is also further guidance available on ['How HMRC works out trading profits and non-trading income for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme'](#) and ['How different circumstances affect the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme'](#).

Furlough scheme not sustainable long-term

In a recent interview Chancellor Rishi Sunak acknowledged that, with over half of all adults currently being paid by the state, the furlough scheme is not a long-term sustainable solution.

Nonetheless, he indicated that the scheme will not be stopped abruptly, saying: "to anyone that is anxious about this [the end of the scheme] I want to give them reassurance today that there will be no cliff edge to the furlough scheme. I'm working, as we speak, to figure out the most effective way to wind down the scheme and to ease people back into work in a measured way."

The BVRLA continues to call upon Government to ask for a more flexible approach that enables businesses to have the option of furloughing staff on a part-time basis as part of phasing in a safe return to work.

Local authority payments to small and medium sized businesses

As at 3 May, over £8.6 billion had been paid out to over 697,000 organisations, according to Government [figures showing local authority grant payments](#).

The figures include payments of the Small Business Grants Fund scheme and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund.

To date, around three-quarters of eligible businesses have applied for the grants, funded by a £12.3 billion allocation from central government to local authorities across England.

**Covid-19
Bulletin**
5 May 2020



Government launches test, track and trace plan

Isle of Wight residents will be the first to get access to a [new contact tracing app](#) as part of government action to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

The Isle of Wight was chosen to trial the project because it has a single NHS trust that covers all NHS services on the island. Everyone on the island will receive access to the official NHS COVID-19 contact tracing app from this Thursday, with NHS and council staff able to download from 4pm today, Tuesday 5 May.

The app is part of the government's next phase of the coronavirus strategy and will improve understanding of how a new integrated approach to test, track and trace will work for the rest of the population.

The BVRLA website is updated daily with Covid-19 Business advice and information

As well as receiving these Covid-19 Bulletin emails, members are also reminded that the BVRLA website contains a dedicated [Covid-19 Business Advice section](#) hosting all the latest information as well as the previous Covid-19 Bulletins that have been issued since they launched on 17 March.

If you have a colleague who would also like to receive the *BVRLA Covid-19 Bulletin*, they should email BVRLA Communications Manager Andrea Davies at andrea@bvrla.co.uk