

Automotive sector has received £3.3bn in furlough support

The latest [HMRC data](#) shows that the automotive wholesale, retail and repair sector has been the biggest user of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS).

Figures for claims made up to 31 May 2020 show that the sector has furloughed more than 1.6 million staff at a cost to the government of £3.3bn. This means that the sector is responsible for 18% of total furloughed staff and 19% of the total cash paid out to furloughed workers.

From 1 July 2020, businesses will be given the flexibility to bring furloughed employees back part time. This is a month earlier than previously announced to help support people back to work. Individual firms will decide the hours and shift patterns their employees will work on their return, so that they can decide on the best approach for them - and will be responsible for paying their wages while in work.

From August 2020, the level of government grant provided through the job retention scheme will be slowly tapered to reflect that people will be returning to work. More details of how this will work can be found on the government's [CJRS advice page](#).

Over 100,000 automotive sector workers get self-employed support

HMRC has also published data on uptake for the [Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#) (SEISS), showing that there have been around 120,000 claims from the automotive wholesale, retail and repair sector at an average of just under £3,000.

The scheme allows an eligible individual to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months' worth of profits, and capped at £7,500 in total.

This first SEISS grant has been announced to close for claims on 13th July 2020.

On 29th May 2020 SEISS was extended to allow a second and final grant when the scheme reopens for applications in August. This will be a taxable grant worth 70 per cent of their average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering three months' worth of profits, and capped at £6,570 in total.