

### **Self-employed to benefit from second stage of support scheme**

Millions of self-employed people whose livelihoods have been affected by coronavirus will be able to claim a second payment of up to £6,570 as the Government opened applications for a [second stage of the Self Employment Income Support Scheme](#) on 17 August 2020.

Over 2.7 million people have benefitted from the scheme so far, receiving £7.8 billion.

Members can [register to attend](#) one of a series of free webinars being hosted by HMRC between 21 and 28 August. Further guidance is also available online:

- [Decide if your business has been adversely affected for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#)
- [Check if you can claim a grant through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#)
- [How different circumstances affect the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.](#)
- [How HMRC works out trading profits and non-trading income for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#)

### **ONS measures correlation between air quality and Covid deaths**

The Office for National Statistics has examined the [impact of long-term exposure to air pollution on Covid-19 deaths](#) in England, and has published [detailed analysis](#) showing that deaths involving Covid-19 were more common in highly polluted areas, particularly early in the pandemic.

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to a big drop in pollution levels with [global carbon emissions per day reaching up to 17% lower than normal](#) at one stage in early April, returning to levels last seen in 2006.

### **ONS publishes latest Covid-19 economic impact survey**

According to the Office for National Statistics' [latest survey](#) on the coronavirus and the economic impacts on the UK, 29% of businesses currently trading said that their operating costs exceeded or were equal to their turnover.

On a more positive note, overall retail footfall has risen to two-thirds of its 2019 level when compared with the same day a year ago and the total volume of online job adverts increased from 53% to 62% of its 2019 average, the largest weekly increase in 2020.

### **Those taking vehicles abroad may face quarantine restrictions**

France, the Netherlands, Monaco, Malta, Turks and Caicos Islands and Aruba were all removed from the [quarantine exempt list](#) at 4am on Saturday 15 August. This followed Andorra, The Bahamas and Belgium, which were removed at 4am on Saturday 8 August.

The Foreign Office continues to advise against non-essential international travel, except to the countries and territories on the exemption list. This list can be changed at any time, so members are advised to [Sign up to get an email alert](#) as and when the government imposes changes.

### **New guidance on self-isolation when returning from overseas**

The Government has published new guidance for employees and employers on [self-isolating after returning to the UK](#).

New quarantine rules have been introduced affecting many vacationers already at their holiday destination and having to face unplanned self-isolation upon their return. The guidance has been produced to provide advice for those employers and employees affected.

### **ONS to expand Covid surveillance survey**

The Office for National Statistics is to expand its [Covid-19 Infection Survey](#), which tracks the virus in the general population, to regularly test 150,000 people per fortnight in England by October, up from 28,000 per fortnight.

The survey aims to increase to 400,000 people across the entire project in England. The ONS has also partnered with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to extend the survey across the four nations.

### **Those breaching Covid restrictions to face tougher fines**

The Government has [announced a series of tough new enforcement measures](#) targeting the most serious breaches of social distancing restrictions.

Guidance on [what you can and can't do](#) is regularly updated and published online along with guidance on [meeting people from outside your household](#).

### **Questions relating to local lockdowns**

A new email address has been created by the Department of Health and Social Care for any queries that businesses and business representative bodies may have on local lockdown in their area:

[TTDHSCexternalaffairs@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:TTDHSCexternalaffairs@dhsc.gov.uk)

The latest reproduction number (R) and growth rate of coronavirus in the UK is 0.8-1.0. The growth rate is between -4% to -1% which means the number of new infections is shrinking by between 1% and 4% every day. More information about Covid-19 cases in your local area can be found on the Government's [Coronavirus dashboard](#).

### **Number of businesses accessing loan schemes continue to rise**

As at close of business on 16 August, 1,174,854 Bounce Back Loans had been approved as well as 590 Future Fund Loans, 516 Large Business Interruption Loans and 60,409 Business Interruption Loans. [The Government's reporting of figures](#) relating to the number of businesses accessing the schemes will now start to be published monthly instead of weekly.

### **Temporary changes for tax free childcare extended**

The [Government has confirmed](#) that working parents or carers who are eligible for Tax-Free Childcare or 30 Hours Free Childcare but have temporarily fallen below the minimum income requirement because of coronavirus will continue to receive financial support until 31 October 2020.