



## **FAQ's – UPDATE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) GRANTS, FUNDING & OTHER SUPPORTS**

**Q – Will the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) be continuing beyond June 2021 ?**

**Yes** – the Government has announced that the EWSS scheme will continue in operation until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

It will broadly continue to be operated as it has to date in terms of the grants/rates of support etc., except that **from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021**, the '**eligibility**' calculation will be based on turnover of the business for the **FULL YEAR of 2021** in comparison with the turnover for the same period in 2019.

This is a change from previous months when the calculation was based on a 6 month period.

Additionally **from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021**, further changes to the EWSS scheme will be made – **however the details will only be announced in due course.**

**Q – My business is still being restricted from opening fully, so is the CRSS scheme to continue?**

**Yes** – the **Covid Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS)** has also been extended to the end of 2021, with the eligibility criteria and the grants/rates of support remaining unchanged.

Businesses that are re opening in June/July 2021 are entitled under the CRSS scheme to an '**enhanced**' restart payment – comprising a single payment made up of double payments for the first 3 weeks upon re opening.

This will be subject to a total **maximum payment of €30,000**, and is aimed at supporting businesses with cashflow due to restocking, welcoming back staff and customers (safely).

**NOTE** - This enhanced '**restart**' payment is intended to incentivise businesses to exit the CRSS scheme, and return to trading as soon as possible !

**Q – My business is no longer restricted from opening fully, but we are still severely impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, what support is there for us ?**

Phase 2 of the **Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC)**, formerly known as the CBAS scheme, remain open for applications from eligible businesses **until 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021**.

The SBASC is specifically for those businesses that are not eligible for other schemes such as the CRSS, and provides small grant payments to offset the costs of '**fixed**' operating costs e.g. rates, utilities, IT systems etc.

Among other eligibility criteria, businesses that have suffered significant reductions in turnover (75%) can obtain '**one off**' amounts of €1,000 to €4,000.



**Q – My business is no longer restricted from opening fully, however our business will still be very severely impacted by the effects of COVID-19 beyond the Summer months ?**

There is a new scheme being introduced by the Government **from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021** which is aimed at businesses which remain vulnerable, but are otherwise **'viable'** businesses - **especially in sectors significantly impacted by the pandemic and which are slow in recovering !**

**The Business Resumption Support Scheme (BRSS)** is available to businesses that have experienced a 75% reduction in turnover (between September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021) in comparison with 2019, and is not restricted by location or physical premises etc.

The grant or support will be a payment calculated on the basis of 3 weeks at 10% of the first €1m in turnover and 5% thereafter, subject to a maximum weekly payment of €5,000.

Businesses who previously availed of other schemes such as the **Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC)**, the **Tourism Business Continuity Scheme** or the CRSS are eligible provided they meet the qualifying criteria for the BRSS scheme.

**Q – Are we now due to pay Commercial rates on our Premises ?**

As announced at the start of June 2021, the Government have announced a further extension of the current commercial rates waiver for an additional 3 month period i.e. this will cover the period from July through to September 2021 !

It is aimed to support businesses **'as they adjust to the reopening of the economy'**, and will continue to be administered by local authorities.

The commercial rates waiver **'automatically'** applies to those businesses currently eligible for the waiver, and for sectors in retail, hospitality (**hotels, pubs, restaurants, leisure and entertainment**), hairdressers and barbers, health services etc.

**Q – Are there any extensions to the period(s) that we can carry any COVID related tax debts forward ?**

**Yes** – the **'tax warehousing'** scheme has also been extended further by the Government.

In broad terms, tax debts (VAT, PAYE, income tax, PRSI, USC and TWSS overpayments) can be **'warehoused'** through to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, there is an additional **'interest free'** period for those tax debts provided by Revenue through to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, and then a **'reduced interest rate'** of 3% will apply to any remaining tax debts from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.