

Finance & Management News

Restart Grant Plus

As part of a range of measures recently announced by Government, to stimulate a jobs-led recovery and to rebuild economic confidence, changes have been made to the Restart Grant Plus. Key changes include

- An additional €300m funding has been committed to the scheme;
- A new minimum grant of €4,000 and maximum grant of €25,000 (previously €2,000 and €10,000 respectively) is available to eligible businesses under the scheme;
- Companies with up to 250 employees (i.e. medium sized companies) can now apply. Previously the grant was for companies with less than 50 employees; and
- Non-rateable B&B's, sports clubs with commercial activities and trading charity shops are now eligible

Businesses that received a grant under the original scheme can re-apply through their local authority for additional funding. Further details on the scheme are available at <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/COVID-19-supports/COVID-19-Restart-Grant-Local-Authority-Websites.html>.

Source: www.dbei.gov.ie

Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS)

The Government announced the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) on 23rd July 2020, as part of the July Jobs Stimulus package.

The EWSS will replace the existing Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) on 1st September 2020, both schemes will run in parallel from 1 July 2020 until the TWSS ceases on 31st August 2020. The EWSS is expected to continue until 31st March 2021.

Under the EWSS scheme a flat rate subsidy, of either €203 or 151.50 dependant on the employee's gross weekly pay, will be paid to qualifying employers. No subsidy is available for employee's whose gross weekly earnings are less than €151.50 or greater than €1,462.

To qualify for the scheme employers must be able to demonstrate that the business will experience a thirty percent reduction in turnover or orders between 1st July to 31st December 2020 and that the disruption is caused by Covid-19. The reduction in turnover or orders is relative to

- The same period in 2019 (for businesses in existence prior to 1st July 2019);
- The date of commencement to 31st December 2019; or
- For businesses commenced post 1st November 2019, the projected turnover or orders

A subsidy is available under the scheme for new hires and seasonal workers. The EWSS is also available to employers registered under Section 58C Child Care Act 1991. Under the EWSS scheme an employer is required to undertake a review on the last day of every month to ensure that they continue to meet the eligibility criteria. Where an employer no longer qualifies, they must deregister with effect from the following day (first day of the month).

The scheme is to be administered by the Revenue Commissioners on a self-assessment basis and PAYE will be required to be operated and remitted on all payments, including Income Tax, USC and employee PRSI.

For further information please see the Revenue Guidelines on the operation of the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme which can be accessed at www.revenue.ie.

source: www.revenue.ie

SME Market Report 2020

The Central Bank of Ireland recently published its SME Market Report 2020 which focused on the challenges to firms posed by Covid-19. The Report aims to provide a timely monitor of developments in the provision of credit to Irish Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) by financial intermediaries. For further information and to access a copy of the report please see

<https://www.centralbank.ie/news/article/press-release-sme-market-report-2020-covid19-21-july-2020>

Source: www.centralbank.ie