



# Self-employed Income Support



## What is it?

A **grant** for self-employed individuals or partnerships, worth 80% of their profits - based on average profits across 2016-19 tax years - up to a cap of £2,500 per month. This applies to those where the majority of their income comes from self-employment and who have profits of less than £50,000.

## Who is it for?

Any self-employed person (or partnership member) who has filed a 2018/19 tax return; has traded in 2019/20; is currently trading or intends to continue trading in 2020-21 (if it weren't for COVID-19); generates more than half their total income from self-employment; and has average trading profits for 2018/19 (or the past 3 years) under £50,000.



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## Who is eligible?

Those whose business has been adversely affected by coronavirus, traded in the tax year 2019 to 2020, intend to continue trading, and they:

- earn at least half of their income through self-employment
- have trading profits of no more than £50,000 per year
- traded in the tax year 2018 to 2019 and submitted their Self Assessment tax return on or before 23 April 2020 for that year

**You cannot make a claim yet.** HMRC is using information that customers have provided in their 2018 to 2019 tax return – and returns for 2016 to 2017 and 2017 to 2018 where needed – to determine their eligibility and is contacting customers who may be eligible via email, text message or letter. Claims open on 13 May.



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## How do you apply?

You cannot 'Apply' as such, but HMRC has launched an online eligibility checker to enable people to check if they can claim a grant under the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS).

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

To use the checker, applicants will need their unique taxpayer reference, their National Insurance number and a Government Gateway account. HMRC has confirmed that the SEISS will open on 13 May 2020 (tomorrow!) and grant payments will be made by 25 May, or within six working days of a completed claim. You will receive a confirmed date from 13-18 May from which you will be able to apply for your grant.



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## How do they calculate the grant?

To work out the average trading profit, HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) will add together your total trading profits or losses for the three tax years then divide by three. If you have not submitted Self Assessment tax returns for all three years, HMRC will work out your average trading profit based on continuous periods of self-employment, which will be either:

the tax years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 **OR** the tax year 2018-2019 only, even if you were self-employed in the tax year 2016-2017

The grant will be 80% of your average trading profit, divided by 12 which will give a monthly amount. HMRC will pay this or up to a maximum of £2,500 a month, whichever is lower.



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## After you make your claim

HMRC will check claims and take appropriate action to withhold or recover payments found to be dishonest or inaccurate.

You will be told immediately if your grant is approved. The money will be paid into your bank account within six working days. The first payments will be made on 21 May.

You must keep a copy of all records in line with normal self-employment record keeping requirements, including:

- the amount claimed
- the claim reference number for your records
- evidence that your business has been adversely affected by coronavirus



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## Additional guidance

There is also further guidance available on 'How HMRC works out trading profits and non-trading income for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme'

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-hmrc-works-out-total-income-and-trading-profits-for-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme> and

'How different circumstances affect the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme'

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-different-circumstances-affect-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme>



# Useful Support from HMRC



Website: <https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-online-services-helpdesk>

Email: [helpdesk@notifications.hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:helpdesk@notifications.hmrc.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0300 200 3600

Or go onto their online chat service to discuss payments which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-customs/contact/online-services-helpdesk>