



JOHN MCELHINNEY & Co.

*Chartered Accountants,
Taxation & Business Advisors*

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2020 eNews Issue 4

Restart Grant Plus

€300M FURTHER FUNDING IN ADDITION TO €250M PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED

Increased grant: Minimum grant is now €4,000 and the maximum grant is €25,000

Medium sized companies: Enterprises with up to 250 employees are now eligible

Re-apply: Businesses that received a grant under the first scheme can re-apply

Increased eligibility: Non-rateable B&Bs, sports clubs with commercial activities and trading charity shops are now eligible

#JobsStimulus

Coronavirus COVID-19 National Programme

Riadas na Míneam Government of Ireland

The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation has increased the restart grant for small businesses.

To avail of the Restart Grant, a business must be in the Local Authorities Commercial Rates Payment System and:

- Direct grant aid of between €4,000 minimum and €25,000 based on commercial rate bill for 2019 (increased from €2,000 min and €10,000 max);
- Scheme applies to small businesses with a turnover of under €25m (increased from €5m) and employing 250 people or less. There is a cap of €100,000 turnover per employee;
- Turnover must have reduced 25% or more due to COVID-19.

Non-rated B&B's and rateable sports businesses will be eligible for a grant payment of €4,000

Processing of applications and payment of the Restart Grant Plus will depend on the initial surge of applications but, as far as is feasible, will be prioritised according to scheduled re-opening dates in the national Roadmap.

Applications for the Restart Grant Plus can be made online to local authorities through your Local Authority website:

<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/COVID-19-supports/COVID-19-Restart-Grant-Local-Authority-Websites.html>

Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme

Revenue published information and advice for taxpayers and agents on the **Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS)** on its website. The webpage includes the key features of the EWSS, as published in legislation, including the qualifying criteria for employers and the level of subsidy support the employer will receive per employee.

The EWSS will replace the TWSS from 1 September 2020. Both schemes will run in parallel from 1 July. The EWSS is expected to continue until 21 March 2021.

In order to be eligible for the EWSS, employers must demonstrate that:

- their business will experience a 30% reduction in turnover or customer orders between 1 July and 31 December 2020; and
- the disruption is caused by COVID-19.

The reduction in turnover or customer orders is relative to:

- the same period in 2019 where the business was in existence prior to 1 July 2019;
- the date of commencement of a business to 31 December 2019; or



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Employers are required to conduct a monthly review to ensure they continue to meet the eligibility criteria under the EWSS.

A 0.5% rate of employers PRSI will continue to apply for employments that are eligible for the subsidy. The subsidy support amounts are set out in the table below. EWSS support will be backdated to 1 July for eligible employers who did not qualify for the TWSS.

| Gross Pay | Subsidy |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Less than €151.50 | €0.00 per week |
| €151.50 to €202.99 | €151.50 per week |
| €203.00 to €1,462.00 | €203.00 per week |
| More than €1,462.00 | €0.00 per week |

COMPANY SECRETARIAL

The Registrar has extended Annual Return arrangements until the 31st of October 2020.

For the Register of Friendly Societies, the extension is until 31st December 2020.

COVID 19

Annual Returns

CRO Update

The Registrar has decided to extend **Annual Return** arrangements for a further period until **31st October 2020**

The Registrar has also decided to extend the arrangement in relation to entities (industrial and provident societies, friendly societies and trade unions) that are required to file with the **Registry of Friendly Societies** until **31st December 2020**



STANDARD VAT RATE IS TEMPORARILY REDUCED FROM 23% TO 21% FOR A 6 MONTH PERIOD



the Minister for Finance announced a temporary reduction in the standard rate of VAT for a six-month period.

On the **1st of September 2020**, the **standard rate of VAT will change from 23% to 21%**. The rate is due to revert to 23% with effect from the 1st of March 2021.

REVENUE CONFIRMS THE "WAREHOUSING" OF COVID-19 RELATED TAX DEBT FOR BUSINESSES

Over the last number of months, Revenue has outlined some [key advice](#) and [actions](#) it has taken to assist businesses experiencing cashflow and trading difficulties arising from the impacts of COVID-19, including:

- advising businesses to continue to send in tax returns on time, even where payment is not immediately possible;
- suspending all debt enforcement action until further notice, **and**
- suspending interest on late payment charges for both SME's (automatically) and larger businesses (on request).



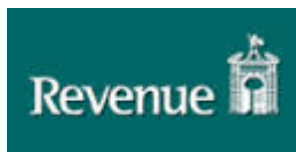
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PRACTICE NEWS

Following this announcement, Revenue has assured businesses severely impacted by COVID-19 that it will continue to work with them to agree payment arrangements that support both the capacity of the business to resume trading as well as the national recovery, post COVID-19.



While the finer details of this 'warehousing' measure have still to be worked out, Revenue has confirmed the following:

- COVID-19 related **VAT and Payroll tax** debts, due **from 1 March 2020 to the date when sectoral restrictions are lifted**, will be parked for a period of 12 months;
- no interest will accrue on the tax debts during the 12-month period;
- thereafter, the COVID-19 related tax debts will carry a reduced **interest rate of 3% (down from 10%)**, until the debt is paid.
- the timeframe allowed to pay the 'warehoused' debt will be flexible and determined by the ability of the business to pay both COVID-19 related debts as well as meeting its ongoing tax liabilities as they arise in the normal course;
- for the warehousing arrangement to apply, all **returns must be filed in accordance with the Revenue guidance** that has applied since the start of the current pandemic.

Additional information and clarifications will be provided in due course.

Source: Revenue Press Release

We are delighted to announce that we have been named: **"Best Boutique Accountancy & Tax Practice 2020"** by Corporate LiveWire as part of their Innovation & Excellence Awards 2020.



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WINNER

This reputable award is a true testament to our professional and diligent team and reinforces our position as a progressive firm of Chartered Accountants, Taxation and Consultants in Ireland today. We would like to sincerely thank all of our clients and all who have supported us.

Do not hesitate to contact me or a member of our team if you would like to discuss any of the issues raised or on any of our services.



Johnny

John J. McElhinney | Partner

This newswire is intended to provide a general guide to the subject matter and is necessarily prepared in a condensed form. In view of its purpose the reader will appreciate that we are unable to accept liability for any errors or omissions which may arise. Advice should be sought before acting on the information contained in it.