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Dear Client

## **FURTHER GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES**

As the lockdown has now started for England and continues elsewhere, the Government has changed its mind again about business support and decided to extend the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) across all regions of the UK together with other support. More information from the Government on yesterday's announcement can be seen [here](#).

There have been many announcements this week and we have summarised these below:

### **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)**

The CJRS will remain open until 31 March 2021. For claim periods running to January 2021, employees will receive 80% of their usual salary for hours not worked, up to a maximum of £2,500 per month. The £2,500 cap is proportional to the hours not worked.

The Government will review the policy in January to decide whether economic circumstances are improving enough to ask employers to contribute more.

Claims can be made by employers across the UK that meet the eligibility criteria. We will update all our clients on the eligibility criteria after the 11 November expected details of how the scheme will be run.

If we processed your previous claims rest assured we will be updating our systems for the extended scheme and we will be able to estimate your claims under the new scheme shortly.

It was also confirmed that the Job Retention Bonus will no longer be paid in February 2021, as CJRS will be available at that time. An alternative retention incentive will be put in place at the appropriate time.

### **Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)**

Similarly, support for millions more workers through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will be increased, with the third grant covering November to January calculated at 80% of average trading profits, up to a maximum of £7,500.

### **Farmers, landowners and rural businesses form the Rural Payments Agency (RPA)**

As National restrictions will apply from 5 November, RPA confirm they are continuing to deliver the range of services to agricultural and rural communities across the country while the majority of their people work from home.

Following government guidance, RPA inspectors will continue with most inspection work to ensure that they meet regulatory targets and do not cause any delay to payments. They will continue to follow COVID-19 Secure health and safety procedures (including social distancing and other approaches to reduce face to face contact) that they put in place earlier in the year.

See: [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-farmers-landowners-and-rural-businesses?utm\\_source=5778ce7f-dd82-42fc-b292-6b2b8acda70f&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-farmers-landowners-and-rural-businesses?utm_source=5778ce7f-dd82-42fc-b292-6b2b8acda70f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

## **Fishing Industry**

Marine Management Organisation (MMO) fast-tracks grants to help England's ports and fishing industry.

Applications invited by MMO for grants to help ports or harbours impacted by Covid-19 pandemic and for health and safety equipment for fishing vessel owners.

The MMO is inviting applications for grants to help ports or harbours impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and to provide health and safety equipment for fishing vessel owners.

MMO has re-purposed the balance of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) and allocated £500,000 to projects for ports or harbours and £300,000 to fishing vessel owners or licence holders for health and safety improvements.

Grants of up to £100,000 each are available for existing projects that are aimed at mitigating impacts of Covid-19 at ports and harbours and bringing benefits to the local area. Applications will be assessed and judged on a competitive basis with grants awarded to those best meeting the criteria and aims of this fund. The closing date for fully formed applications including all required documentation is 29 November 2020.

Awards of up to £50,000 each are available for health and safety improvements on board fishing vessels. This fund is open now and applications will be assessed and awarded on individual merit as and when they are received, until the fund is fully committed. The fund criteria is available here. Applicants are asked to note that their requests will only be considered once all the required documentation is received. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant for resubmission.

See: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-marine-management-organisation-mmo-fast-tracks-grants-to-help-englands-ports-and-fishing-industry?utm\\_source=7e8b34a7-68d7-4a39-85fd-38aa8c6c48a8&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-marine-management-organisation-mmo-fast-tracks-grants-to-help-englands-ports-and-fishing-industry?utm_source=7e8b34a7-68d7-4a39-85fd-38aa8c6c48a8&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

## **Bounce Back Loans**

The scheme helps small and medium-sized businesses to borrow between £2,000 and up to 25% of their turnover. The maximum loan available is £50,000. The government guarantees 100% of the loan and there won't be any fees or interest to pay for the first 12 months. After 12 months the interest rate will be 2.5% a year.

The scheme has been extended and is now open to applications until 31 January 2021.

See: [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan?utm\\_source=c7cea23d-a8b9-43df-a18c-104d4423f70c&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan?utm_source=c7cea23d-a8b9-43df-a18c-104d4423f70c&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

## **Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme**

The scheme helps small and medium-sized businesses to access loans and other kinds of finance up to £5 million. The government guarantees 80% of the finance to the lender and pays interest and any fees for the first 12 months.

The scheme has been extended and is open until 31 January 2021.

See: [https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme?utm\\_source=63fd2f34-693e-4f1b-b01c-6c90370bc39f&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\\_content=immediate](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme?utm_source=63fd2f34-693e-4f1b-b01c-6c90370bc39f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)

Best wishes and above all stay healthy.

Yours sincerely



Crane & Johnston