

Financial Assistance for Employers

COVID-19: Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme: This supersedes the Employer COVID-19 Refund scheme which has now ceased. The scheme was initially expected to last a period of 12 weeks, starting from 26 March 2020. However, the Minister for Finance has announced that this Scheme will continue beyond its original end date of mid-June, but that the level of payments may change.

The Subsidy Scheme is open to employers across all sectors, (excluding the Public Service and Non-Commercial Semi-State Sector), whose business activities are being adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To qualify for the Scheme, employers must be experiencing significant negative economic disruption due to COVID-19. They must be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of Revenue, a minimum of a 25% decline in turnover or customer orders in Q2 2020. They must be unable to pay normal wages and normal outgoings fully and retain their employees on the payroll.

Payments to employees are based on a non-taxable refundable amount equal to 70% of the employee's Average Net Weekly Pay ("ANWP") to a maximum of €410 per week where the ANWP is less than or equal to €586. Or a maximum of €350 per week where the ANWP is greater than €586 and less than or equal to €960.

From 16 April, the Scheme was extended to employees with an ANWP of greater than €960 per week before the pandemic and who have since taken a pay cut of at least 20% or more and fallen below €960 per week. (*Based on the average net weekly pay during January and February 2020).

Employers will receive a refund up to a maximum of €410 in respect of each eligible employee regardless of whether the employer makes an additional payment to the employee's earnings or not.