



Over the weekend the chancellor announced an extension to the **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme**, along with some flexibilities to help bring employees back part time from July. The level of financial support will be slowly tapered from August through to October:

- June and July: The government will pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500 as well as employer National Insurance (ER NICs) and pension contributions. Employers are not required to pay anything.
- August: The government will pay 80% of wages up to a cap of £2,500. Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions – for the average claim, this represents 5% of the gross employment costs the employer would have incurred had the employee not been furloughed.
- September: The government will pay 70% of wages up to a cap of £2,187.50. Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 10% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500. For the average claim, this represents 14% of the gross employment costs the employer would have incurred had the employee not been furloughed.
- October: The government will pay 60% of wages up to a cap of £1,875. Employers will pay ER NICs and pension contributions and 20% of wages to make up 80% total up to a cap of £2,500. For the average claim, this represents 23% of the gross employment costs the employer would have incurred had the employee not been furloughed
- Claims from 1st July onwards will be restricted to employers currently using the scheme and previously furloughed employees. The scheme will close to new entrants on 30th June. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-extends-self-employment-support-scheme-and-confirms-furlough-next-steps>

A few **businesses** have been asking about the **test and trace programme** and the possible impact on the workforce if an employee is identified as having symptoms, with the possibility of all staff then being contacted and advised to self-isolate. This situation can be avoided by maintaining the 2 metre separation in the workplace. The distancing means that staff will not meet the “contact” definition and will not be asked to self-isolate as contacts. So it’s doubly important that you comply with social distancing - prevents spread of infection and also prevents the need for self-isolation should there be a positive case in your premises.

We know businesses continue to struggle and there may be some who will be forced to make some **staff redundant** as the economy slowly tries to recover. The Council's Employment Links Partnership can help you and your employees if you are facing this situation. Information for your staff includes:

- CV and cover letter help
- Support with interviews, job applications and job searching
- Help identify transferrable skills or any possible gaps

They may also be able to access funding to allow them to undertake a specific training course to gain a new qualification to help them find a job.

If you would like to know more about how the Council can help, please email elp@rochdale.gov.uk or call 01706 646471

Interact IT, a digital agency, are offering a free training session on **Google AdWords** for local businesses and furloughed employees.

The session will be on Friday 5th June, from 10am – 11.30am via Zoom, with space for around 10-12 participants.

The session will include:

- Controlling your Google PPC account to maximise revenue and control costs
- Understanding the fundamentals of SEO, Google Analytics & Google Search Console.
- Attracting customers to your website.

If you are interested please email us at BusinessSupport@Rochdale.Gov.UK to reserve a space.

Regards

Carol and the RDA Team

Carol Hopkins

Business Development Manager

Phone: 01706 924886

Mobile: 07794 210858



Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale OL16 1XU

www.investinrochdale.co.uk

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