



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 1<sup>st</sup> July onwards will be restricted to employers currently using the scheme and previously furloughed employees. The scheme will close to new entrants on 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:elp@rochdale.gov.uk) or call 01706 646471

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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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:BusinessSupport@Rochdale.Gov.UK) to reserve a space.

Regards

*Carol and the RDA Team*

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