



More information has been announced around the support **for self-employed individuals** or those in a partnership whose business has been adversely affected by coronavirus. SEISS is a temporary scheme that will enable those eligible to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their average trading profits up to a maximum of £7,500 (equivalent to three months' profits) in a single instalment. The claims service opens on Wednesday 13 May with payments reaching bank accounts around six working days after the claim is made.

HMRC is using information that customers have provided in their 2018-19 tax return – and returns for 2016-17 and 2017-18 where needed – to determine their eligibility and is contacting customers who may be eligible via email, SMS or letter. An online checker is now open which will let you check eligibility for yourself, as well as giving you a date on which you can apply.

Customers are eligible if their business has been adversely affected by coronavirus, they traded in 2019-20, intend to continue trading and they:

- Earn at least half of their income through self-employment;
- Have trading profits of no more than £50,000 per year; and
- Traded in the tax year 2018 to 2019 and submitted their Self Assessment tax return on or before 23 April 2020 for that year.

More information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

NB you have to make the claim yourself – you cannot use an agent to do so.

**Furloughing** – I attended a webinar today and they made a few interesting points about the scheme:

- You must keep your furlough records for 5 years
- The money you receive is a taxable grant and so must be declared in your accounts as such
- If you are furloughed then ensure you are doing NO income generating work for the business. This could include networking on social media or virtual meetings (BNI was mentioned as an example), as HMRC may take a hard line in due course.

Non-profit organisation the **Cyber Resilience Centre** for Greater Manchester is offering a three-month membership for local businesses of up to 100 employees to improve their cyber resilience during the COVID-19 outbreak - including tailored advice, regular cyber news updates and useful tools.

This comes after Action Fraud reported a 400% increase in COVID-19 related crimes and scams in March alone. With many businesses having fewer staff members checking online systems and more staff working remotely, more vulnerabilities are present for cyber criminals to exploit during this period.

Cybercrime is already estimated to cost the Greater Manchester economy £860 million a year and many businesses struggle financially to cope with the aftermath of breaches and attacks.

The Cyber Resilience Centre is a joint venture between Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and Manchester Digital.

[https://cyberresiliencecentre.com/COVID19\\_membership](https://cyberresiliencecentre.com/COVID19_membership)

During the Coronavirus pandemic, the Government's necessary lockdown measures, lots of families are spending far more time together than they normally would. This may lead to an increase in family conflicts and have an impact on victims of domestic abuse. For some people home is not a safe place if living with an abuser and the rates and severity of abuse may increase. The Home Office has produced some guidance for employers and this was attached to May 6<sup>th</sup> Business Matters email as a PDF.

During the unprecedented circumstances caused by the coronavirus crisis, **Be the Business** are committed to doing everything they can to help businesses through the immediate impacts and assist in rebuilding once it is over. In response to this, they have introduced a 12 week Rapid Response mentoring programme, with the aim of guiding SMEs through the crisis, providing them with a sounding board for difficult decisions, and help business owners to develop the most suitable strategy for their business.

If you are an SME business who would welcome some help and support during this time, take a look at [https://www.bethebusiness.com/business-support-during-coronavirus-outbreak/?utm\\_medium=Newsletter&utm\\_source=Covid%20Weekly&utm\\_campaign=COVID%20Now&mc\\_cid=51ae19b7b5&mc\\_eid=9194373ea1](https://www.bethebusiness.com/business-support-during-coronavirus-outbreak/?utm_medium=Newsletter&utm_source=Covid%20Weekly&utm_campaign=COVID%20Now&mc_cid=51ae19b7b5&mc_eid=9194373ea1) or email [btmentoring@growthco.uk](mailto:btmentoring@growthco.uk) to ask for more information.

Regards

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