

Dear Client

Full details of the third SEISS grant to support self-employed people affected by coronavirus (COVID-19) have been published on GOV.UK.

The rules on who is eligible to claim have changed. However, you still need to have submitted a Self Assessment tax return for the tax year 2018 to 2019 showing self-employment income in order to claim (unless one of the existing exceptions applies).

The third grant, which offers 80% of three months' average trading profits, paid out in a single taxable instalment capped at £7,500, will be available covering the period from 1 November 2020 to 29 January 2021. Self-employed people who are eligible and in need of support will be able to **claim the third grant at any time from 30 November 2020 to 29 January 2021.**

Get ready

- Check if you are eligible to claim as this is different to the previous SEISS grants. Go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>
- Applying online is quick and easy. Similar to the process for SEISS 1 and 2, it takes just 5 minutes and can be done on a smartphone.

Who is eligible

To make a claim for the third grant, you must meet a number of conditions, and make an honest assessment about whether you reasonably believe your trading profits will be significantly reduced due to coronavirus.

As previously, the third grant will also be subject to Income Tax and self-employed National Insurance and must also be reported on 2020 to 2021 Self Assessment tax returns.

As before, to make a claim for the third grant, you must:

- be a self-employed individual or a member of a partnership. You cannot claim the grant if you trade through a limited company or a trust
- you have traded in both the tax years 2018 to 2019 and 2019 to 2020.

For the third SEISS grant you must also:

- either be currently trading but are impacted by reduced activity, capacity or demand, or have been previously trading but are temporarily unable to do so due to coronavirus
- declare that you intend to continue to trade, and you reasonably believe that the impact on your business will cause a significant reduction in your trading profits
- only claim if the reduction in profits is caused by reduced business activity, capacity or demand, or inability to trade due to coronavirus – reduction in profits due to increased costs (such as having to buy masks) does not count for this purpose.

When deciding whether the reduction is significant, you will need to consider your wider business circumstances.

HMRC expect claimants to make an honest assessment about whether they reasonably believe their trading profits will be significantly reduced compared to what they would otherwise expect to achieve during this period.

The business must have been impacted on or after 1 November 2020. You must keep evidence to show the impact and reduction in your business activity across the qualifying period.

More information

For more information and examples to help you check eligibility to claim, go to <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

We're contacting all of our self-employed clients that may be eligible to let them know about the third grant.

There will also be a fourth grant (covering the three-month period from February 2021 to April 2021). We'll tell you more about that nearer the time, including how much it will be and the rules for claiming.

I hope this information helps you. We'll continue to keep you updated on the scheme's developments.it

Please note, if you receive texts, calls or emails claiming to be from HMRC, offering financial help or a tax refund and asking you to click on a link or to give personal information, it is a scam. The claim will only be made through your government gateway account. For those individuals who are unable to claim online, an alternative method will become available in due course.