Support for self-employed through the Self-employment Income Support Scheme

The Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will support self-employed individuals (including members of partnerships) who have lost income due to coronavirus (COVID-19). This scheme will allow self-employed to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months. This may be extended if needed. Click here to get details on claiming a grant through the Self-employment Income Support Scheme

Check if you could be covered by the coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

If you and your employer both agree, your employer might be able to keep you on the payroll if they're unable to operate or have no work for you to do because of coronavirus (COVID-19). This is known as being 'on furlough'. Check if you are eligible. Click here to check if you could be eligible through this scheme

Business Support Website

The Government is supporting businesses and their employees through a package of measures during this period of unprecedented disruption. This website: https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/ helps you find the right support, advice and information to help with the impact of coronavirus on your business. To make it easier to find quick answers to the key questions businesses may have, some Frequently Asked Questions and other sources of support are also available. For ease of reference they can be accessed through this link: https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-business-advice/

Measures to protect renters affected by coronavirus

The government has brought forward a package of measures to protect renters affected by coronavirus (COVID-19). With these in force, no renter in either social or private accommodation will be forced out of their home. Landlords will also be protected by a 3 month mortgage payment holiday where they have a Buy to Let mortgages. Click here for more details

Guidance for apprentices, employers, training providers and assessment organisations in response to the impact of coronavirus

The government is committed to supporting apprentices, and employers continue to build the skills capabilities the country needs now and in the future. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is responding by taking steps to ensure that, wherever possible, apprentices can continue and complete their apprenticeship, despite any break they need to take as a result of COVID-19, and to support providers during this challenging time. Click here for more information

Government confirms £500 million hardship fund will provide council tax relief for vulnerable households

Local Government Secretary confirmed £500 million Hardship Fund which will provide support, including council tax relief, in 2020 to 2021 to those who need it most. Guidance was released on 24 March 2020 to provide clarity for councils on how to allocate the funding following its announcement at Budget. The funding will enable further reductions in council tax for working age people in receipt of Local Council Tax Support. Click here for more details

Government launches Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp

The new free to use service aims to provide official, trustworthy and timely information and advice about coronavirus (COVID-19). To use the free GOV.UK Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp, simply add 07860 064422 in your phone contacts and then message the word 'hi' in a WhatsApp message to get started. For more information click here

Partners will find it helpful to keep checking:

- 1) Information about coronavirus and claiming benefits is available on the <u>Understanding Universal Credit</u> website. This page will be updated regularly.
- 2) COVID-19: guidance for employees, employers and businesses
- 3) https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Please send any questions or comments to: rajesh.shah@dwp.gov.uk