

Self-employment income support scheme



On 29 May 2020, Rishi Sunak announced a second and final grant would be provided through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) to further support the self-employed, including members of partnerships.

SEISS first grant

The first SEISS grant was announced on 26 March 2020, and allowed self-employed individuals, including members of partnerships, to claim grants worth 80% of their average monthly trading profits. This was up to a cap of £7,500 to cover three months and was paid in one lump sum.

- Applications for the first grant opened on 13 May 2020
- Applications for the first grant will close on 13 July 2020

As of midnight on 24 May 2020, £6.8 billion had been paid out across 2.3 million claims through the SEISS.

Eligibility criteria

Individuals must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- They must have submitted their Income Tax Self-Assessment tax return for tax year 2018-19 by the extended deadline of 23 April 2020
- They must have continued to trade in 2019-20 and intend to keep trading in 2020-21
- They must be able to demonstrate how their trade has been adversely impacted by coronavirus
- They must have average self-employed trading profits that do not exceed £50,000
- They must earn at least half of their income from self-employment

Individuals will have been invited to make a claim from a certain date and can check when they can make a claim from by accessing an online tool - they will need their Unique Taxpayer Reference(UTR).

Role of Agents

The claimant must make the claim themselves, however their agent may be able to support them by providing essential information such as UTR and signposting to information and guidance on the subject of SEISS.

The claimant will be required to confirm to HMRC that their business has been adversely affected by coronavirus. Information required before making the claim will include:

- Unique Taxpayer Reference
- National Insurance Number
- Government Gateway user ID and password
- UK bank details (only provide bank account details where a Bacs payment can be accepted) including:
 - Bank account number and Sort code
 - Name on the account and the address linked to the bank account

Second and final grant

A second and final grant will also be made available to the self-employed - the eligibility criteria remains unchanged from that applied to the first grant.

The second and final grant will provide a taxable grant worth up to 70% of average monthly trading profits. This is up to a cap of £6,570 to cover three months, and, again, will be paid in one lump sum.

- Applications to the second grant will open in August 2020
- Further detail relating to the second grant will be published on 12 June 2020
- Individuals do not need to have made a claim through the first grant to be able to qualify for the second grant

Under both the first and second grant, individuals claiming under SEISS are able to continue to work, start a new trade or take on other employment.

As soon as further information is provided in relation to the SEISS second and final grant, the CIPP will publish updates on *News Online*, and on its social media platforms.