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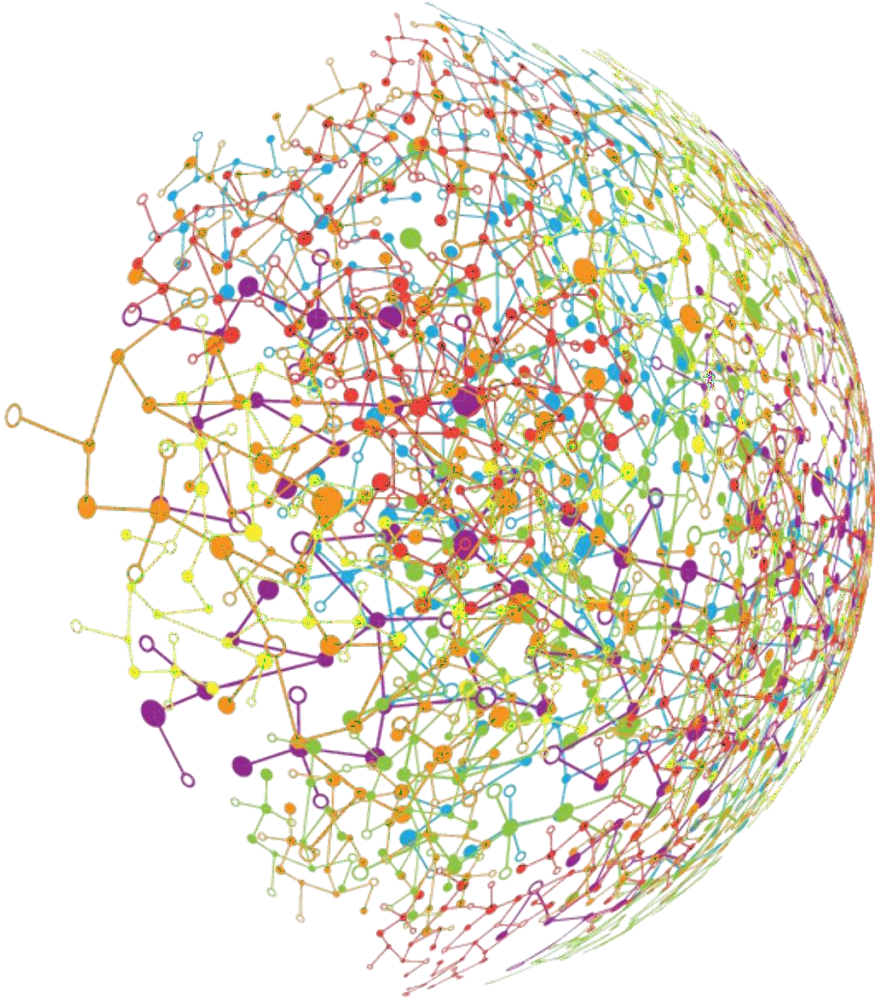

Covid-19 - Government Funding & Supports

Summary of announced schemes in Ireland

15 April 2020

Government Funding & Supports – Summary of announced schemes in Ireland

A raft of measures have been announced by the government regarding financial support

Funding category	Details	Eligibility	How to apply	Website	Additional comments	Next Steps
Credit Guarantee Scheme	A Credit Guarantee Scheme has been announced to support loans up to €1 million for periods of up to 7 years to help Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) impacted by COVID-19 related issues to have access to sufficient working capital. The purpose of the SME Credit Guarantee Scheme is to encourage additional lending to SMEs by offering a partial Government guarantee (currently 80%) to banks against losses on qualifying loans to eligible SMEs.	Viable micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). SMEs have fewer than 250 employees have a turnover of €50 million or less (or €43 million or less on their balance sheet) are independent and autonomous, have less than 25% of their capital held by public bodies, must be established and operating in the Republic of Ireland. A Small Mid-Cap is an enterprise that is not an SME but has fewer than 500 employees. Business with up to 499 employees can apply to the scheme.	Engage with the Bank(s) to begin their standard loan application process. It is only at this stage that a decision will be made on credit approval. Participating lenders will make all decisions on lending. Currently, Bank of Ireland, AIB and Ulster Bank are participating in the scheme. The Department plays no role in the application or decision-making process.	https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/COVID-19-supports/Credit-Guarantee-Scheme-COVID-19-FAQ.html	Refinancing of existing debts is excluded as the purpose of this scheme is to facilitate additional lending. However, in cases where new lending is sought along with refinancing, the availability of a guarantee in respect of the new lending element should be of assistance in providing an overall package of support to the business, including consolidation of existing debts Property-related activities are also excluded.	
COVID-19 Microfinancing Loans	Microenterprises can access COVID-19 loans of up to €50,000 from Microfinance Ireland, with no repayments required and no interest charged in the first six months. The level of funding has been expanded by €13m to €20m for COVID-19 loans with interest rates dropped from 7.8% to 4.5%. The new rate for direct applications (non-LEO) to MFI will also be reduced to 5.5%.	Any microenterprise (Sole Trader, Partnership or Limited Company) who is currently trading not in a position to avail of Bank finance and is experiencing a COVID-19 negative impact on their business (The negative impact must be a minimum of 15% of actual or projected in turnover or profit). Direct rate applies to microenterprises who apply directly rather than via Local Enterprise Office.	Talk to a Business Advisor in Local Enterprise Office or Register on microfinanceIreland.ie or Talk to a loan Advisor on 01 260 1007	https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/COVID-19-supports/Microfinance-Ireland-COVID-19-Business-Loan.html	Business Loans up to **€50,000** for eligible micro-enterprises (Businesses with less than 10 employees and up to €2m annual turnover) that are currently trading. Loans may be used for working capital and required business changes as a result of COVID 19. Loan terms up to a maximum of 3 years. Interest only payments up to 6 months.	
COVID-19 Working Capital Scheme	The €200m Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) COVID-19 Working Capital Scheme for eligible businesses has been expanded by €250 million to €450 million. Maximum loan size will be €1.5 million (first €500,000 unsecured) and the maximum interest rate will be 4%. An additional €200m in COVID-19 funding has been announced for the Future Growth Loan Scheme, which will be released in tranches, to provide longer-term loans to COVID-19 impacted businesses. Loan amounts will range €100,000 to a maximum of €3,000,000 per applicant. Loan terms range from 8 to 10 years and loans of up to €500,000 can be unsecured. Interest-only repayments may be available at the start of the loans. The maximum interest rate will be 4.5%.	Viable micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). SMEs have fewer than 250 employees have a turnover of €50 million or less (or €43 million or less on their balance sheet) are independent and autonomous, have less than 25% of their capital held by public bodies, must be established and operating in the Republic of Ireland. A Small Mid-Cap is an enterprise that is not an SME but has fewer than 500 employees. Business with up to 499 employees can apply to the scheme.	Via the https://sbci.gov.ie website	https://sbci.gov.ie/schemes/covid-19-loan-application	Companies which **cannot apply -** SMEs/ Small Mid-Cap that: are involved in the primary agriculture, and/or aquaculture sector, are in financial difficulty (excluding cash flow pressures caused by COVID19 virus impact) are bankrupt or being wound up or having its affairs administered by courts in the last 5 years has entered in to an arrangement with creditors, in the context of being bankrupt or wound-up or having its affairs administered by the courts, are convicted of an offense concerning professional misconduct by judgement, fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity where such illegal activity is detrimental to EU financial interests.	Approval of a loan under the SBCI COVID-19 Working Capital Loan Scheme is at the discretion of the relevant finance provider.
Enterprise Supports including a Rescue and Restructuring Scheme	A €200m Package for Enterprise Supports including a Rescue and Restructuring Scheme is available through Enterprise Ireland for vulnerable but viable firms that need to restructure or transform their business. Enterprise Ireland are also offering a grant of €7,200 to clients for finance review consultancy support.	Eligibility is being finalised	Application process is being finalised	https://enterprise-ireland.com/en/About-Us/Services/Covid-19/Supports/Covid-19-Guide.pdf		

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Government Funding & Supports – Summary of announced schemes in Ireland

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Funding category	Details	Eligibility	How to apply	Website	Additional comments	Next Steps
Trading Online Schemes	The first online initiative is an expansion of the €2,500 **Trading Online Voucher Scheme** for microenterprises. Total available is €5.6m and new flexibilities allowing businesses to apply for a second voucher of up to €2,500 where they have successfully utilised their first one. This scheme is via Local Enterprise Offices. The second online trading support will be available exclusively for indigenous retail businesses with over 10 employees. The Minister is making a new €2m **COVID-19 Retail Online Scheme** available through Enterprise Ireland.	Trading online voucher: no more than 10 employees; less than €2m in turnover; be trading for at least 6 months and be located in the region of the local enterprise office to whom they are applying. The objective of the Scheme is to support companies in the indigenous retail sector with a pre-existing online presence to respond to both the domestic and international consumer demand for a competitive online offer.	Apply vis Local Enterprise Office (LEO) or directly Apply to Enterprise Ireland	https://dbei.gov.ie/Djei/en/News-And-Events/Department-News/2020/April/08042020.html https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/funding-supports/	1. The grant is available to cover 90% of the costs of an online initiative and recipients can be awarded up to two grants of €2,500 to companies which have successfully implemented an initial grant offer. 2. Successful applicants will be awarded funding to support a maximum of 80% of the project costs. Grants ranging from €10,000 to €40,000 will be awarded under the competitive scheme.	
Business Financial Planning Grant	**Business Financial Planning Grant** from Enterprise Ireland to the value of €5,000 to assist companies to develop a Business Sustainment Plan and to engage the services of an approved Financial Consultant,	Enterprise Ireland will work with these companies on a one-to-one basis to support the implementation of the plan.	Apply to Enterprise Ireland	https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/funding-supports/	The grant will support companies with 100% funding to engage the services of an approved financial consultant to develop this plan for use when applying for bank or investor funding and when developing their own medium-term financial strategy.	
LEAN Business Improvement Grant	A new €2,500 **LEAN Business Improvement Grant** from Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland to help companies quickly access expertise to review and optimise operations at a time of crisis and identify the key measures needed to ensure continued viability.	The Lean Business Continuity Voucher is open to small, medium or large client companies of Enterprise Ireland or Údarás na Gaeltachta (including High Potential Start-ups).	Apply to Enterprise Ireland	https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/funding-supports/		
Sustaining Enterprise Fund	In the manufacturing and international services sectors, which employ over 460,000 people directly and a similar number of indirect employees, Minister Humphreys announced a major new **Sustaining Enterprise Fund** of up to €180m**.** The Fund will be operated by Enterprise Ireland, providing repayable advances of up to €800,000 as agreed with the EU under new State Aid rules and, together with leveraged lending from the financial markets, should see up to €500m of additional investment in vulnerable but viable firms.	• Employ 10 or more full time employees • Are operating in the manufacturing and internationally traded services sectors • For SMEs - have applied for funding from a financial institution, including, where appropriate, through the SBCI COVID-19 Working Capital Loan Scheme • For large companies – have completed a formal application process for funding with an appropriate financial institution.	Apply to Enterprise Ireland	https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/funding-supports/	This is specifically aimed at all firms with 10 or more employees impacted by COVID-19 that are vulnerable but viable. These grants will only be repayable if and when a business returns to financial good health	
Competitive Start Fund (CSF)/Seed and Venture Capital Fund	Access to equity continues to be an important part of the supports for start-up and scaling firms. Therefore, the Minister encouraged early stage firms to apply for a new €750,000 **Competitive Start Fund (CSF)** now available from Enterprise Ireland. This is in addition to a new €30 million Seed and Venture Capital call for proposals to support early stage and scaling firms through Enterprise Ireland under the Government's €175m **Seed and Venture Capital Initiative**.	Applicants should be able to demonstrate the following: Be able to clearly demonstrate that product or service has reached Minimal Viable Product (MVP) stage, and that the product is, at a minimum, live in beta; That the product or service has demonstrable customer validation ideally with (trial and/or paying) customers;	Apply to Enterprise Ireland	https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/funding-supports/	Prerequisite: A fully articulated proposition addressing a clear gap in the market with market research conducted with customers/potential customers. Evidence of innovation, export potential and employment capacity. Clear export market opportunity for the proposed product or service. Clear knowledge of the competitive landscape. Clear execution plan outlined, identifying suitable channels to international markets.	

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<table>
<tr><th>Funding category</th><th>Details</th><th>Eligibility</th><th>How to apply</th><th>Website</th><th>Additional comments</th><th>Next Steps</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage Subsidy Scheme</td>
<td>The COVID-19 Wage Subsidy is a scheme which allows employers to pay their employees during the current pandemic. Where relevant conditions are met, a “temporary wage” subsidy will be paid by the Revenue Commissioners directly to an affected employer. This is to be in place for 12 weeks from Thursday, 26 March 2020. The amount of the wage subsidy shall be determined by the relevant Government Ministers, and differing amounts may be determined in relation to differing classes of employee.
Changes to the scheme were announced on the 15th of April that will become effective for payroll on or after the 4th of May. In particular the scheme provides as follows:
Employees with net pay less than €586 per week (€38,000 per annum)
• for those employees with previous average net pay up to €412 per week (equivalent to almost €24,400 per annum) the subsidy will be increased from 70% to 85% of their previous net weekly pay;
• for those employees with previous average net pay between €412 and €500 per week (equivalent to €24,400-€31,000 per annum), the subsidy will be up to €350 per week;
• where an employer wishes to pay a greater level of top-up - beyond the outstanding 15% of previous pay - (in respect of employees with net pay less than €412 per week) in order to bring the employee’s pay to €350 per week then tapering would not be applied to the subsidy;
• there are no changes in respect of those whose previous average net pay was between €500 and €586 per week (equivalent to €31,000-€38,000 per annum), who will continue to receive a subsidy of up to 70% of previous net income, up to a maximum of €410 per week.
Employees with net pay in excess of €586 per week (€38,000 per annum)
For employees with previous net pay in excess of €586 per week (equivalent to €38,000 per annum), a tiered approach will apply. The maximum subsidy payable for these remains at €350 per week.
<table>
<tr><th>Gross Amount Paid By Employer</th><th>Subsidy</th></tr>
<tr><td>Up to 60% of employee’s previous average net weekly pay</td><td>Up to €350 per week</td></tr>
<tr><td>Between 60% and 80% of employee’s previous average net weekly pay</td><td>Up to €205 per week</td></tr>
<tr><td>Over 80% of employee’s previous average net weekly pay</td><td>No subsidy payable</td></tr>
</table>
Tapering of the subsidy will apply to all cases where the gross pay paid by the employer and the subsidy exceed the previous average net weekly pay.
The wage subsidy is now available to support employees where the average net pre-COVID-19 salary was greater than €76,000 per annum, and their gross post-Covid salary has fallen below €76,000 per annum. The tiered arrangement applicable to gross incomes in excess of €38,000 per annum will apply in such circumstances. Therefore, if an employee was earning over €76,000 per annum gross and has now been reduced to below €960 net pay a week, and their reduction is more than 20% then a subsidy of up to €205 would be payable and if the reduction was more than 40% a subsidy of up to €350 would be payable.</td>
<td>To qualify for the scheme, employers must:
• be able to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of Revenue, a minimum of a 25% decline either in the turnover of the employers business or in customers orders received as a result of disruption caused by COVID19.
• be unable to pay normal wages and normal outgoings fully;
• be making best efforts to continue to pay the specified employee and to retain such employees on the payroll; and
• meet specific administrative conditions (outlined in “How to apply”)

The Scheme is confined to employees who were on the employer’s payroll as at 29 February 2020, and for whom a payroll submission has already been made to Revenue in the period from 1 February 2020 to 15 March 2020.

The Scheme is available to employers from all sectors (excluding the public service and non-commercial semi-state sector) whose business activities are being adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

• It is open to employers who retain staff on payroll; some of the staff may be temporarily not working or some may be on reduced hours and/or reduced pay.
• Provided the employer meets the conditions and subject to the levels of pay to the employees the employer may be eligible for the scheme for some or all of its employees.</td>
<td>Any employer, already registered with Revenue for the purposes of the Employer COVID-19 Refund Scheme, is not required to take any further action. The employer may make payroll submissions from 26 March 2020 under the subsidy scheme arrangements on the same basis as they were doing for the Employer Refund Scheme, and €410 will be refunded in respect of each eligible employee per week.

Employers, or their agents, wishing to register for the scheme can apply to Revenue by carrying out the following steps:
• Log on to ROS myEnquiries and select the category ‘Covid-19: Temporary Wage Subsidy’.
• Read the “Covid-19: Temporary Wage Subsidy Self-Declaration” and press the ‘Submit’ button.
• Ensure bank account details on Revenue record are correct. These can be checked in ROS and in ‘Manage bank accounts’, ‘Manage EFT’, enter the refund bank account that the refund is to be made to.</td>
<td>https://revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/covid19/temporary-covid-19-wage-subsidy-scheme.aspx

https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/c3e1eb-minister-donohoe-announces-update-to-the-temporary-wage-subsidy-sche/</td>
<td>After the scheme has expired, the names of all employers operating the scheme will be published on Revenue’s website.

From no later than 20 April 2020, the operation of the scheme will ensure that the Subsidy paid to employers will be based on each individual employee’s average net weekly pay, subject to the maximum weekly tax-free amounts. Further information on how these arrangements will work will issue shortly.

Further detail on ‘Operating the Scheme from Thursday 26 March 2020’ is available at

Employers make this special support payment to their employees through their normal payroll process.
• The subsidy payment is exempt from PAYE, USC and employee PRSI payroll withholding.
• Any top up payment is subject to PAYE/USC withholding but is exempt from PRSI withholding.
• Employer PRSI will not apply to the subsidy payment and a reduced rate of 0.5% will apply to the top up payment.</td>
<td>For general issues relating to the scheme, employers should contact Revenue’s National Employer Helpdesk via the myEnquiries system, providing details of the query and a direct dial contact number.

Employers should make sure to select ‘Employer’s PAYE’ and then ‘Employer’s PAYE General Enquiry’ when submitting the query through myEnquiries in ROS.</td>
</tr>
</table>

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Government Funding & Supports – Summary of announced schemes in Ireland

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Funding category	Details	Eligibility	How to apply	Website	Additional comments	Next Steps
COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit	If a worker is diagnosed with COVID-19 or they are medically required to self-isolate, they can get enhanced Illness Benefit or Supplementary Welfare Allowance. They will not have to wait 6 days before they can apply for Illness Benefit. This means Illness Benefit can cover the first week of a COVID-19 diagnosis (or medically-required self-isolation) and any subsequent weeks. The COVID-19 illness payment has been increased to €350 per week.	To receive the enhanced payment, must be: • self-isolating on the instruction of a doctor or diagnosed with COVID-19 (Coronavirus) • be absent from work and not getting paid by employer • must be confined to their home or a medical facility	If suffering from COVID-19 or a doctor advises to self-isolate, the doctor will then complete a medical certificate on the worker's behalf and send this directly to the department. To receive a payment worker should provide doctor with: Name, PPS Number, date of birth. Worker must then complete an application form for Illness Benefit (Form IB 1) which can be posted or delivered to an Intreo Centre. Online application will be operational by the end of March.	https://www.gov.ie/en/service/df55ae-how-to-apply-for-illness-benefit-for-covid-19-absences/	It will be paid for a maximum of 2 weeks where a person is self-isolating but will be paid for the duration of a person's absence from work if they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 (Coronavirus).	
Pandemic Unemployment Payment	The Government have increased the COVID-19 emergency support payment for people who have lost their job as a result of the pandemic from €203 to €350. If an employee's working hours are reduced to 3 days or less per week they can apply for Short Time Work Support.	Eligible for the payment if aged between 18 and 66 years **and** have lost employment due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, are a non EU/EEA worker who has lost employment due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic, are a student over 18 who has lost employment due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic or if a non-EU/EEA student over 18 who has lost employment due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic	Send the completed application form by Freepost to: PO BOX 12896, Dublin 1. Or Apply for the emergency Covid-19 payment is by applying online at mywelfare.ie. All that's needed is your email to set up a basic MyGovID account.	https://www.gov.ie/en/service/be74d3-covid-19-pandemic-unemployment-payment/ https://www.gov.ie/en/service/c20e1b-short-time-work-support/		

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Funding category	Details	Eligibility	How to apply	Website	Additional comments	Next Steps
Utilities Support	The following measures have been put in place to help customers remain connected to their electricity and gas supplies during this period: • Domestic disconnections moratorium in place • Emergency credit levels for prepaid (Pay As You Go) gas meters will increase from €10 to €100	Emergency Credit is for Pre-pay customers	Must being Prepay Top Up Card to a shop. In the event customers cannot reach shops additional credit will be supplied.	https://www.cru.ie/cru-announces-covid-19-customer-protection-measures-to-assist-consumers/	It should be noted that customers who have existing Emergency Credit Debt on the meter before the update will have to pay off the emergency credit debt before being able to avail of the increased emergency credit value.	After applying, please keep checking bank account as payment may issue before the formal department notification.
Rental Support	Emergency measures were announced on 19 March 2020 to protect tenants who have been impacted by COVID-19. These are: • A moratorium on notices to leave rental accommodation and a moratorium on rent increases for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic • An increase in the notice period for tenancies of less than six months from 28 to 90 days	No eligibility required	No application needed	https://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/private-rented-housing/government-approves-series-emergency-measures-protect-tenants	While tenants are expected to pay rent during the COVID-19 pandemic, income supports and Rent Supplement are available if they are struggling to pay. These supports are provided by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Any rent arrears built up will be payable, but landlords have been asked to show understanding and reach local arrangements in these circumstances.	Renters encouraged to engaged with landlords as early as possible. Landlords asked to show forbearance.
Commercial Rates Deferral	On 20 March 2020, the Government agreed with local authorities that they should agree to defer rates payments due from the most immediately impacted businesses - primarily in the retail, hospitality, leisure and childcare sectors, for three months, until end-May. This measure will be implemented by each local authority in its own area.			https://www.housing.gov.ie/local-government/covid-19-coronavirus/support-businesses-impacted-covid-19-through-commercial-rates		

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Government Funding & Supports – Summary of announced schemes in Ireland

The Minister for Finance and the Banks have agreed a whole range of measures including payment breaks

Funding category	Details	Eligibility	How to apply	Website	Additional comments	Next Steps
Banking Credit Supports	On 18 March 2020 the 5 retail banks (AIB, Bank of Ireland, KBC, Permanent tsb and Ulster Bank), along with their representative body Banking & Payments Federation Ireland (BPFI) announced a series of measures to support people and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These include: • **An optional payment break of up to 3 months for businesses and personal customers.** • A solution to ensure that COVID-19 applications for a payment break will not affect credit ratings. • Deferral of court proceedings for 3 months.	No clear eligibility requirements outlined	Contact relevant bank directly	https://www.bpfi.ie/news/banks-set-joint-plan-support-businesses-personal-customers-impacted-covid-19-pandemic/	https://aib.ie/covid19 https://www.bankofireland.com/coronavirus-update/ https://www.permanenttsb.ie/about-us/notices/2020/march/covid-19-statement https://digital.ulsterbank.ie/personal/help-and-support/coronavirus.html https://www.kbc.ie/news-and-press/latest-news-and-press-releases/covid-19-update-a-message-for-kbc-customers	Based on our interactions with banks and direct lenders, businesses should consider: • Reforecasting trading and cash flows • Completing scenario analysis • Reviewing lending documents • Identifying additional sources of capital • Keeping plans & options actively under review Most importantly, we would encourage our clients to proactively engage in discussions with their banks. Our Debt Advisory team can provide further insights and guidance on this topic.
Personal Banking	• In order to support public health policy, the Minister for Finance is requesting that industry increase the limit on contactless payments to €50. • The Minister for Finance has decided to defer the collection of stamp duty on credit cards to July, which is normally levied in April, for which he will legislate for in due course.	No eligibility required	Not required	https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/878d4d-wednesdminister-donohoe-outlines-further-measures-to-support-individ/		
Central Bank of Ireland	The Central Bank has made the decision to reduce the Countercyclical Capital Buffer, from 1% to 0%. This decision will free up bank capital that can be used to provide credit, and to restructure and extend the loans of bank customers, both individuals and SMEs. The impact of the reduction of this buffer to 0% will free up in excess of €1 billion of bank capital. This capital amount has the potential to support approximately €13 billion of restructured lending to bank customers that need assistance. The Central bank has confirmed that it will allow banks to dip into their rainy-day capital reserves to keep lending flowing. It is anticipated that this move could free up considerable additional credit for households and businesses.	No eligibility required	Not required	https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/878d4d-wednesdminister-donohoe-outlines-further-measures-to-support-individ/ https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/a6d8fa-government-announced-new-covid-19-income-support-scheme/		

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Government Funding & Supports – Summary of announced schemes in Ireland

Revenue has announced measures in relation to COVID-19 to assist SMEs experiencing cashflow difficulties arising from COVID-19

Funding category	Details	Eligibility	How to apply	Website	Additional comments	Next Steps
Tax Returns	Revenue has underlined that taxpayers should continue to file tax returns on time. The filing of returns informs Revenue of a taxpayer's liability or refund due (if any) for a period.	Taxpayers generally.		https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/press-office/press-releases/2020/pr-130320-revenue-announce-measures-to-assist-smes-experiencing-cashflow-difficulties-arising-from-covid-19.aspx	Small and Medium Enterprises (SME). For these purposes an SME is a business with turnover of less than €3 million who is not dealt with by either Revenue's Large Cases Division or Medium Enterprises Division. SME's are managed from both a service and compliance standpoint by Revenue's Business Division. Note: Businesses, other than SMEs, who are experiencing temporary cash flow or trading difficulties should contact the Collector-General's office on (01) 7383663. Alternatively, these businesses can engage directly with their branch contacts in Revenue's Large Corporates Division or Medium Enterprises Division.	
Tax Forbearance and Rebates	• Application of interest to late payments of VAT suspended for January/February. Effectively a VAT payment deferral. • Application of interest to late payments of employer PAYE (income tax) liabilities suspended for February/March. Effectively a payment deferral.	Applicable to SMEs (as defined across).				
Debt Enforcement	All debt enforcement activity is suspended until further notice by Revenue Commissioners.	Applicable to SMEs.				
Tax Clearance	Current tax clearance certificates will remain in place for all businesses over the coming months.	Applicable to SMEs.				
RCT Rate Review	Revenue has suspended the Relevant Contracts Tax ('RCT') rate review that was scheduled to take place in March 2020. This process assesses the current compliance position of each subcontractor in the eRCT system and determines their correct RCT deduction rate, i.e. 0%, 20% or 35%. As this process may result in a subcontractor's RCT rate increasing due to changes in their compliance position, the review is suspended. Subcontractors' existing rates will continue for now, but any subcontractor can check if their current rate should be reduced using the self-review feature on the Revenue Online Service ('ROS').	Applicable to SMEs.				
'Green routing' status for critical pharmaceutical products and medication	Revenue has also announced that critical pharmaceutical products and medication will be given 'green routing' status for customs' purposes. This to ensure that the importation process is completed without delay.	Applicable to SMEs.				

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Revenue has published new COVID-19 guidance to assist employers and employees regarding certain reporting and filing obligations and certain other tax related conditions

Funding category	Details	Eligibility	How to apply	Website	Additional comments	Next Steps
Real-time foreign tax credit (FTC) for Restricted Stock Unit (RSU) cases	In respect of 2019 cases for whom real time foreign tax credits were provided through the payroll, the 31 March 2020 filling deadline will be suspended. In such circumstances, the 2019 income tax return for such employees will revert to the standard income tax filing date (31 October 2020) for that return or any extended filing deadline for that return as appropriate.	Relevant employees		https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/covid19/compliance-with-certain-reporting-and-filing-obligations.aspx	The employer notification to Revenue in relation to such cases should be made as soon as possible but no later than the extended income tax filing date where applicable.	
Share schemes filing obligations	The filing deadline for all 2019 share scheme returns is being extended from 31 March 2020 to 30 June 2020.	Relevant employees				
Special Assignee Relief Programme (SARP)	The 90 day employer filing obligation, which is a requirement for an employee to be eligible to benefit from SARP relief, is extended for a further 60 days.	The Special Assignee Relief Programme (SARP) provides relief from income tax and is aimed at employees who move to Ireland with their employer or an associated company. It offers a deduction from employment income and reduces the cost of moving executives to Ireland.			It is anticipated that such an extension should provide sufficient time for employers to file the required return, but exceptional cases may be submitted to Revenue for consideration on a case by case basis.	
Trans-Border Workers Relief	If employees are required to work from home in the State due to COVID-19, such days spent working at home in the State will not preclude an individual from being entitled to claim this relief, provided all other conditions of the relief are met.	Individuals commuting to jobs outside of Ireland may be able to claim Trans-border Workers Relief in respect of their employment income. This relief generally means that an individual will not pay any Irish tax on the employment income – they will usually only pay tax in the foreign country or countries where they are working.			https://www2.deloitte.com/ie/en/pages/tax/solutions/trans-border-workers-relief.html	
PAYE Dispensation Applications	Given the unprecedented circumstances and the restrictions on travel as a consequence of COVID-19, Revenue will not strictly enforce the 30 day notification requirement for PAYE dispensations.	Applicable to short term business travellers from countries with which Ireland has a double taxation treaty who are going to spend in excess of 60 workdays in the State in a tax year.				
Foreign Employments - Operation of PAYE	Revenue will not seek to enforce Irish payroll obligations for foreign employers in genuine cases where an employee was working abroad for a foreign entity prior to COVID-19 but relocates temporarily to the State during the COVID-19 period and performs duties for his or her foreign employer while in the State.	Foreign Employers				
PAYE Exclusion Order - Irish Contract of Employment	Regarding employees who are working abroad for a foreign employer under an Irish contract of employment where a PAYE exclusion order is in place, the position will not be adversely impacted where the employee works more than 30 days in the State due to COVID-19.	Employees who are working abroad for a foreign employer under an Irish contract of employment where an exclusion order is in place.				

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Government Funding & Supports – Summary of announced schemes in Ireland

Revenue has published new COVID-19 guidance to assist employers and employees regarding certain reporting and filing obligations and certain other tax related conditions

Funding category	Details	Eligibility	How to apply	Website	Additional comments	Next Steps
Residence rules - Force Majeure circumstances	Existing guidance states that where an individual is prevented from leaving the State on his or her intended day of departure due to extraordinary natural occurrences or an exceptional third party failure or action – none of which could reasonably have been foreseen and avoided – the individual will not be regarded as being present in the State for tax residence purposes for the day after the intended day of departure provided the individual is unavoidably present in the State on that day due only to 'force majeure' circumstances. Where a departure from the State is prevented due to COVID-19, Revenue will consider this 'force majeure' for the purpose of establishing an individual's tax residence position.			https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/covid19/compliance-with-certain-reporting-and-filing-obligations.aspx		
Benefit in Kind (BIK) - Tax treatment of reimbursements by an employer to an employee regarding holiday/flight cancellations or in relation to costs of assisting employees returning to the State	Provided the employee is integral to the business and was required to return to deal with issues related to the COVID-19 crisis by his or her employer, the costs incurred are reasonable and the employee is not otherwise compensated (i.e. via an insurance policy or direct claim to the service provider), a BIK will not arise. This may include costs related to family members who were on holiday or due to go on holidays with the employee.					
BIK - Employer provided equipment	A BIK will not arise where employers provide equipment such as laptops, printers, scanners and office furniture in order for employees to set up a working space in their homes.					
BIK - Employer-Provided Vehicles	For the duration of the Covid-19 restrictions, where an employee is in receipt of a vehicle (car or van) provided by his or her employer, the following may apply: **(a) Employer Takes Back Possession of the Vehicle** Where an employer takes back possession of the vehicle and an employee has no access to the vehicle, no BIK shall apply for the period. **(b) Employer Prohibits Use** Where an employee retains possession of a vehicle, but the employer prohibits the use of the vehicle, no BIK shall apply if the vehicle is not used for private use. Records should be maintained to show that the employer has prohibited its use and no such use has occurred, for example communication from employer, photographic evidence of odometer etc. **(c) Employer Allows Private Use** Where an employee has a car provided by his or her employer and the circumstances in the previous example don't apply limited or reduced business mileage (if any) is undertaken during the period of the COVID-19 crisis **and** personal use is limited				Where an employee continues to undertake business travel as usual in an employer-provided vehicle, the usual BIK rules will apply. Further information on the taxation of employer-provided vehicles is available in the Tax and Duty Manual.	
BIK - Payment of taxi fares	Where an employer pays for a taxi to transport an employee to or from work due to health and safety concerns, BIK will not apply for the duration of the COVID-19 period only.					

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Funding category	Details	Eligibility	How to apply	Website	Additional comments	Next Steps
Small Benefit Exemption	Section 112B of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, allows one voucher per year up to the value of €500 to be given to an employee by his or her employer tax free, provided certain conditions are satisfied. Where an employer wishes to recognise efforts of frontline or other key staff working during the COVID-19 crisis, either by accelerating part of a reward (voucher) usually paid later in the year, or making an additional voucher award, the requirement that only one voucher issues (as per s112B(1)(d)) is concessionally waived for the 2020 tax year, where the additional award is related to an employee's exceptional efforts during the COVID-19 crisis.	This concession only applies to employees who continue to work during the restricted period. All other conditions of the section must be met, for example the maximum (cumulative) value may still not exceed €500, but as stated above, the requirement to only issue one voucher will be waived. Appropriate documentation must be retained by an employer where this concession is availed of.		https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/covid19/compliance-with-certain-reporting-and-filing-obligations.aspx		

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