



WELFARE RIGHTS ADVICE IN NORTH AYRSHIRE

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Health & Social Care Partnership

Money Matters Update No 55

13/10/20

Job Support Scheme expanded to provide two-thirds of employees' salaries where employer is required to close in local or national lockdown

Government announces new scheme for employees who have been off work for a minimum of seven consecutive days

The government has announced from 1 November 2020 it is expanding the Job Support Scheme (JSS) to pay two-thirds of employees' salaries where their employer is required to close in a local or national lockdown.

Details of the scheme - that sits alongside the [original JSS](#) and the £1,000 [Job Retention Bonus](#) - include that -

- businesses whose premises are legally required to shut for some period over winter as part of local or national coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions will receive government support of two-thirds of each employees' salary (67 per cent), up to a maximum of £2,100 a month;
- employers will not be required to contribute towards wages and only asked to cover National Insurance contributions and pension contributions;
- businesses will only remain eligible for grants while subject to restrictions, and while the scheme is operating (from 1 November 2020 for a six month period);
- employees must be off work for a minimum of seven consecutive days in order to qualify; and



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- it covers the whole of the UK, with the government working with the devolved administrations to ensure the scheme operates effectively across all four nations.

In addition, the government advises that to be eligible, employees must be employed and an Real Time Information submission notifying payment in respect of that employee must have been made to HMRC on or before 23 September 2020.

For more information, see [Job Support Scheme expanded to firms required to close due to COVID Restrictions](#) from gov.uk

Removal of waiting days for ESA extended for a further six months where a person is affected by coronavirus

In force from 12 November 2020, the Employment and Support Allowance and Universal Credit (Coronavirus Disease) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI.No.1097/2020) amend the Employment and Support Allowance and Universal Credit (Coronavirus Disease) Regulations 2020 ([SI.No.289/2020](#)) to provide that their expiry date is extended from eight months to fourteen months.

As a result, until 12 May 2021, where a person is infected or contaminated with coronavirus, is isolating to prevent the spread of coronavirus, or is caring for a child (or qualifying young person) who falls into either of those categories, the Secretary of State has the discretion to -



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- disapply the seven waiting days that would otherwise apply to a person who has made a claim for ESA; and
- decide that a person who makes a claim for, or is entitled to, ESA may be treated as a person having limited capability for work.

[SI.No.1097/2020](https://legislation.gov.uk/SI/2020/1097) is available from legislation.gov.uk

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