

Financial Guideline 2019/2020 - 36

Community & Comprehensive and Voluntary Secondary Schools

Update to COVID-19 Payments

1. Introduction

The last few days have seen the introduction of the Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme for employers including boards of management, and changes to the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment for individuals who have been laid off due to Covid-19. This guideline outlines these developments and addresses payment of Department of Education and Skills Grant funded staff.

2. Payments to Department of Education and Skills Grant funded staff

As per communication received from the Department of Education and Skills, the Department has confirmed that grants for ancillary staff will be paid to schools as normal. Grant funded staff should be paid as normal for the period up to 19th April 2020. Therefore there should be no change to payments to secretaries, caretakers, cleaners, bus escorts or any other employee whose pay is grant aided. A further update will be communicated prior to April 19th, 2020.

3. COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment

Where a board of management has employees that it no longer has a revenue stream to support, such as canteen staff or night caretakers, and the board is not in a financial position to continue paying these staff, the board may decide to lay off these staff. In the case of layoff, employees may apply for the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment.

The previous scheme which paid an amount of €203 was to be administered by the employer. This is no longer the case. The employee should apply to the Department of Social and Family Affairs online for the unemployment payment.

The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment is paid at a flat rate of €350 per week for the duration of the pandemic emergency. It was originally set at a rate of €203 but it was increased by government on March 24, 2020.

It is available to all employees and the self-employed who have lost their job due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.

The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment will be in place for the duration of the crisis.

An employee qualifies for this payment where they:

- are aged between 18 and 66 years old
- live in the Republic of Ireland
- have lost their job due to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic

If the employee was working and was also in receipt of any social welfare payment such as a Carers Payment, Working Family Payment (WFP) or One-Parent Family Payment, they can still claim this payment in addition to retaining existing welfare payments.

If an employee has one adult and one or more dependent children they should claim a Jobseeker's Payment instead of the COVID-19 Pandemic Payment.

4. Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme

General Information

Revenue will operate a Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme. The scheme, enables employees, whose employers are affected by the pandemic, to receive significant supports directly from their employer. The scheme will run **for 12 weeks from 26 March 2020**.

The operation of the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme will be available to employers **who keep employees on the payroll** throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning employers can retain links with employees for when business picks up after the crisis. Additionally, the operation of the scheme will reduce the burden on the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) which is dealing with the other Covid-19 related payments.

Employers are encouraged to facilitate employees by operating the scheme, by retaining employees on their books and by **making best efforts to maintain a significant, or 100% income**, for the period of the scheme.

Key Features of the scheme

- Replaces the previous COVID-19 Refund Scheme.
- Initially, and from this Thursday (26 March 2020), the subsidy scheme will refund employers up to a maximum of €410 per each qualifying employee.
- However, employers should pay **no more** than the normal take home pay of the employee. The balance will be refundable to Revenue in the future.
- The subsidy scheme applies to employers who top up employees' wages and those that aren't in a position to do so.
- Employers make this special support payment to their employees through their normal payroll process.

- Employers will then be reimbursed for amounts paid to employees and notified to Revenue via the payroll process.
- The reimbursement will, in general, be made within two working days after receipt of the payroll submission.
- **In April, the scheme will move to a subsidy payment based on 70% of the weekly average take home pay for each employee up to a maximum of €410*.**
- Income tax and USC will not be applied to the subsidy payment through the payroll.
- Employee PRSI will not apply to the subsidy or any top up payment by the employer.
- Employers PRSI will not apply to the subsidy and will be reduced from 10.5% to 0.5% on the top up payment.

* (details on this will be made available by Revenue in due course).

Who does the scheme apply to?

The Scheme is available to employers from all sectors whose business activities are being adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The scheme is available for 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 set out below and subject to the levels of pay to the employees the employer may be eligible for the scheme for some or all of the employees.

To qualify for the scheme, employers must

- **be experiencing significant negative economic disruption due to Covid-19**
- **be able to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of Revenue, a minimum of a 25% decline in turnover**
- **be unable to pay normal wages and normal outgoings fully**
- **retain their employees on the payroll.**

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 names of all employers operating this scheme will be published on Revenue's website in due course, after the scheme has expired.

Registering for the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme

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
- Click ‘Add New Enquiry’ box
- From the dropdown menu, 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.

Operating the scheme from Thursday 26 March 2020

The employer runs the payroll as normal, entering the following details for each relevant employee under the Scheme:

- PRSI Class set to **J9**.
- A non-taxable amount equal to 70% of the employee’s net take home pay or €410 whichever is the lesser, where the average net weekly pay is less than or equal to €586; or a maximum of €350 per week where the average net weekly pay is greater than €586 and less than or equal to €960.
- If an employer is not making any payment to the employee, they should include a pay amount of €0.01 in Gross Pay.
- If an employer is making additional wage payments to affected employees, they should include this amount in the Gross Pay.
- **It is important that employers do not include the Temporary Wage Subsidy payment in Gross Pay.**
- The payroll submission must include pay frequency and period number.

Income tax, USC, LPT, if applicable, and PRSI are not deducted from the Temporary Wage Subsidy.

In many cases the payment of the Temporary Wage Subsidy and any additional income paid by the employer will result in the refund of Income Tax or USC already paid by the employee. Any Income Tax and USC refunds that arise as a result of the application of tax credits and rate bands can be repaid by the employer and Revenue will also refund this amount to the employer.

Employers must not operate this scheme for any employee who is making a claim for duplicate support (e.g. Pandemic Unemployment Payment) from the DEASP.

Based on the information provided in payroll submissions and adherence to the maximum limits, described above, Revenue will credit employers with the temporary wage subsidy paid to each employee.

Penalties will apply to any abuse of the Subsidy Scheme by self-declaring incorrectly, not providing funds to employees or non-adherence to Revenue, and any other relevant, guidelines.

Guidance/Information

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.

Should you require further assistance, please contact the FSSU

Tel: 01-269 0677

info@fssu.ie

27th March 2020

Treoiríne Airgeadais 2019/2020 - 36

Pobalscoileanna agus Scoileanna Cuimsitheacha

Faisnéis Nuashonraithe faoi Íocaíochtaí COVID-19

1. Réamhrá

Cúpla lá ó shin, tugadh an Scéim Fóirdheontas Pá Shealadach COVID-19 isteach d'fhostóirí, lena n-áirítear boird bhainistíochta, agus rinneadh athruithe ar Íocaíocht Dífhostaíochta na Paindéime COVID-19 i gcás daoine a ndearnadh iomarcach iad de bharr Covid-19. Tá na forbairtí thuas leagtha amach sa treoiríne seo, agus déileáiltear freisin le híocaíochtaí le baill fairne dheontaschúnta de chuid na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna.

2. Íocaíochtaí le baill fairne dheontaschúnta de chuid na Roinne Oideachais agus Scileanna

De réir teachtaireacht a fuarthas ón Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna, tá an Roinn tar éis a dhearbhú go n-íocfar deontais le haghaidh baill fairne choimhdeacha le scoileanna mar is gnáth. Ba chóir go n-íocfaí baill fairne dheontaschúnta mar is gnáth don tréimhse go dtí an 19 Aibreán 2020. Ní cóir, mar sin, go mbeadh aon athrú ar íocaíochtaí le rúnaithe, feighlithe, daoine glantacháin, coimhdírí bus nó aon fhostai eile a bhfuil pá deontaschúnta á fháil aige ná aici. Foilseofar faisnéis nuashonraithe roimh an 19 Aibreán, 2020.

3. Íocaíocht Dífhostaíochta na Paindéime COVID-19

I gcás go bhfuil fostaithe ag Bord Bainistíochta nach féidir leis tacú leo a thuilleadh toisc easpa ioncaim ag teacht isteach, mar shampla, foireann an cheaintín nó feighlithe oíche, agus nach féidir leis an mBord leanúint dá n-íoc, d'fhéadfadh an Bord a chinneadh, na baill fairne sin a dhéanamh iomarcach. Má dhéantar iomarcach iad, is féidir leis na fostaithe sin cur isteach ar Íocaíocht Dífhostaíochta na Paindéime COVID-19.

Bhí suim €203 le híoc de réir na scéime roimhe seo, agus bhí sin le riar ag an bhfostóir. Ní amhlaídí atá cúrsaí a thuilleadh. Ba chóir don fhostai iarratas ar líne a sheoladh chuig an Roinn Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh chun an íocaíocht dífhostaíochta a fháil.

Déanfar Íocaíocht Dífhostaíochta na Paindéime COVID-19 a íoc ar ráta comhréidh de

€350 in aghaidh na seachtaine le linn thréimhse ghéarchéim na paindéime. Bhí an íocaíocht socraithe ag ráta €203 i dtús báire, ach d'ardaigh an rialtas í ar an 24 Márta, 2020.

Tá an íocaíocht ar fáil d'fhostaithe agus do dhaoine féinfhostaithe a bhfuil a bpoist caillte acu de bharr na paindéime COVID-19 (Coróinvíreas).

Beidh Íocaíocht Dífhostaíochta na Paindéime COVID-19 i bhfeidhm le linn thréimhse ionlán na géarchéime.

Tá fostai í dteideal na híocaíochta seo sna cásanna seo a leanas:

- tá siad idir 18 agus 66 bliana d'aois
- tá cónaí orthu i bPoblacht na hÉireann
- tá a bpost caillte acu de bharr na paindéime COVID-19 (Coróinvíreas)

Má bhí an fostai ag obair agus aon íocaíocht leasa shóisialaigh á fáil aige ná aici sa bhrefis ar an obair, mar shampla, Íocaíocht Chúramóra, Íocaíocht Teaghlaigh i bhFostaíocht nó Íocaíocht Teaghlaigh Aontuismitheora, is féidir leis an bhfostai sin an íocaíocht seo a éileamh fós agus na híocaíochtaí leasa shóisialaigh reatha atá á bhfáil aige ná aici a choinneáil san am céanna.

I gcás fostaithe a bhfuil duine fásta amháin agus páiste amháin nó níos mó ag brath orthu, ba chóir dóibh Íocaíocht Chuardaitheora Poist a éileamh in ionad Íocaíocht Dífhostaíochta na Paindéime COVID-19.

4. Scéim Fóirdheontas Pá Shealadach COVID-19

Faisnéis Ghinearálta

Beidh Scéim Fóirdheontas Pá Shealadach á feidhmiú ag na Coimisinéirí loncaim. Ar bhonn na scéime sin, aon fhostaithe a bhfuil an phaindéim tar éis dul i bhfeidhm ar a bhfostóirí ar bhealach diúltach, is féidir leo tacaíochtaí suntasacha a fháil díreach óna bhfostóir. Rithfidh an scéim ar feadh **12 seachtaine ón 26 Márta 2020**.

Beidh feidhmiú na Scéime Fóirdheontas Pá Sealadaí ar fáil d'fhostóirí **a mbeidh fostaithe á gcoinneáil ar an bpárolla acu** le linn na paindéime COVID-19, rud a chiallaíonn gur féidir le fostóirí naisc a choimeád le fostaithe go dtí go mbeidh téarnamh ann maidir le cursaí gnó i ndiaidh na géarchéime. Anuas air sin, mar thoradh ar fheidhmiú na scéime, laghdófar an t-ualach ar an Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí, atá ag déileáil faoi láthair leis na híocaíochtaí eile a bhaineann le Covid-19.

Iarrtar ar fhostóirí an scéim a fheidhmiú chun cabhrú le fostaithe, agus chuige sin, na fostaithe a choinneáil ar a leabhair agus **a ndícheall a dhéanamh, 100% dá n-ioncam, nó an chuid is mó de**, a choimeád ar feadh thréimhse na scéime.

Príomhghnéisithe na scéime

- Beidh an scéim thusas ag feidhmiú in ionad na Scéime Aisíocaíochta COVID-19 a bhí ann roimhe seo.
- I dtús báire, agus ón Déardaoin seo (26 Márta 2020), mar thoradh ar an scéim fóirdheontais, déanfar fostóirí a aisíoc suas go dtí €410 le haghaidh gach fostáí atá i dteideal na híocaíochta.
- Ní cóir, áfach, nó n-íocfadh fostóirí **níos mó** le fostaithe ná a ngnáth-phá glan. Beidh an t-iarmhéid le haisíoc leis na Coimisinéirí loncaim amach anseo.
- Baineann an scéim fóirdheontais le fostóirí a íocann breis pá lena bhfostaithe, agus le fostóirí nach féidir leo amhlaidh a dhéanamh.
- Maidir leis an íocaíocht tacaíochta ar leith seo, déanfaidh fostóirí í a íoc lena bhfostaithe tríd an ngnáthphróiseas párolla.
- Na suimeanna a íocadh le fostaithe agus a cuireadh ar a súile do na Coimisinéirí loncaim tríd an bpróiseas párolla, déanfar iad a aisíoc le fostóirí ansin.
- Go ginearálta, déanfar iad a aisíoc laistigh de dhá lá oibre d'fháil an taiscthe párolla.
- **I mí Aibreáin, tiantóidh an scéim ina híocaíocht fóirdheontais a bheidh bunaithe ar 70% den mheánphá glan i gcás gach fostáí go dtí uasmhéid €410*.**
- Ní ghearrfar cáin ioncaim nó MSU ar an íocaíocht fóirdheontais tríd an bpárolla.
- Ní bheidh ÁSPC fostáí i gceist leis an bhfóirdheontas nó le haon íocaíocht bhreisithe a dhéanann an fostóir.
- Ní bheidh ÁSPC fostóra i gceist leis an bhfóirdheontas, agus ísleofar an ÁSPC sin ó 10.5% go dtí 0.5% ar an íocaíocht bhreisithe.

* (cuirfidh na Coimisinéirí loncaim sonraí faoi sin ar fáil go gairid).

Cé leis a mbaineann an scéim?

Tá an scéim ar fáil d'fhostóirí i ngach earnáil a bhfuil an phaindéim COVID-19 ag dul i bhfeidhm ar a ngníomhaíochtaí gnó ar bhealach diúltach.

Tá an scéim ar fáil d'fhostóirí a mbeidh foireann á gcoinneáil acu ar an bpárolla; **d'fhéadfadh go mbeadh cuid den fhoireann sin stoptha den obair go sealadach, nó d'fhéadfadh go mbeadh cuid eile díobh ar uaireanta oibre laghdaithe agus/nó ar phá laghdaithe.**

D'fhéadfadh go mbeadh fostóirí i dteideal na scéime i gcás cuid dá bhfostaithe ná iad uile, ar an gcoinníoll go gcomhlíonann na fostóirí sin na coinníollacha arna leagan amach thíos, agus faoi réir na leibhéal íocaíochta leis na fostaithe.

Chun a bheith i dteideal na scéime, is gá d'fhostóirí na coinníollacha seo a leanas a chomhlíonadh:

- **cur isteach mór diúltach a bheith á fhulaingt acu de bharr Covid-19**

- **a bheith in ann a léiriú, chun shástacht na gCoimisinéirí loncaim, go bhfuil íslíú 25% tagtha ar a láimhdeachas**
- **gan a bheith in ann gnáth-phá agus gnáth-eisíocaíochtaí a íoc ina n-ionmláine**
- **a bhfostaithe a choinneáil ar an bpárola.**

Tá an scéim teoranta d'fhostaithe a bhí ar phárola an fhostóra amhail ar an 29 Feabhra 2020, agus a bhfuil taisceadh párola déanta chuig na Coimisinéirí loncaim ina leith sa tréimhse ón 1 Feabhra 2020 go dtí an 15 Márta 2020.

In am agus i dtráth, foilseofar ar láithreán gréasáin na gCoimisinéirí loncaim ainm gach fostóra a d'fheidhmigh an scéim seo, tar éis don scéim dul in éag.

Ag Clárú don Scéim Fóirdheontas Pá Sealadach

Aon fhostóirí atá cláraithe leis na Coimisinéirí loncaim cheana féin le haghaidh na Scéime Aisíocaíochta COVID-19 d'Fhostóirí,ní gá dóibh aon rud eile a dhéanamh. Is féidir le fostóirí taiscthí párola a dhéanamh ón 26 Márta 2020 faoi na socruithe don scéim fóirdheontais ar an gcaoi chéanna a raibh amhlaidh á dhéanamh acu don Scéim Aisíocaíochta d'Fhostóirí, agus aisíocfar €410 in aghaidh na seachtaine i leith gach fostáí atá i dteideal na híocaíochta.

I gcás fostóirí, nó a ngníomhairí, a dteastaíonn uathu iarratas a dhéanamh ar an scéim, is féidir leo a n-iarratas a sheoladh chuig na Coimisinéirí loncaim ach an méid seo a leanas a dhéanamh:

- Logáil isteach i M'Fhiosruithe ar ROS
- Cliceáil ar an mbosca 'Cuir Fiosrú Nua Leis'
- Roghnaigh an chatagóir 'Covid-19: Fóirdheontas Pá Sealadach' ón roghchlár anuas.
- Léigh 'Covid-19: Féindearbhú maidir leis an bhFóirdheontas Pá Sealadach' agus brúigh an cnaipe 'Submit'.
- Cinníthig gur cruinn ceart iad na sonraí cuntais bainc atá curtha ar fáil ar thaifead na gCoimisinéirí loncaim. Is féidir iad sin a sheiceáil in ROS; in 'Bainistigh do chuntais bhainc', 'Bainistigh ríomhaistriú airgid', iontráil sonraí an chuntais bainc ar chóir an aisíocaíochta a sheoladh chuige.

An scéim a fheidhmiú ón Déardaoin 26 Márta 2020

Ritheann fostóirí an párola ar an ngnáthbhealach, agus déanann siad na sonraí seo a leanas a iontráil le haghaidh gach fostáí ábhartha faoin scéim:

- Aicme ÁSPC socraithe **chuig J9**.
- Suim neamh-inchánach arb ionann í agus 70% de phá glan an fhostáí nó €410, cibé ceann acu is ísle, i gcás gurb ionann an meánphá glan seachtainiúil is €586 ná gur lú é ná €586; nó uasmhéid de €350 in aghaidh na seachtaine i gcás gur mó an meánphá glan seachtainiúil ná €586 agus gur lú é ná gurb ionann é agus €960.

- Más amhlaidh nach bhfuil rud ar bith á íoc ag an bhfostóir leis an bhfostaí, ba chóir don fhostóir €0.01 a áireamh faoi Phá Comhlán mar mhéid pá.
- Más amhlaidh atá an fostóir ag íoc pá breise le fostaithe atá thíos le céarsaí, ba chóir don fhostóir an tsuim sin a áireamh faoi Phá Comhlán.
- **Is tábhachtach nach n-áiríonn fostóirí an íocaíocht Fóirdheontas Pá Sealadach sa Phá Comhlán.**
- Is gó go n-áireofaí leis an taisceadh párolla an mhinicíocht phá agus an uimhir thréimhse.

Ní bhainfear cáin ioncaim, MSU, Cáin Mhaoine Áitiúil, más infheidhme, nó ÁSPC den Fóirdheontas Pá Sealadach.

In an-chuid cásanna, má ioccann fostóirí an Fóirdheontas Pá Sealadach nó aon ioncam breise eile, is amhlaidh a aisíocfar dá bharr sin cáin ioncaim nó MSU atá ióchta ag an bhfostaí cheana. Aon aisíocaíochtaí cánach ioncaim agus MSU a thagann aníos mar thoradh ar fheidhmiú creidmheasanna cánach agus bandaí ráta, is féidir leis an bhfostóir iad sin a aisíoc agus déanfaidh na Coimisinéirí loncaim an tsuim sin a aisíoc leis an bhfostóir freisin.

Ní cóir d'fhostóirí an scéim seo a oibriú d'aon fhostaí a bhfuil éileamh á dhéanamh aige ná aici ar thacaíocht dhúblach (mar shampla, Íocaíocht Dífhostaíochta Paindéime) ón Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí.

Bunaithe ar an eolas atá curtha ar fáil i dtaiscthí párolla agus ar chloí leis na huasmhéideanna atá sonraithe thusa, cuirfidh na Coimisinéirí loncaim do shocchar fostóirí an fóirdheontas pá sealadach a iocadh le gach fostáí.

Gearrfar pionós i gcás mhí-úsáid na Scéime Fóirdheontais, mar shampla, féindefarbhú míchruinn, gan airgead a chur ar fáil d'fhostaithe, nó gan cloí le treoirlínthe na gCoimisinéirí loncaim nó aon treoirlínte ábhartha eile.

Treoir/Faisnéis

I gcás ceisteanna ginearálta a bhaineann leis an scéim, ba chóir d'fhostóirí dul i dteaghmháil le Deasc Chabhrach na gCoimisinéirí loncaim d'Fhostóirí tríd an gcóras M'Fhiosruithe, agus sonraí faoin bhfiosrú a thabhairt, mar aon le huimhir theagmhála dhírdhailithe.

Agus an fiosrú á sheoladh isteach ag fostóirí trí M'Fhiosruithe, ba chóir dóibh a chinntíú go roghnaíonn siad 'ÍMAT an Fhostóra' agus ansin 'Fiosrú Ginearálta maidir le ÍMAT an Fhostóra'.

Ná bíodh aon drogall ort teaghmháil a dhéanamh le FSSU má theastaíonn tuilleadh cabhrach uait.

Guthán: 01 269 0677

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An 27 Mártá 2020