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# ALLENACCOUNTS

## GOVERNMENT MEASURES FOR COVID 19 - INFORMATION

Government measures have been recently announced measures to support businesses at this time. These are;

### **Time to Pay**

The Government will ensure that businesses and self-employed individuals in financial distress and with outstanding tax liabilities receive support with their tax affairs.

HMRC has set up a dedicated COVID-19 helpline - 0800 0159 559 - to help those in need, and they may be able to agree a bespoke Time to Pay arrangement. Time to Pay gives businesses a time-limited deferral period on HMRC liabilities owed and a pre-agreed time period to pay these back.

### **Statutory Sick Pay**

The Government will support small and medium-sized businesses and employers to cope with the extra costs of paying COVID-19 related SSP by refunding eligible SSP costs. The eligibility criteria for the scheme include:

- refund will be limited to two weeks per employee
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- only employers with fewer than 250 employees will be eligible. The size of an employer will be determined by the number of people they employed as of 28 February 2020
- employers will be able to reclaim expenditure for any employee who has claimed SSP (according to the new eligibility criteria) as a result of COVID-19
- employers should maintain records of staff absences, but should not require employees to provide a GP fit note
- eligibility period for the scheme will commence from the day on which the regulations extending SSP to self-isolators come into force.

We are very aware that you may require additional advice from us regarding strategies during this time, and will do our utmost to help you minimise impact, so please do contact us to discuss any worries you may have.

The Allens Team

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