

Subject: COVID - Update 16th April

Date: 16 April 2020 at 20:29

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Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS)

As we reported last night HMRC have changed the [cut-off date for eligible employees](#) from [28 February 2020 to 19 March 2020](#). However, all employees included in the CJRS claim must also have been reported to HMRC on an RTI submission by 19 March 2020. This means the extension will only benefit employers who pay staff weekly or run monthly payrolls that are not processed at the month end. For example if you employed a new member of staff on 1 March 2020 you would need to have made an RTI submission on or before the 19 March 2020 for them to qualify for the scheme.

Despite a number of reports today that the opening of the online claim service may be delayed, as at the time of writing HMRC are still saying that this will be launched on **Monday 20 April 2020** as planned.

As we also reported on 15th April a Treasury Direction was issued which sets out the formal rules of the scheme. Fortunately on a detailed review today there do not appear to be any significant changes to the guidance already provided by HMRC and included on these bulletins. As we noted yesterday there does seem to be an additional requirement for an employer and employee to agree in writing that the employee will cease all work and this instruction is as a result of coronavirus. We would expect further guidance from employment lawyers and ACAS in the next day or so on this aspect.

The Treasury Direction can be accessed at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treasury-direction-made-under-sections-71-and-76-of-the-coronavirus-act-2020>

We have also updated our CJRS guide for the latest HMRC guidance and the Treasury Direction and this will be available shortly at

<http://www.allensaccountants.com/#coronavirus-briefings>, along with this email.

Claims Process

As a reminder **we will be processing all grant claims for any client that uses our payroll service and has furloughed employees**. As a result of the additional work that this will require, and the undoubted strain the new online portal will be under (we do expect it to crash), please bear with us as we make these claims. We have recruited additional staff and redeployed a number of our team to ensure we will make these claims as quickly and efficiently as we can.

Any client who runs their own payroll, and will be making their own grant claim, should follow the HMRC employer guidance released late yesterday and can be found here

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHMRCED/bulletins/286a910>

As always we will do our very best to answer any queries as quickly as we can during this extremely busy and challenging time. Please do note however that unfortunately telephone assistance for clients making their own CVJRS claim may not initially be available.

The Allens Team



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