

Corona Virus

Financial matters – Update 14th April 2020

We hope everyone had a good Easter Break.

As we approach the end of the initial 3 week lockdown its been a busy time for everyone. It appears almost certain that the existing lockdown will continue for another 2-3 weeks at least.

Here are the action points and helpful hints for this week:

Furlough Scheme:

1: Following the initial lockdown period a lot of staff were put into Furlough for the initial period of 3 weeks. As the lockdown is going to be extended we suggest you communicate with staff about the way forward and extending their Furlough period.

We recommend an email to staff on furlough stating that you propose to extend their Furlough period to (say at least 30th April or longer depending on your current view) whilst you continue to assess the situation. Staff should be advised that they may be requested to return to work and we suggest giving 48 hours notice is not unreasonable

2: Remember that the scheme only runs at present to 31st May despite some press statements saying it runs to 30th June. The correct period is 3 months starting 1st March.

3: We still await details of when the HMRC Furlough claim portal will be open. The dates vary between 20th April and the end of April but the HMRC information still refers to the later date. We will keep you informed as we get news. However funds wont be paid until May.

4: We have had a few questions from clients about their ePAYE reference and where do they find it. This is a new term and is the normal PAYE scheme reference. It is not the Accounts Office reference that you use to make payments. It can be found on P60's etc. If you don't have it please contact us if we operate your payroll.

Time to Pay Scheme:

As we approach the normal date for monthly payment of PAYE you may decide you need to delay the tax due. In which case you should apply to HMRC using the following number. Current guidelines suggest a deferral of 30 days only is being given but we suggest you initially ask for 3m if you require it.

“HMRC Time To Pay” help number 0800 024 1222

If you find you cannot get through as lines are busy then consider using Webchat for PAYE. Here is a link:

https://www.tax.service.gov.uk/ask-hmrc/webchat/payment-problems?_ga=2.159357754.1078226157.1586344434-1460224901.1576844148

Remember deferral is only given to businesses affected by Coronavirus.

Grants:

You may be due a fixed amount grant if your premises are rated as business premises. These grants relating to small businesses and businesses in retail, leisure and hospitality are being run by the local councils. There is no consistent method that they seem to be processing grants with each Council having its own plan and process in place.

If you think you are due a grant then go to the Council website with your rates reference and make sure you register with them.

Action:

Continue to monitor your weekly cashflow and look forward at least 8 weeks

Check with your local authority if you are entitled to a grant in respect of your business premises

Check the position on furloughed staff and they have all been updated for the extended period and confirmed acceptance.

Check all tax bills are not paid and stop any DDR's for VAT etc

Check tax payable in April and approach HMRC's Time To Pay scheme if unable to pay.

If you plan to apply for a bank loan then please check with us about your most recent accounts to see if you need more up to date figures for the bank.

We appreciate these are difficult times and are here to support you as much as possible.

14th April 2020

Mark Williams – mark.williams@wacoaccountants.co.uk 07894 095 264

Paul Smith – paul.smith@wacoaccountants.co.uk 07970 021 846

Chris Brown – Chris.brown@wacoaccountants.co.uk 07894 095 267

Henry Williams – Henry.williams@wacoaccountants.co.uk 07988 608692

Ollie Sawyers – Oliver.sawyers@wacoaccountants.co.uk 07824 316 540

James Brooker – james.brooker@wacoaccountants.co.uk 07792 073004

Williams & Co, 8/10 South Street, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 7PF