



**TSA Memo: October 22nd 2020**

For those significantly affected by the move to Level 5, there remains frustration regarding the qualifying requirements for the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS).

Many employers availed of the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) to retain the link with their team during any previous period of lay-off and subsequent return to work. They may not be able to do that during this lockdown.

Revenue confirmed in a brief update on their website dated 22/10 that while the EWSS subsidy rates have been revised there is no change to the qualifying criteria that a business must genuinely predict a drop in turnover or customer orders of at least 30% from July 1st to December 31st 2020 (complete period and not just one month).

<https://revenue.ie/en/corporate/press-office/press-releases/2020/pr-221020-revenue-update-on-changes-to-ewss-subsidy-rates-and-payment-schedule.aspx>

While we expect the attached guide to the scheme to be updated imminently, this current version from 8th October does provide guidance and a table to set out your projected sales to see if you would qualify for the scheme (page 8). Revenue has instructed that projections should be reviewed at the end of each month and businesses who no longer qualify must de-register immediately.

The Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP), which does involve placing your employees on lay-off, may be the only financial support option for a business and its employees over the coming weeks if they do not meet the 30% threshold for EWSS. If advising your employees to apply for PUP, they should apply through the welfare.ie portal and remember to confirm in writing that they are unfortunately being placed on lay-off on a temporary basis and will return to work again once the restrictions are lifted. There is no requirement to 'cease' any employees on payroll as was initially required under the TWSS.

There is a further income support payment to employees who are temporarily placed on a reduced working week (eg: 3 days). The Short Time Work Support from Social Welfare is payable for 2 days at a rate of €81.20 if an employee is placed on a 3 day working week. This may be relevant for some businesses operating a click & collect service etc.

Kind regards

TSA Team

