

# Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme

**Overview** 

The Webinar will begin at 3PM



# Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS)

- Employers will be paid a direct subsidy for each employee in the scheme.
- There are 4 Bands of EWSS dependant on the Employees Gross Pay.
- Employers will pay a reduced rate of Employer's PRSI of 0.5%
- Revenue Guide available at

https://www.revenue.ie/en/employing-people/documents/ewss/ewssguidelines.pdf



#### Rates of EWSS Subsidy

The level of subsidy payable to the employer depends on the employee's Gross Pay.

Gross Pay is the amount of pay before any pension deductions and includes

Employee's Gross Pay	Subsidy Payable
Less than € 151.50	Nil
From € 151.50 to € 202.99	€ 203
From € 203 to € 299.99	€ 250
From € 300 to € 399.99	€ 300
From € 400 to € 1,462	€ 350
More than € 1462	Nil



#### BIK

- During TWSS Employers were allowed to suspend the operation of BIK while the employee was on TWSS.
- In December Revenue published guidance to state that such exemptions we no longer allowed
- <u>https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/communications/covid19/compliance-with-certain-reporting-and-filing-obligations.aspx</u>
- We are awaiting confirmation of what is allowed in the new shutdown.



# **Differences between TWSS and EWSS**

TWSS	EWSS
TWSS was a payment from Revenue to the Employee made through the employer TWSS was designed as a support while business was closed.	EWSS is a subsidy paid to the employer – it is not a payment to the employee. EWSS was designed as a support for a business that is open .
TWSS was processed as a tax free payment made to the employee using PRSI Class $J_9$	Wages are processed as normal using the employees taxable Gross Pay and normal PRSI Class. There is a special "Tick Box" in payroll to identify employees in the scheme.
TWSS was only available to employees who were employed in Jan/Feb 2020.	EWSS is available to almost all employees regardless of how long the have been employed by you.
Each employee had an individual TWSS subsidy based on their earning in Jan/Feb 2020	The amount of EWSS subsidy is determined by the Gross Pay in each week. It can vary from week to week if pay fluctuates.
The amount of TWSS could be tapered (reduced) depending on Gross Pay	There is no tapering of EWSS
TWSS will be reconciled by Revenue and employers may need to repay some money back to Revenue	There is no reconciliation of EWSS – The amount paid by Revenue is not subject to a later reconciliation or repayment.
Employees could agree to defer pay so that they could become eligible for TWSS (for example employees where Gross Pay more than 76K per annum)	Employers cannot enter into any arrangements such as deferral of pay in order to gain a subsidy.



# **Eligibility for EWSS**



Employer must have a Tax Clearance Certificate

You must look at the full six month to determine eligibility – <u>DO NOT</u> compare months individually



# **Qualifying Criteria**

- To qualify for the scheme, you must be able to demonstrate that:
  - your business will experience a 30% reduction in turnover or orders between
     1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 compared to same period in 2019
  - this disruption is caused by COVID-19.
- <u>You must have a Tax Clearance Certificate in order to register for the</u> <u>scheme.</u>
- You will need to maintain Tax Clearance while operating the scheme.



#### Applying for Tax Clearance Certificate

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#### **Monthly Reviews**

- Employers are required to undertake a review on the last day of every month to ensure you continue to meet the above eligibility criteria. If you no longer qualify, you should deregister for EWSS with effect from the following day (that being the first of the month).
- There will be a formal process on ROS to deregister.
- Employers would be able to re-register for EWSS at a later date should the need arise.



#### **Childcare Sector**

 Childcare businesses registered in accordance with Section 58C of the Child Care Act 1991 are also included in the scheme irrespective of turnover.



- Employers will have to register on ROS in order to participate in EWSS (even if you are already registered for TWSS).
- Registration is open now
- Employers must have a Tax Clearance Certificate to register and to receive subsidy payments.



- Registration will include a registration date which applies to EWSS.
- Employers will only be able to apply for the subsidy for payments from the date of registration.
- Registration can not be back dated.
- For example, if you register for EWSS on 15<sup>th</sup> January you will not be able to apply for the subsidy for payroll dates earlier in the month.



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#### eRegistration

**Registration Details** 

#### Bank Details

Bank details are required for the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme. Following registration your PREM bank account details will be added to your EWSS registration.

- Bank details can be managed on ROS from the My Services screen.
- First select: Manage Bank Accounts. Then select: Manage EFT.

Bank details can be amended 2-3 workings days following registration.

I declare that I have read the eligibility criteria for the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme and that the business qualifies for the scheme. I undertake that the business will abide by the terms and conditions of the scheme. I understand and accept that failure by the business to adhere to the terms of the scheme could result in recoupment of monies together with interest, penalties and prosecution. I undertake that the business will retain all records relating to the scheme, including the basis of eligibility, for review by Revenue.







#### eRegistration

EWSS Registration * Denotes a required field	
Registration Date (DD/MM/YYYY) *	18/08/2020
Related Employer (PAYE/PRSI) registration *	1234567T
Please select the Employer (PAYE/PRSI) registration to which t	this Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme registration relates
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# **Eligible Employees**

- Generally speaking almost all employees of an eligible employer will be eligible for a subsidy including existing employees, newly hired employees and re-hired employees.
- Proprietary Directors are eligible for EWSS provided that;
  - They are normally paid through Payroll
  - They had wage payments reported to Revenue any time between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 and 30 June 2020.
- There are also restrictions around connected persons in instances where such individuals were not on the payroll during the period July 2019 to June 2020.
- Connected persons include brothers, sisters, linear ancestors, linear descendants, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews of an individual and their spouse.



#### Separate Divisions within an Employer

- In some cases a company many have separate divisions who all report under the same employer registration number.
- In cases where certain divisions meet the eligibility criteria then they may be eligible to operate EWSS even if the Company does not meet the 30% reduction overall.
- This type of divisional structure must be a formal structure recognised by Revenue.
- Revenue to issue clarification of this in their guidance documentation next week.



#### Level Of Subsidy

- Generally speaking the subsidy is calculated on a weekly basis based on the number of insurable weeks.
- For Monthly pay frequencies the calculations will be based on weekly equivalents such as
  - Equivalent Weekly Gross Pay = (Monthly Gross Pay \* 12) / 52
  - The Equivalent Weekly Gross Pay will be used to calculate the subsidy entitlement which will then be transformed into a monthly amount.
- For Monthly pay frequencies where the number of insurable weeks in not 4 or 5 then the calculations will be a weekly calculation based on the number of insurable weeks.
- This will make it easier for starters/leavers where they are being paid for part of a month.
- Employers can include holiday pay in advance so for example if an employer was processing a payroll with 1 weeks wages and 2 weeks of holidays they can do this as a single payroll entry with 3 insurable weeks.
   Revenue will pay the subsidy based on 3 weeks. (up to a maximum of 5 insurable weeks)



#### **Employer's PRSI**

- Under EWSS a rate of 0.5% Employers PRSI will apply to all eligible wages.
- This reduction in Employers PRSI will be operated as a credit on the Monthly Statement.
- PRSI will be calculated at the normal rates in Payroll (EE and ER) and reported to Revenue as normal.
- Revenue will calculate a PRSI credit by calculating the difference between the normal rate and 0.5%
- This credit will be applied to the Monthly Statement reducing the employers PRSI liability on the statement.



#### Employer's PRSI Example

- Gross Pay € 1,000 PRSI class A1
  - Employee's PRSI: € 40.00
  - Employer's PRSI: € 110.50
- Employer reports these figures to Revenue as part of their normal Payroll Submission.
- Revenue will calculate the Employers PRSI due at 0.5% = (1000 \* 0.5%) = € 5
- Revenue will calculate the PRSI credit as
  - = € 110.50 (1000 @ 0.5%)
  - = € 110.50 €5
  - = € 105.50
- Revenue will apply a credit (credit) of € 105.50 to your Monthly Statement



#### How will it work in Payroll?

- Employers will return to running their Payroll in the normal manner.
- Operating EWSS in Payroll will be very straightforward users will simply tick a box on the Employee and/or Wage Screen to identify employees in the scheme.
- CollSoft will include a special EWSS flag on each relevant payroll submission.
- Revenue will track these submissions on their systems.
- Revenue do payment runs every day except at the start of the month where they wait until the first Tuesday of the month.



#### **Revenue Oversight**

- We expect that Revenue will be monitoring this scheme much more than they did with TWSS.
- They will be watching our for cases where they feel the employer is trying to take advantage of the system.
- For example, you cant fire one employee and rehire two employees to try and increase your subsidy.
- You will not be able to enter into arrangements such as deferral of pay to include employees who would otherwise be ineligible.