

## **SELF-EMPLOYED URGED TO APPLY FOR GRANT IF THEY'VE LOST INCOME DUE TO COVID-19.**

Approximately 2,400 self-employed people in Pembrokeshire whose business has lost income due to coronavirus have not yet claimed a government grant worth 80% of their trading profits – and they have less than two weeks to submit their application.

The grant is available via the HMRC Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) announced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak on 26 March.

Although the scheme has recently been extended, **the claim for the first grant must be made on or before 13 July.**

All those who are eligible in Pembrokeshire are urged to apply for the grant before the deadline.

Under the scheme, the self-employed can claim a taxable grant worth 80% of their trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for three months. To be eligible, self-employed trading profits must be less than £50,000 and more than half of the person's income must come from self-employment.

HMRC figures estimate there are 8,100 potentially eligible people in Pembrokeshire and some 5,700 claims have been made giving a take-up rate of 70%. This is below the Welsh average of 73% but in line with the UK average. The total value of claims made is £14.3m.

The Preseli Pembrokeshire parliamentary constituency has an estimated 5,300 people who are potentially eligible. Of these, 3,600 have made claims, a take-up rate of 68%.

The take-up rate in the part of the Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire constituency that lies in Pembrokeshire is 75% (2,100 claims from 2,800 eligible people).

Self-employed people should also be aware that the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme is now being extended.

Eligible people are able to claim a second and final grant in August 2020. Their eligibility will be worked out in the same way as the first grant.

If they make a claim for the second grant they will have to confirm their business has been adversely affected on or after 14 July 2020.

· To apply for a grant under the HMRC Self-Employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme>