

Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme Clarification

The Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme

The Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS), which replaced the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme, is an economy-wide enterprise support that focuses primarily on business eligibility and is expected to continue until March 31, 2021. The scheme provides a flat-rate subsidy to qualifying employers based on the numbers of eligible employees on the employer's payroll and gross pay to employees.

Qualifying Criteria

To qualify for the EWSS, as well as having tax clearance, an employer must be able to show that:

- their business will experience a **30% reduction in turnover or customer orders between 1 July and 31 December 2020**
- and
- Covid-19 is the cause of this disruption.

Reduction in turnover

The reduction in turnover or customer orders is shown compared to:

- the same period in 2019 where the business was in existence prior to 1 July 2019
- the date of commencement to 31 December 2019

Where a business commenced after 1 November 2019, the projected turnover or customer orders.

Monthly Review to Check Eligibility

All employers applying to the scheme are required to undertake a review on the last day of every month to ensure they continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

Eligible employees

From an employee perspective, employees are eligible if they are in receipt of weekly gross wages between €151.50 and €1,462 (subject to exemptions).

Clarification of changes announced to support businesses with Level 5 restrictions

The **only changes** that apply to the EWSS on the basis of Level 5 restrictions include a change to the rate of subsidy provided under the scheme, a reduction in the timeframe/ frequency for payments made and finally, due to the current Level 5 public health restrictions, employers who previously did not qualify for EWSS may now be able to show the necessary 30% reduction in turnover or customer orders between **1 July and 31 December 2020**.

There is no change to the turnover criteria which remains at **30% reduction in turnover or customer orders.**

Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme Revised Rates

Gross weekly pay	Revised Rates	Revised Rates
Less than €151.50	Nil	Nil
€151.50 – €202.99	€203	€203
€203 - €299.99	€250	€250
€300 - €399.99	€300	€300
€400 - €1,462	€350	€350
Over €1,462	Nil	Nil

Disclaimer – The information in this section is provided for reference purposes only to assist Employers with the government protocols and guidance and must be read in that context and should not be used for or interpreted as a legal definition of any of the information provided. Some of the information provided is per information published on the government websites at www.gov.ie, www.revenue.ie. Professional advice should always be sought before making any such decisions.

**For further information or advice, please contact the designated HR & Employment Helpdesk at thewheelhrhelpdesk@adarehrm.ie or via telephone on (01) 5394661
Monday – Friday 9.00am- 5.00pm**