

It's a tough time for the UK's self-employed and freelancers – and the Government has created the Self-employed Income Support Scheme (SEISS) to ease some of the financial hardship. Details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

The SEISS offers a grant payment to eligible self-employed individuals who've been adversely affected by the Covid-19 crisis, providing you with a grant for the third tranche of SEISS of up to 20% of your annual trading profits – up to a total cap of £7,500.

Sounds great, but how do you go about claiming the SEISS grant?

How do I claim for the third tranche of the SEISS?

If you've claimed against the first and second tranches of the SEISS then you'll be familiar with the qualifying rules – and these criteria still apply.

To qualify for the First/Second tranches of the SEISS you must:

- Have submitted 2018/19 self-assessment return by 23/04/2020
- Traded in 2019/20 tax year
- Intend to continue to trade in 2020/21
- Carry on a trade that's been adversely affected by Covid
- Have trading profits that don't exceed £50,000 and are more than 50% of total income for either:
 - 2018/19 Tax Year
 - Average of 3 years 2016/17 to 2018/19

But with this third tranche, the rules have been tightened up to a degree – meaning that some self-employed individuals won't qualify on this occasion.

To be eligible for third tranche, you must:

- Have been eligible for the first and second tranches, even if you didn't claim
- Declare your intention to continue to trade and your business must either be:
 - currently actively trading but impacted by Covid-related reduced demand OR
 - have been previously trading but temporarily stopped due to Coronavirus.
- **Additional test:** you must intend to continue to trade, and reasonably believe that the Covid impact on your business will cause a significant reduction in your trading profits due to reduced business activity, capacity or demand or inability to trade due to coronavirus during the period 1 November to 29 January 2021.

Notes: HMRC have specifically said that a reduction in profits due to increased costs (e.g. to buy face masks or safety equipment) won't count. You can find out more detailed information re { [HYPERLINK "https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-your-trading-conditions-affect-your-eligibility-for-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme"](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-your-trading-conditions-affect-your-eligibility-for-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme) } at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-your-trading-conditions-affect-your-eligibility-for-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

The reduction of profits test will apply to the tax year as a whole, as reported on the appropriate self-assessment return (this could be the 2020/21 return or the 2021/22 return, depending on your period end.)

The claims portal for the third tranche of SEISS opened on 30 November 2020, and the claims window closes on 29 January 2021. Your grants should be paid into your chosen bank account within six days of submitting your claim. HMRC will automatically calculate the amount due, based on your prior tax return information.

Talk to us about making your SEISS claim

If you're unsure of the potential impact of the Covid pandemic on your trading profits, we can help you prepare a forecast, based on your existing numbers for the relevant tax year.

As with the previous SEISS grants, unfortunately, we're not allowed to submit the claim on your behalf – the claim must be made directly by you, as the self-employed individual.

Get in touch to find out if you're eligible for the SEISS