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# **Covid-19: Deferring tax payments**

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If your business is struggling to meet its tax obligations, please note the following. In general, VAT and self-assessment payments on account can be delayed without request and HMRC are considering time to pay arrangements for all other taxes on a case by case basis.

# VAT

- VAT payments deferred for 3 months and will apply from 20/03/20 until 30/06/20. This would cover the February, March & April quarters for 1 quarter.
- Automatic no application required.
- VAT return still to be submitted on time.
- VAT direct debit should be cancelled. HMRC may collect money if not cancelled soon enough. Direct debit to be set back up again after for subsequent payments.
- This is a deferral and liability should be settled prior to 31/03/21.
- No interest will be charged for late payment.

### Self-assessment

- All July 2020 payments on account have been deferred until January 2021. This applies for all those in self-assessment.
- No interest or late payment penalties charged in this period.
- Any interest/penalties for payments that were due before the Coronavirus outbreak will still be running.

### **Corporation tax**

- No formal deferment of corporation tax.
- Interest on late payment generally charged at 3.25%.
- If considering late payment, please call HMRC (see Time to pay arrangements below).

### PAYE/NI

- Individuals will still be paying tax and NI under current guidelines.
- 'furloughed' workers whose wages are being subsidised by HMRC should still have tax and NI deducted in the normal way.
- for a breakdown of the penalties in place in relation to non-payment of PAYE/NI/CIS, please visit <u>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-happens-if-you-dont-pay-paye-and-nationalinsurance-on-time</u>
- If considering late payment, please call HMRC (see Time to pay arrangements below).

#### CIS

CIS should be accounted for as normal.



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• Generally, those in CIS will expect a refund and therefore it is advisable to file related returns as soon as possible to accelerate refunds.

# Time to pay arrangements

- If unable to make payment for taxes other than VAT and Income tax (self-assessment), call HMRC's dedicated Covid-19 helpline to organise a 'time to pay' arrangement to spread the cost.
- HMRC will consider waiving penalties and interest due.
- The helpline number is 0800 0159 559. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, and Saturday 8am to 4pm.