

From the Minister of Finance

*Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury
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Your reference:
Our reference: *EXEC-0287-2020*

Date: *14th August 2020*

Dear Steve,

CORONAVIRUS SELF-EMPLOYMENT INCOME SUPPORT SCHEME

At its meeting on 13 August the Executive agreed that I would write to you to raise our concerns around the significant number of people falling through the gaps in the current coronavirus income support schemes.

Of particular concern is the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme which does not provide support for the recently self-employed, directors of limited companies or those with average profits in excess of £50k. The latter is a particular anomaly with high earning employees received a maximum of £2,500 per month while the self-employed receive nothing.

I know you will be aware of these issues as the impacts will be felt in England as well as the devolved administrations. While the Executive is doing everything within its powers to support individuals and businesses here, this is an area which falls to HMRC to deliver. Therefore we would ask that you reconsider the approach to support for the self-employed to ensure it provided in an equitable manner to all those affected.

Is mise le meas,

PD

**CONOR MURPHY MLA
MINISTER OF FINANCE**