

**Subject:** RE: taper [OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE]

OFFICIAL

**From:** Elsby, Matthew - HMT <[Matthew.Elsby@hmtreasury.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Elsby@hmtreasury.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 8, 2020 2:15 PM  
**To:** Page, Helen (CS&TD TAD) <[helen.page@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:helen.page@hmrc.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: taper [OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE]

I mean – it's doable, but the Chancellor seems quite happy to stand by the cliff-edge, so I'm not sure he's actually feeling too much pressure on this. And it's not the thing we're getting most pressure on; many stakeholders seem to be quite ok with the 50k threshold.

I'm up for revisiting, so if there's an option that's deliverable, I would informally test it with spads before taking it to the Chancellor.

Thanks,  
Matt



**Matt Elsby**

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Well, it's not the thing we're being challenged on most, but it's the only one I can think of where we might actually be able to do something.

I'm thinking not for the 50% rule. But maybe for the £50k rule, where we could maybe reduce the 80% calculation gradually from £50k up to £60K.

So we'd allow SE profit up to £60k but give only, say, 20% (instead of 80%) for the top income band of, say, 58-60k, then 40% for the 56-58k band, and so on. (Those numbers won't work but hopefully you get the idea.)

Helen

COVID-19 role: Policy DD for **SEISS** (Self Employed Income Support Scheme) and **ITSA deferral**

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**Subject:** RE: taper

Thanks Helen – shall we have a chat tomorrow? If we think it’s particularly challenging not to have one, let’s revisit and take a view on whether it’s worth testing with CX again. We could informally test with spads too, if helpful.

Thanks,  
Matt



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**Subject:** taper

Matt – at risk of being dog with bone, seems to me we might be able to revisit the possibility of a taper, given the negative commentary eg at TSC this morning, if a concession were wanted. We could have a small and short discussion about design and feasibility tomorrow.

Helen

**COVID-19 role: Policy DD for SEISS (Self Employed Income Support Scheme) and ITSA deferral**

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