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Welcome to July's PayrockPayroll update. Coming up in this month's edition...

COVID-19 update
HMRC news
Increase to minimum pension age
 PayrockPayroll update



As the spell of extremely hot weather makes us slow down, it seems to have had the same effect on the payroll news this month. But don't worry things are always a little quiet at this time of year, and then pick up again as Autumn approaches! In the meantime, enjoy the sunshine, and stay safe.

COVID-19 update

CJRS claims - July

CJRS claims for July can now be submitted and must be made by Monday 16 August 2021.

For July claims, employers can claim 70% of furloughed employees' usual wages for the hours not worked, up to a cap of £2,187.50 per month. They'll need to pay the difference, so that they continue to pay furloughed employees at least 80% of their usual wages in total for the hours they do not work, up to a cap of £2,500 a month.

Employers can still choose to top up employees' wages above the 80% level or cap for each month if they wish, at their own expense.

CJRS claims – August

From 1 August to 30 September, when the scheme is due to close, the government will pay 60% of employees' usual wages for hours not worked, up to a cap of £1,875. Employers will need to continue to pay the difference, so that they pay furloughed employees at least 80% of their usual wages in total for the hours they do not work, up to a cap of £2,500 a month.

The CJRS so far

Jesse Norman, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, recently provided an update on the CJRS so far. A total of 1.3 million employers have claimed under the furlough scheme (Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme) and 11.6 million employments have been put on furlough for at least part of the duration of the scheme. These figures are based on CJRS claims received by HMRC up to 14 June 2021.

Employees may be on furlough from more than one employment, in which case they would appear in these statistics for each job from which they are on furlough.

HMRC has opened 6,150 inquiries into suspected overpayments due to error or fraud as of 30 June. This figure refers to any cases open where HMRC believe there has been fraud or an error which requires HMRC intervention.

HMRC news

HMRC warns against scams

HMRC is urging its customers to be careful if they are contacted out of the blue by someone asking for money or personal information. HMRC warns that it continues to see high numbers of fraudsters calling, emailing or texting customers claiming to be from HMRC.

HMRC advises that if anyone is in any doubt about the validity of a contact purporting to be from HMRC, they should not reply but should instead contact HMRC straight away and to search GOV.UK for [HMRC scams](#).

The National Cyber Security Centre has a helpful guide on how to stay secure online and protect yourself or your business against cybercrime, which you can find by searching [Cyber Aware](#).

HMRC webinars on NMW and apprentice rates

Understanding how the National Minimum Wage applies to apprentices is a common cause of confusion amongst employers. To help you pick your way through the minefield, HMRC is offering live webinars covering the most common mistakes to help employers pay their apprentices correctly. HMRC's expert advisors will be available to answer your minimum wage questions during these live webinars.

Book your place [here](#)

Minimum pension age set to rise

As part of the draft legislation set for inclusion in the Finance Bill 2021-22, the proposal is that the Normal Minimum Pension Age (NMPA) will rise from the current age of 55, to 57 in April 2028. This means that the age at which individuals who are members of a registered pension scheme can draw their benefits without being charged will increase. Members of the firefighters, police and armed forces public service schemes will not be affected by this

You can read the draft legislation [here](#).

PayrockPayroll Update

PayrockPayroll social networking groups

We all know that the payroll profession is a complex world of constantly changing rules, and interpreting those rules so that you can fulfil your obligations can sometimes make you feel like the weight of that world rests on your shoulders.

To share that weight, to learn from the experiences of others, to network and share advice and good practice with other payroll practitioners, why not join our social media networking groups on LinkedIn and Facebook.

Follow this link to join the [PayrockPayroll LinkedIn](#) group

Join the [PayrockPayroll Facebook](#) group using this link

Payroll support helpdesk available to PayrockPayroll members

As payroll processing gets ever more complicated, we know that, much as we would like to, none of us can know everything, and here at PayrockPayroll we want to help. As a PayrockPayroll member you have access to our payroll support helpline. Several of you have already used this service, all you need do is email your query to payrollsupport@mbkbgroup.com but please remember to write your membership number in the subject line, it was included in your membership pack email.

As a reminder, your Tier 2 PayrockPayroll membership includes:

- Payroll Update sessions – Online
- PayrockPayroll e-newsletter – Monthly
- Payroll helpdesk / support - 10 queries
- 1 x short course / delivery
- PayrockPayroll - Annual Industry Festival