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Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund

You need to apply in your Local Authority area. You may only apply to this fund once. You will be asked to provide documentary evidence of your status and eligibility for the grant. Local authorities will then determine whether you meet the criteria, which has been set by the Scottish Government.

You will need to produce:

- documentation to show you had an active business prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as your VAT registration, bank account statements showing revenue and outgoings linked to self-employment, marketing materials, etc.
- A self-declaration that you are currently experiencing hardship
- Evidence documentation of being resident in the local authority area of application

The successful applicants are to receive a one-off payment of £2,000.

Eligibility

you must sign a declaration confirming that you meet all of the requested criteria:

- You became self-employed on/after 6 April 2019 (did not submit a tax return including income from self-employment for 2018-19)
- Your individual income from self-employment is over 50%
- Your trading profits were below £50,000 in financial year 2019-20
- You have lost business due to COVID-19 and are suffering financial hardship
- Trading as self-employed, not as a limited company or partnership
- No access to sufficient savings or other sources of income to meet basic needs
- You are ineligible for other COVID-19 related business support (including the Business Interruption Loan Schemes, Corporate Finance Fund, Job Retention Schemes, Future Fund, R&D Focused SMEs Fund, HMRC Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, Non-Domestic Rates relief, Small Business Grant or other business support)

Target Audience

If you became self-employed on or after 6 April 2019, you are not eligible for the UK Government scheme. So, you can apply for this scheme but there are still eligibility requirements.

To be eligible you must:

- have become self-employed on or after 6 April 2019
- have lost revenue due to the coronavirus pandemic
- have not been able to access support through other COVID-19 business support schemes

Timescale

Processing can take up to 10 working days from application to appraisal and funds being released for those approved applications.

Important information

If you receive the grant you can continue to work or take on other employment including voluntary work.

Read full press release [here](#)