

## **GSCCA Circular 13**

**9 September 2020**

### **Basis of assessment for self- and non-employed individuals for social insurance**

The Committee *for* Employment & Social Security has approved a change to the calculation of contribution payments for self- and non-employed customers which means that payments will be based on their current year income from 2021.

Recognising the financial impact of COVID-19, customers can also elect for their basis of assessment for 2020 to be revised based upon actual income for that calendar year.

A team within the Revenue Service will compare income for 2018 (currently used, or 2019 for a business that commenced in 2018) and the interim assessment for 2020 (net of any appeal) and revise contribution assessments for customers where it is beneficial to do so, reducing their overall liability.

The Revenue Service will prioritise customers who have already deferred payment for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once customers have been provided with details of their new outstanding liability they can enter into a payment plan agreement with the Debt Management Team, either by emailing [rsdebt@gov.gg](mailto:rsdebt@gov.gg) or submitting a proposal for a payment plan [here](#).

Once the self-employed deferred cases have been processed work will begin on contacting/revising contribution rates for the remaining self- and non-employed customers. The same principles will apply in all cases.

### **Social security contribution credits for employees impacted by COVID-19**

The Committee *for* Employment & Social Security has also approved the award of contributions credits for employed customers who found themselves with gaps in their contribution record due to being furloughed during the period between 25 March and 19 June.

This change will protect the employee's contribution record and their benefit entitlement, without the need to pay a voluntary contribution of £20.52 for any missing weeks.

Employees are eligible to be awarded a credit if they were employed at 25 March 2020 and were present in Guernsey for at least part of that week during the period of lockdown.

The Revenue Service has already identified over 1,200 customers eligible for the credit during the period of lockdown and automatically awarded the credit. Any employed customers that have been asked to make a voluntary contribution for missing weeks who believes they would be eligible for a COVID-19 credit are asked to make contact with the employer team by email at [schedules@gov.gg](mailto:schedules@gov.gg).

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