

CORONAVIRUS JOB RETENTION SCHEME EXTENDED TO 31 OCTOBER 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, announced today (12 May) that the Government's [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme \(CJRS\)](#) will be extended by a further four months until the end of October 2020. Introduced in March 2020, the scheme was the Government's economic response to the coronavirus health crisis and has, so far, supported 7.5 million furloughed workers and almost 1 million businesses.

[Announcement - CJRS extended to 31 October 2020](#)

BESA views this announcement as a positive and bold step by Government that will continue to protect millions of jobs while allowing businesses breathing space to secure work and keep their operations going.

OTHER KEY POINTS TO NOTE

- ✓ Furloughed workers across the UK will continue to receive 80% of their current wages, up to £2,500
- ✓ The scheme will continue in its current format until the end of July 2020
- ✓ From August 2020 to October 2020 – new flexibility will be introduced designed to get employees back to work and boost the economy.
- ✓ From the beginning of August, furloughed workers will be able to return to work part-time with employers expected to pay a percentage towards the wages. The employer payments will substitute the contribution the government is currently making, ensuring that staff continue to receive 80% of their salary, up to £2,500 per month until the end of October.
- ✓ Detailed guidance on how the new phase of the scheme will be implemented will be published by the end of **May 2020**

NOTE:

BESA Employment Affairs will issue further information as this becomes available. Meanwhile, you can view our CJRS guidance documents, including model letters and FAQs, by visiting the COVID-19 hub at www.thebesa.com or contacting employment.affairs@thebesa.com for further information.

