

MEMBER'S NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020



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Dear member,

This is my last monthly of 2020, and the last monthly before Brexit. No matter what happens politically in the next month, SMEs doing business in the UK will experience unavoidable and costly change. Do not leave your preparations until 2nd January - there is nothing that can be done by ISME to reverse the UK withdrawal from the Single Market and the Customs Union!

Help and financial support are available now, so don't delay in using them. Below are some examples

- [ISME's Brexit portal](#)
- [Enterprise Ireland's Brexit Portal](#)
- [InterTradeIreland's Brexit Portal](#) – You can also check if there are tariffs on your goods [here](#)

The Government is conducting a consultation on statutory sick pay for employees. ISME will welcome this proposal if it is chargeable to the social fund, as Sickness Benefit is currently. Otherwise, in the interest of small business, we will object to it.

We are delighted to see the ending of the Level 5 restrictions, and the opening of non-essential retail and grooming services at what is the most important time of the year for those services.

However, the commencement of international travel will bring its own issues for your business. You can expect employees to leave the country, or to have incoming family members from abroad, over the festive season.

On 13 October, EU Member States adopted the EU Recommendation on a coordinated approach to travel restrictions in the context of COVID-19. This 'traffic lights' approach provides for regions across the European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) (+ UK) to be categorised as green, orange, red or grey, on the basis of the risk levels associated with COVID-19. Stay tuned to our [Covid-19](#) page for updates and latest information on this.

After an exceptionally difficult year, may I, on behalf of the National Council and staff of ISME, wish all of you a very happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

Stay Safe,

Neil McDonnell | CEO | neil@isme.ie



THE **b**ISME

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Reach over 15k business people with ISME's quarterly online publication for Irish SMEs
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Value Retail Management Irl Ltd ta Kildare Village

Wacker Neuson

A rectangular brown doormat with the word 'WELCOME' printed in black capital letters.

WELCOME

ISME NEWS

Shop Local with ISME

ISME is running a **Shop Local...not just for Christmas** campaign since November to encourage people to support Irish SMEs. We will have a section on isme.ie with a listing of businesses, for both consumer and business customers, and the campaign will be supported by marketing & PR activity. There is no charge, so if you would like to be involved please [complete this form today](#).



Decarbonising your business

Many businesses, already grappling with the impacts of Brexit and COVID-19, recognise the need to decarbonise but don't know where to start. If that's you, then find out how to kickstart the journey towards decarbonising your business. It's easier than you think. Starting off on the journey can be a bit daunting. There are lots of straightforward actions that will start saving you money straight away. Read more on the SEAI website [here](#)

EU SMEs & Nature survey

The European Business & Biodiversity Platform are looking for input from SMEs across European member states on how SMEs consider their relationships with nature, what type of support they need to integrate nature into their activities and how this support should be provided. It should take no more than 10-15 minutes to complete. Please complete [here](#).

Furthermore, you may be interested in attending the free [European Business & Nature Summit](#) held on 8 and 9 December.

Saving money through ISME

As business costs continue to rise and income for so many has been challenged, we want you to take **ADVANTAGE** of your ISME Membership to reduce your costs and add value to your business. We have refreshed our **ADVANTAGE Affinity programme** and delighted to welcome two new partners – [Big Red Cloud](#) offering 22% discount off Big Red Cloud Annual subscription and Big Red Book Payroll; and [BuyMedia](#) who can provide 15% reduction in the cost of advertising p.a.



Click [here](#) to view all.

ISME NEWS

BREXIT Importing & Exporting

The Irish Government, partnered with Skillnet Ireland and other industry have launched **Clear Customs – Essential Customs Training** to support Irish businesses trading with, or through the UK, to prepare them for new customs formalities arising from Brexit. Clear Customs offers eligible customs agents, customs intermediaries and affected businesses a free training programme to build capacity in the customs sector. Find out more [here](#).



Brexit: Resources from ISME

ISME have created a page for BREXIT resources to help you navigate these unknown times. Included on the page is **A Brexit Guide** written by Paul McMahon who was a regular ISME Roadshow speaker in 2019. 'BrexitLegal.ie' is a comprehensive free website about Brexit for Irish business. Read more [here](#). ISME are also running a free webinar - Is your business ready for Brexit? [Find out more](#)

Promote your business with ISME

Advertising with ISME is an effective way to reach Owner / Managers of Irish SMEs. Members can advertise in our online publication **The bISME**, the next issue is due out in Spring 2021. You can advertise for free through the [Shop Local](#) and [Back to Business](#) campaigns. If you wish to receive members rates and more details on promotional opportunities please email Marketing@isme.ie



Lets get Back to Business

ISME launched the **Back to Business** initiative in June, providing a platform for Members to promote their business, network and get key information during the COVID-19 crisis. We have been delighted with the response and you can view the Member ads and offers, webinars, advice and blogs focusing on key tools and advice needed to get back to business; plus virtual networking events - *Pitch my Business* [here](#).

You are welcome to submit your free advert for the campaign to marketing@isme.ie - spec available [here](#).

ISME NEWS

COVID-19 Hub for ISME Members

ISME have developed an online Members only hub with tools and templates to help guide you during this difficult time. Included in the COVID-19 page are explainers and links to all government schemes, HR resources, best practice advice and supports.

Access by logging into the Members Area of the website [here](#)



A Masterclass in Online Success

ISME Member Samantha Kelly (The Tweeting Goddess) is running a masterclass in online successes in January 2021. The masterclass is broken down into three sessions each focusing on a different area. ISME Members can receive a €20 discount using the code **isme**. Find out more and book tickets [here](#).



ISME's wellness partner LAYA Healthcare launches Wellbeing Live

Every day we hear horrific stories that are reminders to look after each other and our mental health in these unprecedented times. Our wellness partners Laya Healthcare have developed Wellbeing Live – all free, all live and all available to you at home. Take a look at their portal [here](#) and if you want to further support your employees we would encourage you to take a look at our Wellness Programme [here](#).

Solas announce new Leadership & Management initiative

SOLAS and the Education and Training Boards (ETBs) developed a new Leadership and Management training initiative, in collaboration with employers, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and the Regional Skills Fora. The highly subsidised training is available to employers to upskill their staff and help rebuild their business during Covid-19.

Further information is available at www.skillstoadvance.ie or by contacting your local Education and Training Board.

ISME NEWS

Certificate in Web Design

IT Carlow have an exciting opportunity for you to upskill in the area of web design via an online classroom. This programme is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to gain an introduction to the world of web design. As organisations of every type and size move online or operate online-only, the ability to design, build and update websites is becoming increasingly important. This programme will introduce students to the technologies used to create networked media interfaces, to web design principles, digital illustration and imaging.

Certificate in Web Design - Level 8 award, running from January 2021 – April 2021. Cost of the programme for 10% (€60) or Free if in receipt of a PUP or DEASP payment. Closing date for completed applications – 7th December 2020 - Apply [here](#)

An appeal from Down Syndrome Ireland

The impact of COVID-19 on the members of Down syndrome Ireland has been hugely significant and has affected our members across their life span. Our youngest members have been particularly impacted.



Over the past seven months, we have provided over 200 Zoom sessions for toddlers, 50 speech practice sessions, a comprehensive online school readiness programme and early intervention groups for children under 2 years of age. We now need to develop a series of online sessions focusing on supporting babies, toddlers and children transitioning to school. Early support is fundamental to their welfare. We would be so grateful for any help you can give us achieve this, for every **€200** we receive; we can develop an online session with supporting materials, advice sheets and workbooks.

You can donate directly to Down Syndrome Ireland [here](#).

Have your voice heard on enterprise training strategies in Ireland

Cruinn Associates are the researcher in Ireland appointed on behalf of the OECD as part of an EU funded research project across 5 on Enterprise Training Strategies to Manage Skill Needs. The purpose of the research is to understand why, how and for whom enterprises provide training; obstacles to training provision and the type of support enterprises may need in order to provide training; and ongoing implications of Covid-19 on provision and delivery of training.

If you are operating in the service industries to partake in this important research. The study will take place in the next 4-6 weeks, please contact Cruinn by email at kevin.curran@cruinnassociates.co.uk or by telephone +44 2895 902955 to participate

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- Support across finance, legal, mediation, parenting coaching, life coaching and more

€500 p.a. for up to 30 employees, for each subsequent employee €9 per employee p.a.

LEARN MORE >



After the enormous success of the ISME / Griffith College “**Business Recovery and Rethink Your Strategy Programme**”, ISME Skillnet has received emergency funding from Skillnet Ireland.

The fund is generous enough for us to offer our members a free Business Advisory consultation service to assist you get your business up and running again.

Key services:

- **6 hours of free consultation** with a qualified business advisory consultant
- **Confidence:** Making new, courageous decisions for your business
- **Innovation:** Explore new opportunities: Markets, Products & Services
- **Pivot:** What new direction can you take your business in?
- **R&D:** Are you on the right path?
- **Skills assessment:** What skills can be utilised, what new skills are required?

Contact Adam at adam@isme.ie / 086 824 4364, to explore this fabulous opportunity and take the right steps

An Investment In Your Future

Our **Skills Connect** programme offers free online training programmes to help workers rapidly reskill and adapt to a changing business landscape.

VISIT **SKILLSCONNECT.IE** TO LEARN MORE



Invest in your future

ISME Skillnet have 2 fully funded online Skills Connect Programmes for people receiving a COVID support payment for example PUP, EWSS or unemployed:

- **QQI Level 7 Certified Digital Sales & Marketing**
- **QQI Level 6 Essential Management Skills**

Both have been designed specifically to help workers rapidly reskill and adapt to a changing business landscape.

Email skillnet@isme.ie to learn more.



ISME

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to design
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needs**

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**33% discount
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ISME Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and network companies. Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

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December**Income Tax**

10th Last date for filing your 2019 Income Tax Return through the Revenue Online Service (ROS).

10th Preliminary tax due for 2020 (ROS).

Dividend Withholding Tax

14th Due date for payment and filing of returns of withholding tax on dividends paid by companies in November 2020.

Capital Gains Tax

15th Payment due on disposals made between 1st January 2020 and 30th November 2020.

Income Tax

23rd Payment of PAYE/PRSI/USC/LPT deductions for November 2020 (ROS filers).

Corporation Tax

23rd Company year-end 31st January 2021: Preliminary tax due, minimum 90% of total liability for the year. Small companies can pay 100% of previous year's liability.

Company year-end 31st March 2020: Payment of balance of corporation tax and filing of corporation tax return (ROS filers).

Company Secretarial

28th Filing of Annual Returns dated 30th November 2020.

Corporation Tax

31st Company year-end 30th June 2019: Close companies with undistributed profits may have to make a distribution by this date to avoid surcharge.

Company year-end 31st March 2020: Filing of 'Return of third party information' (Form 46G).

Company Secretarial

31st Company year end 31st March 2020: Final date for holding Annual General Meeting and latest possible Annual Return date for 2020.

Temporary VAT Measures Relating to Covid-19

Following a request from the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Revenue will allow the application of the zero rate of VAT to the supply to the HSE, hospitals and other health care settings of personal protection equipment and medical equipment for use in the treatment of patients with Covid-19. In addition, the tax treatment of the supply of emergency accommodation is clarified. Details of this temporary concession are set out below.

Covid-19 temporary VAT zero-rating measure

Revenue will permit the zero rate to apply to the supply and intra-Community acquisition of the goods listed below when supplied to or acquired by the HSE, hospitals, nursing homes, care homes, GP practices and the like, for use in the delivery of COVID-19 related health care services to their patients:

- personal protection equipment (PPE)
- thermometers
- hand sanitiser
- medical ventilators and specialist respiratory equipment such as respirators for intensive and sub-intensive care and other oxygen therapy apparatus including oxygen tents
- oxygen

The zero rate may only be applied to supplies to hospitals, nursing and care homes, GP practices and the like; supplies to any other operators even if they are intended for onward supply to a health care provider are liable at the standard rate.

Timeline for the Covid-19 temporary VAT zero-rating measure

This concessional treatment will apply from 9 April 2020 up to 30 April 2021, subject to review.

What records should suppliers maintain?

In addition to the normal record keeping requirements, suppliers of these goods will need to satisfy themselves that their customer is eligible to receive zero rated supplies. In most cases, this will be very obvious (the supply is to a hospital or nursing home, etc.), but, if there is any doubt, the supplier must ensure that the supply meets the criteria for zero rating, i.e. that the customer is directly involved in the provision of health care services to patients and that the goods are for use by the customer in the delivery of those services.

The goods being supplied at the zero rate of VAT should be clearly identified and described on the invoice.

Deductibility

The VAT deductibility rights of the suppliers of this equipment will not be affected by this measure. They can continue to deduct VAT on their business input costs in the normal way.

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