



United Kingdom

Impact of COVID-19 outbreak in the EFFAT Sectors and measures taken to deal with the consequences of the pandemic

EFFAT affiliates: UNITE, BFAWU, GMB, USDAW,

Governmental measures:

Employees in the private sector paying tax through the pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) system, furloughed by their employer, will have 80% of their gross salary – up to £2,500 per month – covered by government grant. Wage grants will be backdated to the beginning of March 2020, with the scheme initially planned for three months, though the government has indicated it will extend it “if necessary”. Full- and part-time employees are eligible, as are those on agency, flexible or zero-hour contracts.

Self-employed workers facing a fall in income are entitled to claim a taxable government grant covering 80% of average monthly profits over the previous three years – again up to £2,500 per month. A single lump-sum payment covering the initial three-month period of the scheme will be available from June. The government will contact directly those eligible – workers who became self-employed after April 2019 will not be entitled to this support.

Instead, they will need to claim for benefits, including Universal Credit at a rate equivalent to statutory sick pay (SSP) i.e. £95.85 as of 6 April 2020; the Trades Union Congress continues to call on the government to increase SSP to a decent level on which people can live, while unions and others have documented widespread problems with extraordinary numbers of people claiming Universal Credit.

To try to support businesses and self-employed workers, the government has also deferred VAT payments for companies until the end of June 2020; made interest-free cash grants available to small businesses; and deferred for six months self-assessment income tax payments for July 2020.

More information on the UK’s government’s measures can be found on the ETUC webpage [here](#).

Impacts in the EFFAT sectors and specific measures adopted to deal with them:

Agriculture sector:

Food, Drink and Tobacco sector:

Fast food and hospitality workers speak out from lock down to demand #100Percent pay from their employers.

Fast food and hospitality workers, from Burger King, KFC, McDonald’s, Taco Bell and Wetherspoon’s are today launching a campaign to demand their employers top up the government’s 80% wage support so they can receive “#100Percent”. Most workers will receive their first paycheck with only 80% of their normal wages today.

Workers are demanding that their employers prevent them from sliding into deeper poverty and top up the millions in pounds of subsidy they will receive from the government and pay them 100% of their average wages.

More information [here](#).



HRCT sector:

[Measures adopted in specific companies:](#)

[Joint communication Nestlé](#)

[Additional information](#)

[UK trade unions and the FDF: working together to feed the nation](#)

For more information on the measures adopted in transnational companies please check the main page