

# EMPLOYMENT WAGE SUBSIDY SCHEME

EWSS begins on 1st September 2020



#### **OVERVIEW**

- All information contained in this presentation can be found from the COVID-19 link on BigRedBook.com or www.bigredbook.com/covid-19-update/
  - There are also some links within that page to further information regarding
    - Tax Clearance Certs
    - Registering for EWSS on ROS
    - General Revenue Information
- A copy of these slides can be downloaded from there also.
  - Check back as there may be updated slides available



#### EWSS - EXTENSION

- On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 it was announced that the current enhanced payment rates and the reduced rate of Employers' PRSI will be maintained for Quarter 3 pay dates (July, August, September) at the current 30% reduction in turnover or orders threshold.
- In order to benefit more firms, the time period for assessment will be broadened from the current 6-month period of assessment to a full 12-month period.
- Details of Monthly reviews must be reported to Revenue for June onwards.
- For October January dates the enhanced rates were maintained.
  - A two-rate structure of €151.50 and €203 applies for February 2022.
  - A flat rate subsidy of €100 applies for March and April.
    - The reduced rate of Employers' PRSI will no longer apply for these two months.
- Employers affected by COVID restrictions announced in December 2021 may continue
  to receive the enhanced rates of subsidy for the month of February.
  - They will then move onto the lower rates as previously announced, but with all changes delayed by one month.



#### EWSS - OVERVIEW

- TWSS closed on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. EWSS can only be claimed for payrun dates from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 onwards. There is provision for a sweepback of July and August submissions for certain ineligible TWSS employees and employers.
- EWSS is a completely new scheme.
- EWSS is not a payment to the employee, qualifying employers will receive a payment of a flat rate subsidy for each eligible employee.
  - There is nothing displayed on the employee's payslip, nor in their Revenue MyAccount regarding EWSS.
- Qualifying Employers must register before beginning to submit payments under EWSS.
- Qualifying employers will receive an Employer PRSI credit for each eligible employee
  meaning they pay a maximum of 0.5% Employer PRSI for eligible employees.
- Employers will return to paying employee wages in the normal manner, i.e., regular reporting of Income Tax, USC and PRSI.



### EMPLOYER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - PART 1

- Employers must have a current tax clearance certificate in order to both register for EWSS and receive the subsidy payments and PRSI credits.
- 2. Due to COVID-19, the business will experience at least a 30% reduction in turnover or orders.
  - For the Period from 1st July 2021 to 30th April 2022
    - For most businesses, eligibility will be determined by comparing the turnover or orders for the calendar year 2021 with the turnover or orders for the calendar year 2019.
    - See <u>here</u> for more information.
  - For the period 1st January 2021 to 30th June 2021 this reduction in turnover or orders is relative to:
    - the same period in 2019 where the business was in existence prior to 1st January 2019, or
    - the period from the date the business commenced to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, or
    - where a business commenced after 1st May 2019, the projected turnover or orders.
  - For the period 1st July 2020 to 31st December 2020 this reduction in turnover or orders is relative to:
    - the same period in 2019 where the business was in existence prior to 1st July 2019, or
    - the period from the date the business commenced to 31st December 2019, or
    - where a business commenced after 1st November 2019, the projected turnover or orders.



### EMPLOYER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - PART 2

- EWSS payments are considered trading income but are to be ignored when calculating the 30% reduction in turnover
- Childcare businesses registered in accordance with Section 58C of the Child Care Act
   1991 qualify without needing to show a reduction in turnover.
- Employers should keep proof of their eligibility for the scheme (evidence of reduction in turnover and other evidence). You can read detailed information on the supporting proofs in Appendix I of <a href="Revenue's EWSS Guidelines">Revenue's EWSS Guidelines</a> (pdf).
- Employers must register on ROS for EWSS by visiting ROS > My Services > Other Services > Manage Tax Registrations
  - TWSS registration will not be carried over to EWSS.
  - There will be no backdating for pay dates before being registered other than those to be claimed via July & August Sweepback.





- Revenue require Employers to review their eligibility based on turnover or orders on the last day of each month.
  - From July 2021, the previous month's eligibility review must be reported to ROS via the EWSS Eligibility Review Form.
  - Submission of the form is required in order to ensure continued access to EWSS.
- Should the review find that eligibility is no longer met, then you should
  - De-register for EWSS immediately with effect from the following day.
    - This can be done by visiting ROS > My Services > Other Services > Manage Tax Registrations and choosing 'Cease Registration' for Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme.
  - Turn off Employer EWSS flag in Payroll 2020.
    - This can be done in Settings > Wage Subsidy.
- It is possible to register again should circumstances change again.
- Should you become aware that you will no longer be eligible at any stage in a month, gain an unexpected large contract/order for example, you should immediately de-register for EWSS and turn off the Employer EWSS flag in Payroll 2020.
- Should you lose Tax Clearance at any stage during EWSS, you can keep your EWSS registration while you regain Tax Clearance.
  - However, should you regain Tax Clearance after the return due date, you should contact Revenue via MyEnquiries by selecting 'Employer's PAYE' and then 'Employer's PAYE General Enquiry' to request that the refund be issued.



# EWSS - CONTINUED EMPLOYER ELIGIBILITY • DUE DATES

Submission Due Date	Actual monthly figures to be returned	Projected monthly figures to be returned	
30 July 2021	January to December 2019 January to June 2021	July to December 2021	
15 August 2021	July 2021	August to December 2021	
15 September 2021	August 2021	September to December 2021	
15 October 2021	September 2021	October to December 2021	
15 November 2021	October 2021	November and December 2021	
15 December 2021	November 2021	December 2021	



#### EWSS - ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

- In general, all ordinary PAYE employees of a company will be eligible for EWSS.
- Newly Hired Connected Parties who were not on the payroll and paid at any time between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 are not eligible for EWSS. Connected parties include brothers, sisters, linear ancestors, linear descendants, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews of an individual and their spouse.
- On 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 Revenue confirmed that the EWSS can be claimed in respect of proprietary directors, subject to the following conditions:
  - the employer meets the eligibility criteria for the EWSS,
  - the proprietary director is on the payroll of the eligible employer, and
  - the proprietary director has been paid wages which were reported to Revenue on the payroll of the eligible employer at any stage between 1st July 2019 and 30th June 2020.
  - Where a person is a proprietary director of two or more eligible companies, a claim for EWSS can only be submitted in respect of a single company. In this situation the following will apply:
    - the proprietary director will be required to elect one company for the purposes of making EWSS claims for the period of the scheme. The election will be deemed to be made on the first submission of an EWSS claim in respect of the proprietary director,
    - once an election is made it cannot be changed during the term of the scheme,
    - no claims for EWSS in respect of the same proprietary director should be submitted by the other companies.
- Revenue have stated that employees who earn under or over the limits allowed for a subsidy to be paid should not be marked to be included for EWSS.



### SUBSIDY AMOUNT PAYABLE

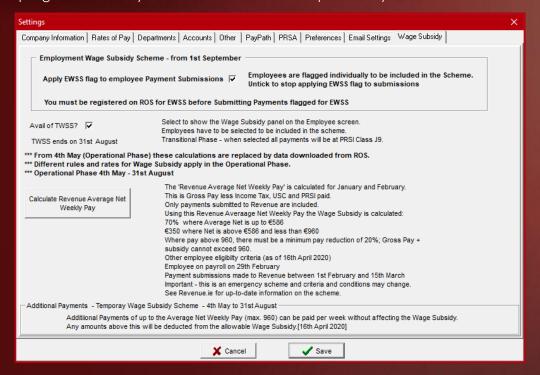
IC-ross bay ber week	Rate from 20 Oct 2020 to 31st January 2022		Rate from 01 March 2022 to 30 April 2022
Less than €151.50	No subsidy applies	No subsidy applies	No subsidy applies
€151.50 – €202.99	€203	€151.50	€100
€203 – €299.99	€250	€203	€100
€300 – €399.99	€300	€203	€100
€400 – €1,462	€350	€203	€100
Over €1,462	No subsidy applies	No subsidy applies	No subsidy applies

Note – Businesses availing of EWSS that were directly impacted by the public health Regulations introduced in December 2021 will continue to receive the enhanced rates of subsidy for the month of February and the graduated step-down in subsidy rates, as previously announced, will be delayed by one month with such firms continuing to receive support under the scheme until 31st May 2022.



## EWSS - USING BIG RED BOOK PAYROLL (STEP 1)

- In Big Red Book Payroll in Settings > Wage Subsidy tab, Employers confirm they have registered for EWSS via ROS and now wish to include the EWSS flag on submissions for employees who are marked to be included for EWSS.
  - See our video here on how to Setup Big Red Book Payroll for EWSS or view the Helpfile in Payroll.

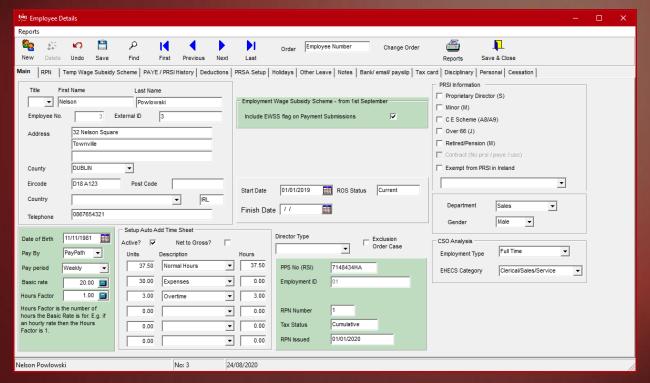




## EWSS - USING BIG RED BOOK PAYROLL (STEP 2)

 In Big Red Book Payroll, Employers mark each employee who is eligible to be included for EWSS in payment submissions in Utilities > Employee EWSS Flags or Employee Details > Main tab.

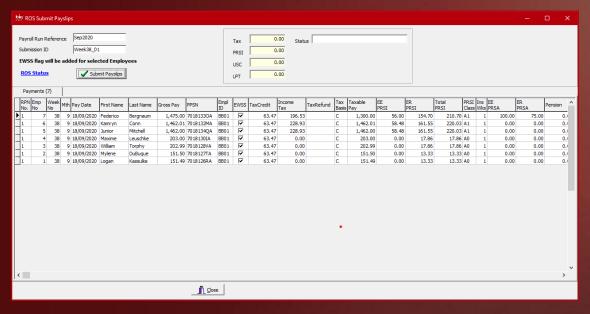






# EWSS - USING BIG RED BOOK PAYROLL (STEP 3)

- In Big Red Book Payroll, Employers pay employees as normal, i.e. regular reporting of Income Tax, USC and PRSI.
  - There is nothing more to it. In the submission to Revenue, Big Red Book Payroll will add "EWSS" as the payment code for the other payments field and 0 as the amount (as required by Revenue) for every employee who is marked to be included for EWSS.
    - This payment code will only be included when the EWSS tickbox in Settings > Wage Subsidy tab is active. You will see the note 'EWSS flag will be added
      for selected Employees'.





### EWSS - WHAT DO REVENUE DO?

- On receipt of an eligible EWSS payslip from an eligible employer, Revenue will
  - a) calculate the subsidy payable by reference to the gross pay, pay frequency and insurable weeks reported on the payslip.
  - b) From Early November 2020, make a payment of the subsidy payable payment into the designated bank account within a couple of days of Revenue receiving an eligible EWSS payslip.
    - i. EWSS payments for October payslips will be made soon after November 5th
  - c) calculate a PRSI credit due to the employer by recalculating employer PRSI using 0.5% and if greater than employer PRSI paid subtracting this from employer PRSI paid as reported on the payslip.
- On the 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month Revenue will post the total Employer PRSI credit total
  due which will reduce the balance of the employer's payroll taxes balance due.



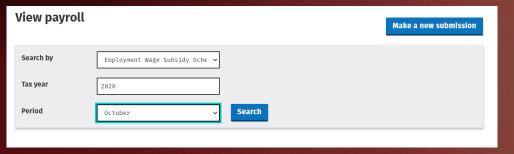
### EWSS - CHANGES & LATE SUBMISSIONS

- Any changes to the EWSS payable amount made to a submission after an EWSS
  payment has already been received for that submission will result in an adjustment to
  the next EWSS payment from Revenue.
- With this in mind, it is really important that employers make timely and correct payroll submissions. Corrections or late Submissions for EWSS made after the 14<sup>th</sup> of the following month will require a review by Revenue before any adjustment/payment of EWSS or PRSI credit to an employer might be made.
- This is in line with Revenue PAYE rules that state
  - 1. Submissions must be made to Revenue on or before the Payment date
  - 2. Corrections to the monthly return must be completed by the 14<sup>th</sup> of the following month

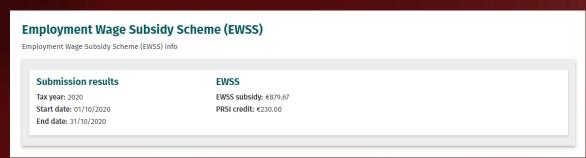


### EWSS - VIEWING SUBMISSIONS ON ROS

 As the EWSS payments and Employer PRSI credits are calculated by Revenue the running totals for a month as well as totals for each payslip can be view in ROS.



You will get summary of the amount of EWSS and PRSI credit calculated based on submissions with pay dates in that month so far:



You can also view all line items where EWSS was claimed. Any warning messages will show up here also.

	Active items including warnings seese are the active submission items including any items with warnings.							
Submission ID	Employee name	PPS number	Employment ID	Employer reference	Pay date	EWSS subsidy	PRSI credit	Action
1 • Warning: Wee	T-NEWELL KERTZM ekly Gross Pay amo		1 or Employment Wag	- e Subsidy Scheme.	08/10/2020	€0.00	€0.00	<u>View</u>
1 • <b>Warning:</b> Nur	T-NEWELL KERTZM mber of insurable w		1 nt Wage Subsidy Sc	- heme does not mat	29/10/2020 cch the pay frequenc	€0.00 cy reported.	€0.00	<u>View</u>
1	T-NEWELL KERTZM	2737289G	1	-	01/10/2020	€879.67	€230.00	<u>View</u>



### EWSS - WHAT SUBSIDY DO I RECEIVE?

- The subsidy payable is based on a couple of factors as reported on each payslip
  - Gross Weekly Wages,
  - Pay Frequency and
  - Insurable Weeks.
- PRSI Exempt Employees will be treated as if they have the standard PRSI weeks for the pay frequency,
  - 1 Insurable Week for Weekly,
  - 2 Insurable Weeks for Fortnightly or
  - 4 or 5 Insurable Weeks for Monthly.



### EWSS - ENHANCED SUBSIDY AMOUNT

• On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the Minister for Finance announced increased subsidy rates to be applied to paydates on or after 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The applicable subsidy rates are as

follows:

Gross Weekly Pay	Subsidy Payable	
€0 - €151.49	Nil	
€151.50 - €202.99	€203	
€203 - €299.99	€250	
€300 - €399.99	€300	
€400 - €1462.00	€350	
€1462.01 +	Nil	
Valid for Pay Run Dates from October 20 <sup>th</sup> 2020 - 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022		

Note - Scheme step down rates will apply from 1st February 2022 onwards



### EWSS - WEEKLY OR FORTNIGHTLY PAID

- Weekly or Fortnightly Pay Frequency
  - If Insurable Weeks is greater than 0 and less than or equal to 5
    - Gross Weekly Wages = Gross Pay / Insurable Weeks
    - Total Subsidy = Subsidy Payable \* Insurance Weeks

Gross Pay	Insurable Weeks	Gross Weekly Wages	Subsidy Payable	Total Subsidy
345	1	345	300	300
345	2	172.50	203	406
851.75	2	425.88	350	700
851.75	3	283.92	250	750

Gross Weekly Wages	Subsidy Payable	
€0 - €151.49	Nil	
€151.50 - €202.99	€203	
€203 - €299.99	€250	
€300 - €399.99	€300	
€400 - €1462.00	€350	
€1462.01 +	Nil	
Valid for Pay Run Dates from October 20 <sup>th</sup> 2020 - 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022		

- If insurable weeks less than or equal to 0
  - Nil subsidy payable
- If insurable weeks is greater than 5
  - Nil subsidy payable
- PRSI Exempt Employees will be treated as if they have the standard PRSI weeks for the pay frequency,
  - 1 Insurable Week for Weekly,
  - 2 Insurable Weeks for Fortnightly



### EWSS - MONTHLY PAID

- Monthly Pay Frequency
  - If Insurable Weeks is 4 or 5
    - Gross Weekly Wages = (Gross Pay \*12) / 52
    - Total Subsidy = (Subsidy Payable \*52) /12
  - If Insurable Weeks equal 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9
    - Gross Weekly Wages = Gross Pay / Insurable Weeks
    - Total Subsidy = Subsidy Payable \* Insurance Weeks

Gross Pay	Insurable Weeks	<b>Gross Weekly Wages</b>	Subsidy Payable	Total Subsidy
3451.21	3	1150.40	350	1050
3451.21	6	575.20	350	2100
3451.21	4	796.43	350	1516.67
3451.21	5	796.43	350	1516.67

- If insurable weeks less than or equal to 0
  - Nil subsidy payable
- If insurable weeks is greater than 9
  - Nil subsidy payable
- PRSI Exempt Employees will be treated as if they have the standard PRSI weeks for the pay frequency,
  - 4 or 5 Insurable Weeks for Monthly

Gross Weekly Wages	Subsidy Payable		
€0 - €151.49	Nil		
€151.50 - €202.99	€203		
€203 - €299.99	€250		
€300 - €399.99	€300		
€400 - €1462.00	€350		
€1462.01 +	Nil		
Valid for Pay Run Dates from October 20 <sup>th</sup> 2020 - 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022			





- Revenue are putting in place Submission warnings and rejections in order to help with administration of EWSS.
- Payroll submission rejection where a payslip is marked for EWSS but employer is not registered or re-registered for EWSS
  - Messaging: "Employer is not EWSS registered."
    - The Employer can Register via ROS and attempt to submit again (assuming Pay Date is after Registration Date) or
    - The Employer should deactivate Employer EWSS in Payroll and submit without EWSS flags (May be the only option if Employer does not qualify for EWSS)
- Payroll submission warning where a payslip is marked for EWSS but employer does not have an active tax clearance certificate
  - Messaging: "EWSS employer does not currently have tax clearance"
    - The Employer will have up to the Return due Date to get an active Tax Clearance Cert in place or else the Subsidy Payment and ER PRSI Credit will not be processed



## EWSS - PAYROLL SUBMISSION LINE ITEM WARNINGS

- Revenue are putting in place Submission Line Item warnings in order to help with administration of EWSS.
- Line item warning where a payslip is marked for EWSS but the calculated weekly gross pay is below €151.50 or above €1462
  - Messaging: "EWSS payslip weekly gross pay not in range"
    - No Subsidy is Payable.
- Line item warning where a payslip is marked for EWSS but does not have an eligible number of insurable weeks
  - Messaging: "EWSS insurable weeks not within range for given pay frequency"
    - No Subsidy is payable



#### EWSS - JULY & AUGUST SWEEPBACK

- Revenue have released a <u>pdf guide</u> with details of the EWSS July/August Sweepback.
- Employers who are eligible for EWSS may claim EWSS in respect EWSS eligible employees for pay dates from 1<sup>st</sup> July via Sweepback provided
  - The Employer was not eligible for TWSS or
  - The Employee was not eligible for TWSS
- A <u>Sweepback CSV template</u> has been made available by Revenue. Each employer will need to populate this template with the eligible employees they wish to claim EWSS for in the July/August period under the 'sweepback' process.
  - Payroll v20.10.07 onwards includes a utility that will create this CSV for employers.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> September, Revenue will release a new link in the 'Employer Services' Section on ROS, where employers can upload their completed CSV file.
  - A step by step guide to using this link to upload the CSV is included in the Revenue pdf guide.
  - The CSV must be uploaded to ROS before 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- Any subsidy due will be paid into the designated bank account as soon as practicable after 16<sup>th</sup> September.
- Any Employer PRSI credit due will be applied to the relevant month, i.e. July or August, as soon as practicable after 16<sup>th</sup> September.