



Financial Support Update & Introducing the IHC

UK Government Financial Support Update

Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS)

This scheme was initially announced in March. The government have now brought forward the dates for claiming and making payments. This week they started to contact self-employed persons and business partnerships who may be eligible. The claims process now opens on Wednesday 06/05 and payments are due to be made from 25/05.

Eligibility criteria include that a minimum of 50% of your income should have been earned via self-employment during the year 2019-20 if you submitted your tax return on time. Payments are calculated using tax return information and are based on an average of trading profits for the last 3 tax years, to a maximum of £7,500.00. Self-employed people with profits over £50,000.00 and people who have been trading for less than 3 years are not eligible.

The government will contact self-employed people who may be eligible via letter, email, or SMS, inviting them to make a claim. For more information and to check if you are eligible click [here](#).

We expect that many of our members are eligible for payments under this scheme and we really hope that the claims process is uncomplicated. We would be interested to hear about your experiences.

Business Loans

Last week the UK government announced a new 'Bounce Back Loan Scheme' for small – medium sized businesses who are negatively affected by coronavirus. Find out more [here](#).

Extra Financial Support Request

IFPA is a member of a new group, the Integrated Healthcare Collaborative (IHC), which is taking forward the work of the former Parliamentary Group for Integrated Healthcare that was dissolved at the end of the last Parliament. The IHC has written to the Chancellor to ask him to consider widening the financial support package for the self-employed to include those who have been in business for less than 3 years, and some others who are currently not eligible for financial assistance. Watch this space to see how the Government responds to the request.

Integrated Health Collaborative

This new body is “...a collection of leading professional associations and stakeholders within complementary, traditional and natural healthcare, working together on common areas of interest, to increase access to these therapies, promote greater integration with conventional Western medicine, and improve patient outcomes.” (www.theihc.org.uk). Here at IFPA we are very pleased to be part of this collective. We look forward to working with fellow professional bodies to collectively benefit complementary therapy in general and those who access our services.

Find out more about the IHC’s aims and objectives on their website and ‘like’ their Facebook page to receive regular updates.

<https://www.theihc.org.uk>

Facebook: @TheIHCUK / Integrated Healthcare Collaborative

Return to Work Guidelines

It is becoming increasingly apparent that post-Covid19 client work for the majority of aromatherapists and other complementary therapists will need to be very different than before the pandemic. The IHC is currently drafting guidelines to assist practitioners returning to work once it is advisable to do so. IFPA is contributing to these guidelines which we will circulate as soon as they are ready.

Keep safe and well,
The IFPA Trustees and office team

5th May 2020