**To: Employing Churches and Circuits in Southampton Methodist District**

Covid-19 update no. 8

29th June 2021

Please find below an update on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, and information on the EU Settlement Scheme:

1. The Government has announced [Changes to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme from July 2021.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme/changes-to-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme)  In brief:
* The Government will continue to pay 80 per cent of employees’ wages for unworked hours (subject to a cap of £2,500 per month) until **30 June 2021**. Employers are not obliged to contribute anything to wage costs up until that date but will need to contribute employer NICs and pension scheme contributions until the end of the scheme.
* From 1 July 2021, employers will need to contribute 10 per cent for hours not worked (up to £312.50 per month). The Government will contribute the remaining 70 per cent.
* From 1 August 2021, employers will need to contribute 20 per cent for hours not worked (up to £625 per month). The Government will contribute the remaining 60 per cent.

The scheme is due to end on 30 September 2021.

1. 30 June 2021 is the deadline for applications to be made to the EU Settlement Scheme.

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 should apply without delay so that they can continue to work, study, and access free healthcare and benefits in the UK after 30 June 2021.

Even though this responsibility falls on individuals from the EU to apply it will be helpful for the employing body to remind them of the fast approaching deadline and cascading the information across the districts, circuits and churches.

To help with this, there is a wealth of resources that can be used from the GOV.UK website.

For convenience, the links to these resources are provided here:

[EU Settlement Scheme: presentation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-presentation)

[EU Settlement Scheme: factsheet - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-factsheet/eu-settlement-scheme-factsheet)

[EU Settlement Scheme: leaflet - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-leaflet)

[EU Settlement Scheme: posters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-poster)

[EU Settlement Scheme: social media materials - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-social-media-graphics-and-videos)

Please note that it is not necessary to carry out retrospective Right to Work checks on existing staff after the 30 June 2021 deadline. However, from 1 July, new EU, EEA and Swiss staff that are employed will need to demonstrate their right to work either with the pre-settled or settled status, or with a visa under the points-based immigration system.

The above information has been extracted from [*https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-employer-toolkit* on 21 May 2021](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-employer-toolkit%20on%2021%20May%202021)

Penny Thatcher, District Employment Adviser

penny.thatcher@sdmc.org.uk

07910 601751