

# **Update on payments awarded for COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment and Enhanced Illness Benefit - 9 June 2021**

From [Department of Social Protection](#)

Published on 9 June 2021

Last updated on 9 June 2021

**Just over 285,000 people receive the Pandemic Unemployment Payment this week, a decrease of over 24,000 on last week**

**Number of people receiving the PUP now at its lowest since December 2020 and has fallen below 300,000 for the first time this year**

**€84.3 million in PUP weekly payments to be paid into bank accounts this week**

**€1,000 Enterprise Support Grant available for self-employed people who close their PUP payment**

**As restrictions are eased, people returning to work should close their claim on their first day back in work by logging on to [www.MyWelfare.ie](http://www.MyWelfare.ie)**

**Public reminded about Scam Phone Calls and Scam Texts from callers claiming to be from the Department of Social Protection**

This week, the Department of Social Protection has issued weekly payments valued at over €84 million to 285,265 people in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP).

This represents a decrease of 24,250 people compared to last week.

The number of people in receipt of the PUP is now at its lowest since December 2020.

The figures published today are in addition to the 171,699 people who were on the Live Register at the end of May.

All COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payments issued were paid in recipients' bank accounts or at their Post Office on Tuesday 8 June.

Dublin is the county with the highest number of people who are receiving PUP this week at 97,189. It is followed by Cork (27,108) and Galway (15,684).

The sector with the highest number of people receiving PUP this week is Accommodation and Food Service activities (84,787), followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade (41,695) and Administrative and Support Service Activities (27,245).

The sector which has seen the largest decrease in the number of people receiving PUP this week is Accommodation and Food Service activities with 5,339 fewer people receiving the payment compared to last week. This is followed by Wholesale and Retail Trade with 4,739 fewer people receiving the payment compared to last week.

The payment week for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment runs from Friday to Thursday and payments are paid on the following Tuesday. Individuals who have closed their PUP on Monday 7 June, as they have returned to work will receive their final PUP payment on Tuesday 15 June.

**Speaking today on the latest PUP figures, Minister for Social Protection Heather Humphreys said:**

“Today’s figures are very encouraging. They show another sizeable weekly fall in the number of people receiving the PUP as our economy continues to recover and businesses reopen their doors.

“Almost 200,000 people have now closed their PUP claims since February which clearly shows that as sectors reopen, people are returning to work.

“The number of people receiving the PUP is now at its lowest level since December 2020 and has fallen below the 300,000 mark for the first time this year.

“As the PUP is paid a week in arrears, people who are returning to work this week will be reflected in next week’s figures.

“The reopening of our society and economy is going well. As long as we continue to adhere to public health advice, I am confident we will continue to build on this strong progress over the summer months as more and more people return to work.”

**People returning to work**

The department continues to remind workers who are returning to work that they must close their claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment on the actual date that they start back at work, in order to ensure that their claim is processed correctly and to avoid incurring an overpayment that the department will take steps to recover.

**As PUP is paid weekly in arrears over 11,000 of these people are receiving a final payment this week and are still counted in the numbers in payment for this week.**

The sectors with the largest number of employees closing their Pandemic Unemployment Payment claims to return to work are Accommodation and Food Service activities sector (5,016), Construction (2,416), and Wholesale and Retail Trade (2,284).

The easiest way to close a claim for the Pandemic Unemployment Payment is online via [www.MyWelfare.ie](http://www.MyWelfare.ie). Any worker returning to work with an enquiry about closing their claim

can contact the department's dedicated Income Support Helpline at 1890 800 024 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

## **Control Measures**

The department conducts a series of pre and post payment checks on all PUP claims which include continuing eligibility checks. Subject to these checks being cleared the department then processes payments based on the clients' self-declaration.

The department runs post payment checks that includes verifying data against Revenue records, examining cases where the same bank account is used multiple times, examining cases where an employer or members of the public report concerns, and the use of data analytics to identify and check claims. It also undertakes employer inspections.

This work is undertaken by the department's Special Investigation Unit, which includes over 20 Gardaí on secondment to the department.

As the industry reopens the department's inspectors will be conducting control reviews and matching records against employer payroll data from the Revenue Commissioners to help ensure people close their claim as they return to work. To avoid incurring an overpayment people returning to work should close their claim and can do so easily at [www.MyWelfare.ie](http://www.MyWelfare.ie).

## **Self-employed people and PUP**

Self-employed people in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) who are looking to maintain their business can earn up to €960 over an eight-week period, while retaining their full PUP entitlement.

There is no formal application process and a self-employed person simply needs to inform the department if they earn over €960 in any eight-week period.

**The €1,000 Enterprise Support Grant will remain in place for the rest of the year** for self-employed people who close their PUP payment. Those who claimed the grant in 2020 but who found themselves back on PUP in 2021, will be able to access the grant for a second time.

## **MyWelfare.ie – PPSN application service**

The easiest and quickest way to apply for many social welfare payments, including the Pandemic Unemployment Payment, Enhanced Illness Benefit and Jobseekers' payments is online at [www.MyWelfare.ie](http://www.MyWelfare.ie). This is a platform which is safe, secure and accessible anytime, anywhere and on all devices. People have the option of applying for Maternity Benefit, Paternity Benefit, Child Benefit, PRSI refunds and Jobseekers' payments as well as requesting a statement or a record of social insurance contributions from the department.

The application service to apply for a PPS Number is available at [www.MyWelfare.ie](http://www.MyWelfare.ie) for people **living in Ireland** who are at least 18 years of age and need a PPS Number to avail of social welfare benefits, public services and information in Ireland. To apply for a PPS Number online, a person will need to have a basic [MyGovID](http://www.MyGovID) account.

In the interests of the public health advice and observing social distancing people are asked, if possible, not to attend their local Intreo Centre. Instead, they should avail of the online services available through [www.MyWelfare.ie](http://www.MyWelfare.ie).

### **COVID-19 Enhanced Illness Benefit Payment**

Today, some 892 people are in receipt of an Enhanced Illness Benefit payment, compared with 1,095 last week.

Employees or self-employed people who contract the virus or who are medically certified by their doctor to self-isolate are advised to apply for Enhanced Illness Benefit. Unlike the standard Illness Benefit, the Enhanced Illness Benefit is paid from the first day of illness. The quickest and easiest way to apply for Enhanced Illness Benefit is through [www.MyWelfare.ie](http://www.MyWelfare.ie).

Full details on Enhanced Illness Benefit including sector and county breakdown as well as age profile are at Appendices 9, 10 and 11.

### **Scam Phone Calls and Scam Texts**

Customers and members of the public are reminded about scam phone calls and text messages they may receive from individuals claiming to be an official of the department. These calls and texts display a range of numbers, including some which may appear to be from the department's phone numbers. The department would like to remind all its customers that it will never seek personal information from customers via text message and will never ask a customer for their bank details over the phone.

Any person who receives such a call or text is asked not to disclose any information and to report it to the Gardaí immediately.