



The Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme: Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

Version 0.2

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Document History

Version	Description	Date
0.1	Test and Trace Support Payments: Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England	25 September 2020
0.2	First update to the guidance. Major changes include an updated template application form and new information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• eligibility criteria for discretionary payments under the scheme• funding distribution• obtaining and verifying an NHS Test and Trace Account ID	30 September 2020

Contents

1. Purpose of this document	3
2. Test and Trace Support Payments: an overview	3
3. Eligibility for payments	3
4. Application process	6
5. Application form: minimum data requirements	7
6. Pre-payment checks	14
7. Obtaining and verifying an NHS Test and Trace Account ID	15
8. Making payments.....	16
9. Records to be kept by local authorities	17
10. Taxation.....	19
11. Eligibility for other benefits.....	20
12. Evidence of failure to self-isolate	20
13. Fraud	20
14. Funding and demand.....	20
APPENDIX 1: Wider policy on self-isolation	23
APPENDIX 2: Proposed data to share with HMRC for tax reporting	25
APPENDIX 3: Application form example	29

1. Purpose of this document

This guidance sets out what local authorities in England need to do to enable people in their area to claim the Test and Trace Support Payment, including discretionary payments. This is a working draft and further changes to this guidance will be made in the coming days.

2. Test and Trace Support Payments: an overview

From 28 September 2020, individuals are entitled to a Test and Trace Support Payment or discretionary support payment of £500. This is to support people on low incomes who are unable to work from home if they are told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and will lose income as a result.

These payments are designed to help ensure people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and their close contacts self-isolate for the required period to stop the onward spread of the virus. They are also designed to encourage individuals who are eligible for this payment to get tested if they have symptoms. This is important to help stop the transmission of COVID-19 and avoid further economic and societal restrictions.

The scheme starts from 28 September 2020, and local authorities should have arrangements in place to administer payments by 12 October 2020. Someone told to self-isolate on or after 28 September (but before the scheme is operational in their local authority) will need to be able to make a backdated claim for payment. The scheme will last until 31 January 2021.

3. Eligibility for payments

Eligibility

Test and Trace Support Payment

Eligibility for a £500 Test and Trace Support Payment is restricted to people who:

- have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive;
- are employed or self-employed;
- are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result; and
- are currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.

Discretionary payment

Local authorities can make a £500 discretionary payment to individuals who:

- have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, either because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have recently been in close contact with someone who has tested positive;
- are employed or self-employed; and
- are unable to work from home and will lose income as a result.

In addition, the discretionary payment is for people:

- who are not currently receiving Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit; and
- who are on low incomes and will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while they are self-isolating.

Local authorities can introduce additional criteria to determine eligibility for discretionary payments in their area, as long as these operate in addition to, rather than instead of, the criteria set out above.

For both the Test and Trace Support Payment and discretionary payments, eligible individuals will receive their £500 payment on top of any benefits and Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) that they currently receive.

Backdating

Eligibility for the NHS Test and Trace Support Payment, including discretionary payments, is for people who are told to self-isolate on or after 28 September 2020 and who meet the relevant eligibility criteria.

Residents in local authorities who do not have arrangements in place to administer the payment from 28 September 2020 will be able to claim retrospectively, as long as their period of self-isolation began on or after this date.

Local authorities should not accept applications from people told to self-isolate before 28 September 2020, even if the period of self-isolation continues after 28 September.

Applications from members of the same household

People in the same household can each make an individual application to receive the payment, if they each meet the eligibility criteria.

Multiple claims

Some individuals could be asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace more than once.

Someone can claim more than once (if they are told to self-isolate multiple times), as long as they meet the eligibility criteria for each individual claim and their periods of self-isolation do not overlap.

For example, if someone claims for a period of self-isolation lasting from 1 October to 14 October and then claims again for a second period of self-isolation beginning on 10 October, they would only be allowed to claim once, because the two periods overlap. However, they would be allowed to claim for a second period of self-isolation that began after the first period had ended on 14 October. Local authorities may wish to consider keeping a record of individuals who make multiple claims to guard against potential fraud.

Applications made after someone's period of self-isolation has ended

Eligible individuals can make a claim up to 14 days after their period of self-isolation ended. Local authorities should not accept applications after this point. For example, a person who is instructed by NHS Test and Trace on 1 October to stay at home and self-isolate must have applied for the Test and Trace Support Payment by 15 October.

Third-party applications

Applicants can apply on behalf of someone else; however, the £500 must be paid into a bank account in the name of the person for whom the application is being made. For example, if someone applied on behalf of a parent, the payment would be made into the parent's bank account.

Applicants with other support needs

As part of the information available during the application process, either on the online form or telephone application, local authorities are encouraged to reference any other local support that is available for people who are self-isolating, such as food packages. This information should also be easily accessible to people who are self-isolating because they have symptoms and are awaiting a test: these people will not have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and will not be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment, but they are following the rules and should be supported.

Applicants who are self-isolating who haven't been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace

Local authorities should only consider applications from individuals who have a valid notification from NHS Test and Trace telling them to stay at home and self-isolate.

Applicants who are quarantining after returning to the UK

The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme does not cover people who are self-isolating after returning to the UK from abroad, unless they have tested positive for coronavirus or have been told to stay at home and self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace.

4. Application process

Local authorities need to have arrangements in place to process and verify applications, issue payments to successful applicants and prevent and detect fraud.

Each local authority will need to have its own online application system – and an alternative system for non-digital users.

To apply, applicants will complete an online form (or a telephone application if digitally excluded) and provide:

- a notification from NHS Test and Trace asking them to self-isolate;
- proof of receipt of one of the qualifying benefits;
- a bank statement (as a basic up-front fraud check); and
- proof of employment or, if they are self-employed, evidence of self-assessment returns, trading income and proof that their business delivers services which cannot be undertaken without social contact.

Once all evidence has been verified, the local authority should pay the applicant £500. If the applicant meets all the criteria for the Test and Trace Support Payment, they should be paid from the main fund.

If the applicant does not receive any of the qualifying benefits but meets all the other criteria, is on a low income and will face hardship because they cannot work while self-isolating, local authorities can make a discretionary payment. Local authorities will need to determine what additional evidence they require for discretionary payments, which will depend on any additional criteria they have used (see Section 3 – Eligibility for Payments).

All Test and Trace Support Payments and discretionary payments should be made within three days of the local authority receiving an eligible application.

Application form

Local authorities will need to design their own application form. An example of a payment application form can be seen in Appendix 3.

Accessibility requirements

Local authorities will need to ensure accessibility of forms for citizens across languages and disabilities.

How applicants should provide evidence

As applicants will be self-isolating at home, local authorities will need to put in place arrangements to allow individuals to upload their evidence electronically wherever possible. It is the responsibility of local authorities to ensure data security arrangements are in place, and applicants' evidence should be handled in line with the General Data Protection Regulations and local information governance policies and procedures.

As some applicants will not have access to scanning equipment while they self-isolate, this should include accepting photographs of documents wherever possible.

Automated application processing

Based on projected volumes of eligible applicants, we do not anticipate the need for automated processing systems.

5. Application form: minimum data requirements

The following table sets out the minimum data requirements to be collected from a citizen to support their application for a payment. Local authorities may wish to change the sequence in which questions are asked and when supported evidence is requested in the journey.

Applicant details

Field	Business Rule	Type/Value
If other is chosen		Please state your title
First Name	Mandatory	Text Box
Last Name	Mandatory	Text Box
Postcode	Mandatory	Preferable link to Address base with search option Or Text Box
Building Name/Number	Mandatory	Preferable link to Address base with search option Or Text Box

Isolation and Payments Policy Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

Street	Mandatory	Preferable link to Address base with search option Or Text Box
Town	Mandatory	Preferable link to Address base with search option Or Text Box
Contact Number	Mandatory	Text Box
Email Address	Mandatory	Must meet email standard e.g. xxx@xxx.xxx

No	Question	Business Rules	Type/Values
1	Application Information		
2	<p>If you have been contacted by NHS Test and Trace and have been told to self-isolate, you may be entitled to financial support.</p> <p><u>Test and Trace Support Payment</u></p> <p>If you meet all of the following eligibility criteria, you are entitled to a Test and Trace Support Payment of £500:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace on or after 28 September 2020. • You are employed or self-employed. • You cannot work from home and will lose income as a result. • You are currently receiving at least one of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit. <p><u>Discretionary payments</u></p> <p>You will be eligible for a £500 discretionary payment if you meet all the other eligibility criteria above, but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you <u>do not</u> currently receive Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit; and • you will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while you are self-isolating. <p>This application is for one person only and any further applications within the same household must be made by each individual.</p>		

Isolation and Payments Policy Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

	<p>Please ensure that you have the below information available before starting the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Insurance number • Your 8-character NHS Test and Trace Account ID • Your most recent bank statement, wage slip or proof of self-employment 		
3	Applicant details		
4	Who are you completing this application for?	Mandatory	Options • Yourself • On behalf of someone else
5	If 'Yourself' is selected, go to 8 If 'On behalf of someone else' is selected, go to 6		
6	Name of applicant	Mandatory	Text - 100
7		Mandatory	Text - 100
8	NHS Test and Trace		
9	Have you been contacted by NHS Test and Trace?	Mandatory	Options – tick box • Yes • No
10	If 'Yes' is selected, go to 12 If 'No' is selected, go to 11		
11	Unfortunately, you do not meet the criteria for this scheme as you must have been contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service. End form		
12	Please provide your 8-character NHS Test and Trace Account ID	Mandatory	Free text (8)
13	Please provide the start date of your isolation period	Mandatory	Date picker from
14	Please provide the end date of your isolation period	Mandatory	Date picker to

No	Question	Business Rules	Type/Values
15	Employment Details		

Isolation and Payments Policy Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

16	Are you	Mandatory	Options • Employed • Self-employed • Neither
17	If 'Neither' is selected, go to 18 If 'Employed' is selected, go to 19 If 'Self-employed' is selected, go to 22		
18	Unfortunately, you do not meet the criteria for this scheme. End form		
19	Employer name	Mandatory	Text - 100
20	Employer's address	Mandatory	Text - 100
21	Employer's contact number	Optional	Free text – go to 24
22	What is the nature of your job?	Mandatory	Free text
23	If you are self-employed please provide proof of your self-employment status	Optional	Upload
24	Are you able to work from home during your isolation period?	Mandatory	Options • Yes • No
25	If 'Yes' is selected: "Unfortunately you do not meet the criteria for this scheme as you are able to work from home during your isolation period". End form If 'No' is selected, go to 26.		
26	Will you have a reduction in earned income?	Mandatory	Options • Yes • No
27	If 'Yes' is selected, go to 28 If 'No' is selected: "Unfortunately you do not meet the criteria for this scheme". End form		

No	Question	Business Rules	Type/Values
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Isolation and Payments Policy Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

28	Benefits		
29	Which of the following benefits/support do you receive?	Mandatory	Radio buttons • Universal Credit • Working Tax Credit • Jobseeker's Allowance • Income Support • Employment and Support Allowance • Housing Benefit • Pension Credit • None of these
30	If 'None of these' is selected, go to 31 If one or more of these benefits is selected, go to 32		
31	Unfortunately, you do not meet the criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment. You can still be considered for a discretionary payment if you will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while self-isolating. Do you wish to continue and apply for a discretionary payment? If 'Yes' is selected, move to Step 32 If 'No' is selected: End form		
32	Please provide your National Insurance Number	Mandatory	National insurance prefix

No	Question	Business Rules	Type/Values
33	Bank Details		
34	Please provide the following details of the bank account you wish the payment to go into		
35	Bank account name	Mandatory	Text
36	Account number	Mandatory	Text
37	Sort code	Mandatory	Text
38	Please upload your evidence documents one by one. If you are	Optional	Upload

Isolation and Payments Policy Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

	employed this should also include proof of employment i.e. wages being paid to you or your most recent wage slip/bank statement		
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No	Question	Business Rules	Type/Values
39	Declaration		
40	<p>I confirm that the information is true and accurate. I agree to stay at home and self-isolate for the required period. I understand that if I fail to do so, I will be required to pay the funds back and my contact details may be passed on to the police for further action.</p> <p>Your data will be processed under the terms of the [name of local authority] Privacy Notice. You can view this here [link to local authority's Privacy Notice]</p>		
41	Do you agree to the above declaration	Mandatory	Tick box to agree
Summary Page			
All form details to pull through to summary page			

Suggested Submission Email to customer
<p>Subject: Application for financial support for residents self-isolating (Service Request ID)</p> <p>Dear <Customer/Name></p> <p>Thank you for your application.</p> <p>Your reference for this request is <ID></p> <p>A member of our team will check and verify all details in your application. You will receive email confirmation to notify you if your application has been successful.</p>

If you are successful it will be our intention to make payment within three working days.

Thank you

<Team responsible>

<Local Authority name>

Suggested Successful application - email to customer

Subject: Application for financial support for residents self-isolating (Service Request ID)

Dear <Customer/Name>

Your application has been successful and a payment will be made to the bank account details provided within three working days.

Thank you

<Team responsible>

<Local Authority name>

Suggested Rejected application - email to customer

Subject: Application for financial support for residents self-isolating (Service Request ID)

Dear <Customer/Name>

Unfortunately, your application has been unsuccessful.

Our team have checked and verified the details provided and you do not meet the criteria at this time.

<consider adding a statement here regarding eligibility for discretionary payment>?

Thank you

Team responsible>

<Local Authority name>

6. Pre-payment checks

Local authorities will need to carry out three main pre-payment checks. These are to verify that each applicant:

- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace;
- is employed or self-employed and will lose income because they cannot work from home; and
- is receiving one of the benefits in the eligibility criteria.

Checking that an applicant has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace

Only people who have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace can claim the Test and Trace Support Payment or a discretionary payment. To check this, local authorities should use data provided from the Contact Tracing and Advice Service (CTAS) system (see Section 8 for more information).

Applicants may try to provide a notification from the NHS Isolation Note service rather than NHS Test and Trace. If this happens, local authorities should not reject their application, but give them an opportunity to provide a valid NHS Test and Trace notification if they have one.

Checking that an applicant is employed or self-employed and will lose income because they cannot work from home

The application process should ask applicants if they are employed or self-employed and whether they can work from home. If the applicant can work from home, they will not be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment or a discretionary payment as they will not lose income while self-isolating.

For applicants who are self-employed, local authorities should also confirm they are satisfied with the evidence of self-assessment returns and trading income provided by the applicant.

Checking that an applicant will lose income because they cannot work from home

The application form should ask applicants to confirm that they cannot work from home and they will have a reduction in earned income because they are self-isolating.

As long as someone meets the other eligibility criteria and is losing income because they have been told to self-isolate and cannot work from home, they are eligible. So, for example:

- someone with a single job whose employer continues to pay them a full wage while they self-isolate would not be eligible;

- someone whose employer pays them a reduced wage while they self-isolate would be eligible (they have lost income);
- someone with two part-time jobs who continues to be paid a full wage by one employer, but whose other employer does not pay them while they self-isolate, would be eligible (again, they have lost income).

Checking that an applicant is receiving one of the qualifying benefits

Local authorities should use the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) system, Searchlight, to check that each applicant is receiving one of the qualifying benefits.

If the applicant meets all the other eligibility criteria but is not yet in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits, local authorities could choose to make a discretionary payment.

7. Obtaining and verifying an NHS Test and Trace Account ID

NHS Test and Trace uses a web-based tool called the Contact Tracing and Advice Service (CTAS) to record information about people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and their contacts. This system allocates citizens an Account ID is an 8-character identifier unique to each record on the web tool (e.g. 4a2c204a).

How applicants obtain an NHS Test and Trace Account ID

Most citizens who test positive for COVID-19 or are a contact of someone who has had a positive test will receive a digital invitation from the CTAS web tool to undertake the contact tracing journey. The invitation message (sent via a text message or email) contains the 8-character Account ID.

Everyone who has completed the contact tracing journey (including those who were ineligible for the digital invitation such as children or individuals with a landline number only) will receive a citizen advice message upon completion of the NHS Test and Trace questionnaire. The citizen message (sent either via a text message/email or postal service for people with no access to mobile phone or email) contains the 8-character Account ID.

Local authorities will be able to use the web-based Eligibility Checker to check whether an applicant has an NHS Test and Trace Account ID. To request access to the Eligibility Checker, local authorities should email soc.support@dhsc.gov.uk providing:

- the name of the person/people to be given access;
- the email address of the person/people to be given access; and
- the name and email address of the designated individual within the local authority authorising access and evidence of the authorisation.

The person authorising access to the eligibility checker must be the individual within the local authority who has been named in the Data Sharing Agreement to authorise access to the data to be provided.

How local authorities can verify an applicant's NHS Test and Trace Account ID

Local authorities will be able to use the web-based Eligibility Checker to check whether an applicant has an Account ID. Local authorities will only receive a positive output if both the following items, which can be seen on the applicant's form, are correct:

- NHS Test and Trace Account ID; and
- First part of the home address postcode OR DOB date of birth (added to support validation and protect identity).

If this is correct, local authorities will receive the following information about the applicant:

- confirmation that their NHS Test and Trace Account ID is valid;
- the start date of their isolation period;
- their postcode*;
- the history of their interaction with NHS Test and Trace*; and
- if the NHS Test and Trace Account ID has been given a payment*, which is to avoid multiple claims.

*Might not be available on launch.

The technical solution to provide this information is being developed. NHS Test and Trace is also considering the use of a dedicated call line as an interim solution, should development of this system take longer than expected.

Please note that the data within the Eligibility Checker will be updated daily. This means that if an individual receives an Account ID on Monday 5 October, their information will be visible to local authorities on Tuesday 6 October.

8. Making payments

Local authorities should pay eligible individuals within three working days of receiving their application. Payments should be made up front, as a single payment, to the bank account matching the bank statement they have provided, via the most appropriate payment mechanism.

Local authorities should send each recipient a letter or email to confirm that they have been paid.

Applicants who are overdrawn

Local authorities may wish to provide information to people on how to exercise their first right of appropriation on the £500 payment, so their bank doesn't use it to pay their overdraft. Guidance from Bradford Council and an example template can be seen in this [link](#). Local authorities may also wish to produce a similar template that can be shared with eligible individuals who are overdrawn.

Appeals

Local authorities will not be required to provide a right of appeal against any decision not to award a payment, either for the main Test and Trace Support Payment or the discretionary payment. People who are turned down will not be eligible because they do not meet the criteria.

If possible, local authorities should work with applicants to make sure they provide the necessary evidence to support a successful application. For instance, someone who is self-employed may have forgotten to provide their self-assessment return in the first instance. This person should not be rejected but given the opportunity to provide further evidence if they have it.

If an individual is rejected because they do not meet the eligibility criteria for the Test and Trace Support Payment, local authorities may wish to consider if the individual meets the criteria for a discretionary payment.

9. Records to be kept by local authorities

Local authorities should provide row-level information to NHS Test and Trace to allow reporting on the delivery of the Test and Trace Support Payment and discretionary fund. This information should include:

- the NHS Test and Trace Account ID(s) relating to a payment application;
- the outcome of an application;
- whether an individual received the Test and Trace Support Payment or a discretionary payment; and
- the reason why an application was rejected (if applicable), e.g., failed clinical, benefit or employment threshold.

The table below sets out the current draft technical requirement for data reporting activities back to NHS Test and Trace.

Isolation and Payments Policy Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

Field	Description	Business Rule	Type/Value
LA_Identifier	Unique name of local authority	Mandatory	60 Char max
CTAS_ID	NULL if applicant has provided no CTAS ID, or if CTAS details from PowerBI do not match other fields	Mandatory	8 char OR NULL if applicant has provided no CTAS ID
Postcode (tbc)	Postcode from CTAS, if postcode on application is different to CTAS or if it does not match other data fields.	Mandatory	8 char max, no spaces, ie: sw1h0eu
Application_Successful	Was the application successful, for either main fund or discretionary fund. FALSE means the application was rejected	Mandatory	TRUE FALSE
Value_Paid	How much the applicant was paid. NULL/blank/0 values indicated applicant was not paid.	Mandatory if Application_Successful =TRUE, else optional	Format: 0000.00 Positive value, to 2dp. No £ sign
Main_or_Discretionary	Was the applicant paid from main Fund/Discretionary Fund (M/D). NULL/blank means not paid	Mandatory if Application_Successful =TRUE, else optional	M D
Failed_on_criteria_isolate	Applicant has not been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and does not have a CTAS ID. NULL/blank is the same as FALSE, and means this the applicant did not fail the criteria	Mandatory if Application_Successful =FALSE, else optional	TRUE FALSE NULL/blank

Isolation and Payments Policy Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

Failed_on_criteria_employed	Applicant is not employed or self-employed	Mandatory if Application_Successful =FALSE, else optional	TRUE FALSE NULL/blank
Failed_on_criteria_lost	Applicant fails criteria: unable to work from home and will lose income as a result	Mandatory if Application_Successful =FALSE, else optional	TRUE FALSE NULL/blank
Failed_on_criteria_benefit	Applicant fails criteria: in receipt of eligible benefit. Applicant can be successful for discretionary fund, but fail to be in receipt of another benefit.	Mandatory if Application_Successful =FALSE, else optional	TRUE FALSE NULL/blank
Failed_on_criteria_other	Applicant rejected for other reason	Mandatory if Application_Successful =FALSE, else optional	TRUE FALSE NULL/blank
Timestamp	Timestamp for submission (to LA? To PHE?)	Mandatory	
Payment_Hash	SHA256 hash of the claimant's sort code and bank account number SHA256[ssssssaaaaaaaa]	Mandatory	hexadecimal output – 64 hex characters

The mechanism to support local authorities in reporting this information is currently under design and will be shared once it is ready.

10. Taxation

These payments will be subject to income tax, but they will not be subject to National Insurance Contributions (NICs). This is the case both for Test and Trace Support Payments and discretionary payments made under the scheme. The table in **Appendix 2** provides an initial overview of the data HMRC will require from local authorities to tax the payments. We

will provide further operational guidance setting out how this information will be shared with HMRC.

11. Eligibility for other benefits

These payments will be disregarded when calculating eligibility for other benefits. This includes calculating entitlement to Universal Credit. We will provide further clarification on whether it affects entitlement to council tax reduction.

12. Evidence of failure to self-isolate

If a local authority becomes aware, either through post-payment verification checks or through other means, that someone has not self-isolated, they will need to refer the case to the police. Guidance will follow on how to handle recovery of the payments made to the individual.

13. Fraud

Local authorities will be responsible for fraud-prevention measures. Discussions are currently underway around best practices to bolster counter-fraud measures and guidance will be issued in due course. This includes information on post-payment verification checks.

Local authorities will have the right to recover costs from people who claim the payment fraudulently and can keep any money recovered to put towards your costs of running the scheme. Local authorities will not be liable for any unrecoverable costs due to fraud.

14. Funding and demand

Funding

The UK Government will provide funding to support local authorities in implementing the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. This includes both administrative costs (set-up costs and running costs) and the costs of the payments made under the scheme.

In total, the UK Government will provide £50 million for the Test and Trace Support Payment and corresponding discretionary payments. This will cover the full four months of the scheme until 31 January 2021 and includes:

Isolation and Payments Policy Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

- **£25 million** for programme costs (costs of payments to applicants), excluding discretionary payments.
- **£10 million** for administration costs.
- **£15 million** for discretionary payments.

The £25 million and £10 million are both 'down-payments' based on expected programme and administration costs.

The £25 million programme costs will be subject to reconciliation, which could mean an authority may need to return funding if the number of payments made is less than their allocation. Other local authorities may need a top up payment where they make payments that exceed their initial allocation.

The £10 million for administrative cost is not subject to a reconciliation process. Additional funding may be provided as necessary, informed by the experience of the programme. The administrative funding has been designed to cover the estimated costs of both setting up the scheme and running the scheme, but it will not be possible to match funding to the specific costs incurred by individual local authorities.

The £15 million for discretionary payments is a fixed four-month envelope that will not be topped up or subject to a reconciliation process.

Distribution

The funding will be distributed to individual local authorities as follows:

The £25 million for programme costs

- The **£25 million for programme costs** will be initially distributed according to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)'s COVID-19 Relative Need Formula (RNF). Details on the formula can be found [here](#).
- Each local authority allocation has been rounded down to match a multiple of £500 (as each eligible applicant will receive £500). We have then created a 'floor' with the residual resource so that each local authority will receive at least £21,000 of the full pot.
- This fund will be reconciled, which means that any money that is overspent or underspent compared to the initial allocation that a local authority receives will be topped up or repaid respectively.

The £10 million for administration costs

- Each local authority will receive £20,000 from the **£10 million for administration costs**, plus a share of the remaining £3.72 million in the pot once each local authority has been given £20,000. The share of the remaining £3.72 million will be allocated to each local authority according to their share of the pot for programme costs. This is based on evidence from the pilot which indicated a £20,000 fixed cost for setting up the scheme.

The £15 million for discretionary payments

- The **£15 million for discretionary payments** has been allocated according to the COVID-19 RNF for 313 of the 314 lower tier local authorities (with a small 'top slice' for the 314th local authority, the Isles of Scilly - which did not receive an allocation from the RNF – based on the estimated proportion of the population of England that lives there).
- The whole pot has been distributed up front, and will not be rounded down to a multiple of £500 as it will not be subject to a reconciliation process (meaning that it will not be topped up or reclaimed if local authorities overspend or underspend their allocation from the pot).

We will communicate with local authorities separately explaining the amount of money they will receive.

Projected demand

If you introduce the scheme later than 28 September 2020, you will need to be prepared to work through an initial backlog of cases.

Local authorities should be prepared for potential growth in cases, for example, due to increased COVID-19 transmission over the period of the scheme.

Our modelling estimates that 800 people per day across England could be eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment (based on average COVID-19 incidence levels on 17 September 2020), though demand will depend on transmission levels in each area. If the 800 cases in England per day in this scenario were evenly distributed across the country, a local authority with 250,000 residents could expect four people per day to become eligible for the Test and Trace Support Payment. Actual numbers are likely to be higher. These baseline estimates exclude expenditure on discretionary payments.

APPENDIX 1: Wider policy on self-isolation

Why does self-isolation matter?

Ensuring infected individuals and their close contacts isolate is one of our most powerful tools for controlling the transmission of COVID-19.

We know that someone with the virus can remain infectious to other people for up to 10 days after developing symptoms. It can take up to 14 days for individuals to develop coronavirus symptoms after they catch the virus, and in this time, they can unknowingly pass it on to others, even if they don't have symptoms.

Staying at home and self-isolating helps prevent family, friends and the community from contracting coronavirus, as well as helping to protect the health and care system.

The changes announced by the Government on 20 September 2020, which apply in England:

- introduce a new duty on individuals to self-isolate if someone tests positive or is identified as a contact by NHS Test and Trace;
- introduce penalties for those breaking the rules, including fines of at least £1,000 and up to a maximum of £10,000 for repeated or very serious offences;
- place a new legal obligation on employers that they must not knowingly enable or encourage their employees to break the law on self-isolation;
- introduce a new Test and Trace Support Payment of a £500 lump sum payment for those on low incomes to support them if they cannot work during their self-isolation period; and
- provide funding for discretionary payments for local authorities to help those who require corresponding financial support to the Test and Trace Support Payment to self-isolate, but do not meet all the eligibility criteria.

What difference does it make if self-isolation has a legal basis?

This change is intended to make clear the importance of people self-isolating when they have COVID-19 or they have been in recent and close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. A new legal obligation, implemented rapidly nationwide, will help stop the virus continuing to spread.

What is the aim of the Test and Trace Support Payment?

The Test and Trace Support Payment has been introduced in response to feedback from local authorities and directors of public health that some of their residents were struggling to self-isolate as directed due to financial constraints. It is to help ensure that people on low incomes self-isolate when they test positive or are identified as a contact, and to encourage

more people to get tested. This will help to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and avoid further societal and economic restrictions, including local lockdowns.

Who does the legal duty apply to?

Anyone notified of a positive test result and any of their notified contacts, other than those notified through the NHS Covid-19 App is under a legal duty to self-isolate. Guidance continues to make clear that people who have symptoms should self-isolate while they get a test.

Those testing positive for COVID-19 are legally obliged to self-isolate for a period ending 10 days after the onset of symptoms or, for people who did not have symptoms when they were tested, 10 days after the date of the test. Other members of their household are legally obliged to self-isolate for a period ending 14 days after the onset of the infected person's symptoms (or, if they were asymptomatic, after the date of the test). Non-household contacts are obliged to self-isolate for the period notified to them by NHS Test and Trace (the period ending 14 days after their most recent exposure to the person who has tested positive).

What is the role of local authorities in supporting the requirement to self-isolate?

NHS Test and Trace and local authorities will continue to work together to help ensure that people understand their obligations on self-isolation and why it is so important to self-isolate – and help them access any support they need to do so

Local authorities will focus on the principle of encouraging, educating and supporting self-compliance – they will not be expected to enforce the legal requirements. Local authorities should pass on the details of anyone they suspect of breaking the rules to the police. Where there is clear evidence that someone is not following the rules, the police will determine what follow-up action to take and, where necessary, issue fixed penalty notices.

Do local authorities need to launch a communications campaigns to advertise the Test and Trace Support Payment?

The Government is running a central communications campaign to publicise the new legal duty to self-isolate and the Test and Trace Support Payment. We will support local authorities in arranging additional local communications, publicity and engagement.

Do local authorities need to check that Test and Trace Support Payment recipients are self-isolating?

Local authorities should focus on encouraging, educating and supporting self-isolation compliance. They should pass on the details of anyone they suspect of breaking the rules to the police.

APPENDIX 2: Proposed data to share with HMRC for tax reporting

Data Item	Description	Format	Priority 1 = High 2 = Medium 3 = Low	Source Applicant, LAs/DAs and/or LA/DA reference systems
Supplier Reference	Unique reference to allow HMRC (DA&E team) to uniquely identify the data Supplier and data purpose. Required for audit and data quality purposes.	AANNNNNN format. Reference can be included in correspondence (potentially a Notice) and supported documents sent to LAs as per DAE normal Notice issuing protocols.	Mandatory	LA/DA (but allocated by HMRC)
Local Authority Name / DA Name	Name of Local Authority	Char (60) – If uses LA names (This field is usually reported at the start of DAE Excel templates after the reference)	Mandatory	LA/DA
NINo	National Insurance Number	NINO format MUST be: AANNNNNNA or AANNNNNN e.g. QQ123456A or QQ123456 If you DO NOT know the final NINO character (A-D) you can leave this character BLANK DO NOT include Spaces or Dividers Temporary NINOs are NOT acceptable	Mandatory	LA verified
Payment Amount		Payments MUST be reported in NUMERICAL FORMAT to 2 decimal places e.g. 999.99 DO NOT include Commas, Spaces, Currency or Minus Symbols	Mandatory	LA/DA
Payment Date		Insert the date on which the payment was made	Mandatory	LA/DA

Isolation and Payments Policy Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

		Format MUST be: DDMMYYYY e.g. 03082017 DON'T include Spaces or Dividers		
Payment Type	'Payment' or 'Clawback' of payment – required for incorrect payments or non-compliance	P or C flag Field validation will restrict to only the agreed options and will be mandatory. Max 1 Character	Mandatory	LA/DA
Payment Funding Source	'Main' or 'Discretionary' fund – potentially required if handled differently	M or D flag Field validation will restrict to only the agreed options and will be mandatory. Max 1 Character	Mandatory	LA/DA
Employment/Self- Employment or Neither	Employment/Self- Employment flag to ensure i) coding notices applied only to employed ii) future reference for self- employment returns (20/21) iii) Neither	E, S or N flag Field validation will restrict to only the agreed options and will be mandatory. Max 1 Character	Mandatory	Applicant [If an individual is both E and S - the 'tax law' default to confirm Employed first to assist with tax code changes)
Title	For QA purposes and exception handling and SA matching	insert the individual's title/name prefix in this column e.g. Mr, Mrs, Dr etc. Data entries such as 'Ditto', 'Not Known' or 'See Above' are NOT acceptable	Conditional if known	Applicant
Forename(s) / Given Names(s)	For QA purposes and exception handling and SA matching	Individual's forename(s)/given name(s) Data entries such as 'Ditto', 'Not Known' or 'See Above' are NOT acceptable	1 Conditional if known	Applicant
Surname/Family Name	For QA purposes and exception handling and SA matching	Individual's Surname/Family Name Data entries such as 'Ditto', 'Not Known' or 'See Above' are NOT acceptable	1 Conditional if known	Applicant
DOB	Date of Birth	Format MUST be: DD/MM/CCYY e.g. 03/08/1966	1 Conditional if known	Applicant

Isolation and Payments Policy Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

	For QA purposes and exception handling and SA matching	If NOT known leave BLANK		
Address Line 1	Requires a good description for these if they follow Post Office Approach or our file format (many websites use the number/postcode lookup to complete well-constructed address format)	Care of (C/O) addresses are NOT acceptable DON'T include UK postcodes here DON'T include Carriage Returns or any Line Breaks in the address Data entries such as 'Ditto', 'Not Known' or 'See Above' are NOT acceptable Max 40 characters	2 Conditional if known	LA/DA
Address Line 2	For QA purposes and exception handling and needed for self-employed matching	Care of (C/O) addresses are NOT acceptable DON'T include UK postcodes here DON'T include Carriage Returns or any Line Breaks in the address Data entries such as 'Ditto', 'Not Known' or 'See Above' are NOT acceptable Max 40 characters	2 Conditional if known	LA/DA
Address Line 3	For QA purposes and exception handling and needed for self-employed matching	Care of (C/O) addresses are NOT acceptable DON'T include UK postcodes here DON'T include Carriage Returns or any Line Breaks in the address Data entries such as 'Ditto', 'Not Known' or 'See Above' are NOT acceptable Max 40 characters	2 Conditional if known	LA/DA
Address Line 4	For QA purposes and exception handling and needed for self-employed matching	Care of (C/O) addresses are NOT acceptable DON'T include UK postcodes here DON'T include Carriage Returns or any Line Breaks in the address	2 Conditional if known	LA/DA

Isolation and Payments Policy Implementation Guide for Local Authorities in England

		Data entries such as 'Ditto', 'Not Known' or 'See Above' are NOT acceptable Max 40 characters		
Address Line 5	For QA purposes and exception handling and needed for self-employed matching	Care of (C/O) addresses are NOT acceptable DON'T include UK postcodes here DON'T include Carriage Returns or any Line Breaks in the address Data entries such as 'Ditto', 'Not Known' or 'See Above' are NOT acceptable Max 40 characters	2 Conditional if known	LA/DA
Post Code	Postcode of the applicant's residential address for QA purposes and exception handling and SA matching	ONLY insert postcodes Data entries other than postcodes are NOT acceptable Max 8 characters	1 Conditional if known	Applicant

Additional considerations:

The field requirements are taken from HMRC's DAE standard Template supporting guidance, but the following may need consideration.

All fields - where fields have defined formatting requirements, these are taken from DAE existing specifications and comply with HMRC data standards for Bulk Third Party information ingestion.

Supplier Reference – HMRC DAE systems require a supplier unique reference for each supplier / data type combination to support audit and data quality processes. Local authorities are familiar with being allocated these for different data type requests. This will be allocated by HMRC DAE and in a prescribed format and must be used in the data return submitted

Care of Addresses – Usually not accepted as it may be a registered business office or accountants address and not the individual's residential address. If local authorities are confident that addresses supplied will be residential then the C/O requirement can be dropped.

APPENDIX 3: Application form example

Below are mock screenshots of the application form. These should purely be used as a guide for reference.

Application information

If you have been contacted by national or local Test and Trace and have been advised to self-isolate, you may be entitled to financial support.

Test and Trace Support Payment

If you meet the all of the following eligibility criteria, you are entitled to a Test and Trace Support Payment of £500

- You have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace on or after 28 September 2020.
- You are employed or self-employed.
- You cannot work from home and will lose income as a result.
- You are currently receiving at least one of the following benefits: Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, Income-based Employment and Support Allowance, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit.

Discretionary Payments

You will be eligible for £500 discretionary payment if you meet all the other eligibility criteria above, but

- you do not currently receive Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, Income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit and/or Pension Credit; and
- you will face financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while you are self-isolating.

This application is for one person only and any further applications within the same household must be made by each individual. Please ensure that you have the below information available before starting the application:

- National Insurance number
- Your 8 character NHS Test and Trace Account ID
- Your most recent bank statement, wage slip or proof of self-employment

Who are you completing this application for?

- Yourself
- On behalf of someone else

Name of applicant

Have you been contacted by NHS Test and Trace?

- Yes
- No

Please provide your 8 character Account ID

Please provide the start date of your isolation period

For example, 12 09 2020

Day	Month	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Please provide the end date of your isolation period

For example, 12 09 2020

Day	Month	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

[Save and continue](#)

[< Back](#)



Employment details

Are you

- Employed
- Self-employed
- Neither

Employer name

Employer address

Building and street

Town or city

County

Postcode

Employer contact number

What is the nature of your job?

If you are self-employed please provide proof of your self-employment status

No file chosen

Are you able to work from home during your isolation period?

- Yes
- No

Will you have a reduction in earned income?

- Yes
- No

[← Back](#)



Benefits details

Which of the following benefits do you receive?

- Universal Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Job seeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit
- None of these

Please provide your National Insurance Number

It's on your National Insurance card, benefit letter, payslip or P45. For example, 'QQ 12 34 56 7'.

Save and continue

[Back](#)



Bank details

Please provide the following details of the bank account you wish the payment to go into.

Bank or building society account details

Name on the account

Sort Code

Must be 6 digits long

Account number

Must be between 6 and 8 digits long

Building society roll number (if you have one)

You can find it on your card, statement or passbook

Please upload your evidence documents one by one. If you are employed this should also include proof of employment i.e. wages being paid to you or your most recent wage slip/bank statement

[Choose file](#) No file chosen

Save and continue

[Back](#)



Declaration

I confirm that the information is true and accurate. I agree to stay at home and self-isolate for the required period. I understand that if I fail to do so, I will be required to pay the funds back and my contacts details may be passed on to the police for further action.

Your data will be processed under the terms of [name of the local council] Privacy Notice. You can view this here [link].

Do you agree with the above declaration?

Save and continue

[Back](#)

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Review your answers

Name	Sarah Philips	Change
Date of birth	5 January 1978	Change
National insurance number	AB 12 34 56 C	Change
Contact information	72 Guild Street London SE23 6FH	Change
Contact details	07700 900457 sarah.philips@example.com	Change
Bank details	Santander 12-34-56 12345678	Change
CTAS ID	C123456789	Change
Employer name	Window Maker Ltd	Change
Employer contact information	172 High Street London SE1 6FH	Change
Employer contact details	07700 900457 window.maker.ltd@example.com	Change
Are you re-submitting the application	No	Change

Submit your application

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Application submitted

Application complete

Your reference number
HDJ2123F



