

Disclaimer: This Call has been updated on 26th March, 2020.

Business Development and Continuity Scheme: Call for the Facilitation of Teleworking Activities

This call for application is being issued as provided for in Clause 3.1.2 of the Business Development and Continuity scheme. The prevailing rules governing this call shall be those stipulated in Version 5.0 of the Incentive Guidelines of the Business Development and Continuity Scheme as published on 1st March, 2020.

This call is being designed to facilitate employers providing teleworking arrangements to their employees who can carry out their work from their residence. The call shall support employers to invest in technology that enable teleworking and to partially cover the costs of teleworking solutions.

1. Eligibility

The call is open to all undertakings irrespective of size and sector (unless specifically excluded by the Business Development and Continuity Guidelines). The support will be given to employers who incur eligible telework expenses pursuant to a telework agreement. The aid will only be considered if the role of the employee can be addressed through teleworking and when a formal teleworking agreement is in place and connects to the work place via a VPN (or similar) solution.

In order to be eligible, the employee should not have had an active teleworking agreement before 15th February 2020 and must be engaged in a role which can be performed via telework.

2. Extent of Aid (Support that may be approved)

The total support under this call shall be capped at €2,000,000 and shall be limited up to €500 per teleworking agreement and €4,000 per undertaking.

Applicants should note that the *de minimis* regulation limits the total support per single undertaking to €200,000 undertaking over a period of three (3) rolling fiscal years, and to €100,000 for undertakings engaged in Road Freight Transport.

Any single undertaking may apply for the maximum support as allowed by the Regulation. To this effect, the applicant needs to consider the total *de minimis* aid awarded to the single undertaking through other schemes (even if these are not administered by Malta Enterprise).

3. Form of Aid

Support shall be awarded in the form of a cash grant. Assistance will be given to cover a percentage of the eligible costs and shall be awarded in accordance to the terms stipulated in the Incentive Guidelines of Business Development and Continuity scheme.

4. Eligible expenses

The grant shall be awarded against 45% of the eligible cost which must be incurred after the 15th February, 2020. The following costs are eligible for this cash rebate:

- a) Purchasing and/or leasing of computer hardware (included operating systems) which are considered portable including installation and setting up of connectivity software.
- b) Communication solutions (hardware and software) that allows different users to connect to their place of work (VPN, Point-to-point connection etc.)

5. Application & Claim Process

The Application and Claim Form together with additional documentation should be submitted by email on covid@maltaenterprise.com

As part of the application & claim form, the applicant is required to provide the following:

- Signed Teleworking Agreement commencing not earlier than 15th February, 2020;
- A document signed by the employee as a confirmation that the employee has sole responsibility of the hardware and software left in his/ her care;
- Copy of Invoices together with proof of payment of the eligible costs;
- In case of leased equipment, provide a copy of the lease agreement.

This call is being extended to Friday 8th May, 2020.

6. Approval

Once the application is approved, the Corporation shall issue a letter of approval indicating the value of aid awarded. The undertaking will have to provide and install the approved equipment at the teleworker's residence within two (2) weeks from the approval letter.

The beneficiary shall submit a monthly report on the teleworking activity of the employee for the three (3) months following the approval.

7. Revocation of Aid

The Corporation shall reserve the right to revoke, suspend or recover any aid awarded in line with Section 7 of the Incentive Guidelines of the Business Development and Continuity Scheme. In the coming twelve months, the Corporation shall have the right to conduct checks and request further documentation to ensure that the teleworking was affective and the hardware and software systems where actual installed.