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Factsheet for case **IE-2020-12/823**

Banks introduce measures to cushion effects of COVID-19

Factsheet generated on 08 May 2020, 07:49

Country	Ireland, applies nationwide
Time period	Temporary, started on 18 March 2020
Type	Company practice
Category	Supporting businesses to stay afloat – Access to finance
Case created	06 May 2020 (updated 07 May 2020)

Background information

A well functioning banking system is key when it comes to bringing the economy back on track in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. In Ireland, the Minister for Finance Paschal Donohoe therefore agreed with large banks in the country on a range of measures to be introduced. These include a payment break of up to 3 months, deferment of court proceedings and the provision of working capital with the aim that critical functions of the economy continue to operate.

Content of measure

The measures being introduced by the five main banks (AIB, Bank of Ireland, KBC, Permanent tsb and Ulster Bank) are as follows:

1. Implement a payment break: Businesses and personal customers affected by COVID-19 will receive a payment break of up to 3 months. After the 3 month period, periodic checks will be in place to see if the breaks need to be extended.
2. Simplified application process: Applications to bank products such as loans are to be simplified with the aim to reduce direct human contact whenever possible.
3. No adverse affects on customer's credit record: Applications for a COVID-19 payment break are not supposed to negatively affect the credit rating of an individual or business.

4. Banks will defer court proceedings for three months.

Use of measure

Currently no information available.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government Company / Companies	Other workers & citizens All companies	Companies

Social partners

Role of social partners	No involvement
Form of involvement	No involvement

Social partners are not involved in this measure.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 18 March 2020: Banks announce measures for customers and businesses impacted by Covid-19 (www.rte.ie)