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Factsheet for case MT-2020-12/276

Quarantine leave - Grants for employers

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|--------------|---|
| Country | Malta, applies nationwide |
| Time period | Open ended, started on 18 March 2020 |
| Type | Legislation or other statutory regulation |
| Category | Income protection beyond short-time work – Paid sick leave |
| Case created | 04 April 2020 (updated 01 May 2020) |

Background information

As part of the national policy to tackle COVID-19, individuals diagnosed with this disease, or individuals who had been in contact with individuals diagnosed with this disease were to quarantine themselves for two weeks. In response, the government provided employers with such employees a lump sum.

It is worth noting that this measure came a few days after the government updated the law by publishing the “Minimum Special Leave Entitlements (Amendment) Regulations, 2020”. These Regulations amend the “Minimum Special Leave Entitlement Regulations” (S.L.452.101): this introduced quarantine leave for all employees, which was to be granted without loss of wages, when the employees is legally obliged to quarantine on order by the Superintendent of Public Health.

Content of measure

Employers who have a member of staff (including themselves) on mandatory quarantine leave in line with the directives of the Superintendent of Public Health are entitled to a one-off lump sum of €350. The grant also applies when members of staff have to quarantine themselves as they may have contacted individuals at risk of infection e.g., those living in the same house or in the same workplace.

The measure only covers grants for full-time employees. Applications are to be made via an online form to the Malta Enterprise who may request further information and documentation to determine eligibility.

Use of measure

No estimates available

Actors, target groups and funding

| Actors | Target groups | Funding |
|---|----------------------------|----------------|
| National government Social insurance | Employees All companies | National funds |

Social partners

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Role of social partners | Consulted |
| Form of involvement | Bi-or tripartite social dialogue bodies |

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact upon business, and following consultation with social partners, the government initially announced a package of measures which included the deferral of taxes and financial support to incentivise telework. Following this announcement, employer associations publicly announced that these were insufficient and would not protect their businesses or jobs, stating the government instead needed to subsidise wages. These calls continued when on the 18th March, the government announced further measures including support for those who had lost their job, the disabled, and for employers to subsidise quarantine leave (this measure). On the 24th of March, the government announced a third package of measures which included support for wages and other measures previously announced. This third package of measures was announced by the government whilst flanked by union and employer association members. It was announced that this package was the result of tripartite consultation. Furthermore, following announcement of these further measures, employer associations announced their satisfaction with the package.

Sectors and occupations

This case is not sector-specific.

This case is not occupation-specific.

Sources

- 18 March 2020: Quarantine leave (covid19.maltaenterprise.com)