

Coronavirus – grant offered to those who need to self-isolate

Those who are asked to self-isolate and who are on low incomes may now apply for a new £500 grant provided by The Scottish Government.

The Self-Isolation Support Grant is intended to help those people who would lose their income if they had to stay at home in quarantine. In particular this is aimed at those who cannot work from home.

Applications for the new grant will open on 12 October and will be delivered by way of the Scottish Welfare Fund through local authorities.

Social Security Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said:“Self-isolation can be tough, but it is essential to protect people and reduce the spread of coronavirus. To ensure people do not experience financial hardship as a result of doing the right thing, we are introducing this new £500 grant for people on low incomes who have been told to self-isolate.

“We want to do everything we can to support people throughout this challenging time and these payments will help ensure people do not have to make a choice between self-isolating and supporting themselves financially.

“While we continue to press the UK Government for clarity around consequential funding for the support scheme they recently announced, it is essential that we act swiftly so

that people who need support are able to access it. I am glad that the scheme has the support of local authorities and that we have a means of delivering it from next month.”

COSLA Community Wellbeing Spokesperson Councillor Kelly Parry said: “COSLA, on behalf of Scottish local government, welcomes this scheme. It will help ensure those who are affected and qualify are looked after and won’t need to go to work, which will help reduce the community spread of the virus.

“Councils have vast experience of providing local support of this type to communities and are the best placed to deliver this measure. We are keen to agree the details with the Scottish Government as soon as possible and look forward to getting much needed support to the people who need it.”