

RECORD OF SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONAL DECISION

Record of decision taken

To approve the Discretionary Track and Trace Isolation Payment Scheme.

Name of Officer	Natalie Brahma-Pearl
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Job Title of Officer	Chief Executive
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Signature	
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Date decision was taken	8 October 2020
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Record of the reasons for the decision

As an authority we want to ensure that financial hardship does not prevent people within our community, who may not be in receipt of benefit, from self-isolating when they have been told to by the track and trace service as a result of testing positive or being a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus.

We have designed a scheme that will allow us to make payments (funds permitting) to those who will suffer financial hardship as a result of self-isolating.

Applicants will still have to meet the other conditions of the main scheme including having a track and trace number, being employed, being unable to work from home and losing income as a result of being told to self-isolate.

We will take a number of things in to consideration and will prioritise payments to

- those with little or no savings,
- who work in a sector where they will have a lot of social interaction such as hospitality or food preparation,
- those with children,
- large amount of debt and outgoings such as child maintenance,
- those who may fear for their jobs after returning from a long period of reduced income due to being furloughed and
- those with no recourse to public funds who cannot make an application for any benefit.

Our experienced benefit staff who make discretionary awards on a daily basis will be used to assess the discretionary applications and award where appropriate under the guidelines of the scheme.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision

Refusal of the proposed scheme – rejected – those on a low income would suffer financial hardship due to being told to self-isolate. The Government has provided Crawley Borough Council with £29,450 to finance the scheme.

Background documents

Discretionary Track and Trace Isolation Payment Scheme Policy