

Written evidence submitted by Geoffrey Kitching

Background

I am a retired teacher with a pension of around £1000 per month to support myself and my wife (who has no income). Neither of us can yet claim the state pension. I currently have a three month contract with a supermarket, 10 hours a week, which finishes at the end of May. In the past three seasons I have worked in the tourist industry but that is probably not going to happen this year.

Evidence

I also have a small self-employed business of repairing violins, called Anglesey Violins. This brings in around £300 per month on average. It is this which is the subject of the evidence. **The government SEISS scheme is not available unless the business provides at least half the household income.** I don't understand the reason for this restriction. In my case the extra £300 per month which I make from my violin business represents the difference between 'getting by' and getting further into debt.

Once my employment contract with the supermarket ends it is unlikely to be extended so I cannot see how I can make up my income. (The violin business being dead at the moment.)

I am currently paying income tax and NI, much of which will be going to provide support for furloughed workers and businesses. I am in at least as much need as those recipients, yet excluded from applying for a small grant for what appears to be an arbitrary reason. I would ask the government to reconsider this limitation to the SEISS scheme.

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