

EIC0600

Written evidence submitted by Richard Leigh

I am writing to you today as a final plea for help to the self-employed workers who have fallen through the cracks.

I am a 32-year-old father of 2, my children are aged 3 and 6 months old. Last April I took the plunge to be self employed as a recruitment consultant, by the end of the financial year I had made 37k and life was good. My wife is on maternity leave, so I was already under pressure as a father to support my family.

When covid-19 struck I desperately awaited news as to the support scheme, I had paid taxes all my life and had already submitted my tax returns for the year 19/20. Seemingly as the weeks passed and no announcement came for the people self employed less than a year my situation has become more dire. It seems now I am completely forgotten about, but I saw a glimmer of hope with your report today highlighting people like me.

I need to pay nearly 7k tax in January and I have already gone 4k into this despite being now on Universal credit.

Any progress on this would make the world of difference so I am rooting for you.

June 2020