New employees who miss deadline left with no furlough income again

Operators wary of lockdowns after Christmas as Job Retention Scheme payouts postponed and job losses hit half a million since January

By Seamus Widdowson and Janet Harpke

Concerns have been raised around the extension to the furlough scheme, including for those who have recently changed jobs and have once again been left stranded with no income.

Employers who changed jobs during October and were not included in the new company's PAYE Real Time Information (RTI) returns with their PAYE contributions for the entirety of the month will not be able to access the government's extended furlough. Some missed out by a matter of hours.

Chantelle Nicholson, chief executive of the UK Hospitality Industry, said she was notified of the furlough scheme with just three days left to the start of the lockdown.

"It is hugely disappointing and terrible for the staff involved," she added.

"It was a shock to learn that staff who had just joined us on 31 October wouldn't be able to access furlough, especially as they had started work just a week before.

The furlough scheme was one of the only things that had helped the hospitality industry during the pandemic, she said.

"It is concerning that the government has taken this approach, given the impact that the pandemic has had on the sector. This decision will have a significant impact on the viability of many businesses."