



FITNESS INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK ON THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) | SELF EMPLOYMENT INCOME SUPPORT SCHEME SURVEY |

This survey was conducted in April 2020 in response to the governments Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, implemented during the current coronavirus pandemic.

The survey consisted of 17 questions, with the objective of gaining an understanding and insight into fitness instructor's initial feelings and thoughts to the self-employment income support scheme. Information was collected from survey monkey and social media channels.

Out of the **540 respondents**:



64% were group exercise instructors



36% were personal trainers



For the majority, teaching fitness was their main source of income

Nearly **half** were planning on making a claim via the scheme, with a **quarter** still unsure.

It was also clear from the results that **half** of the respondents were unsure as to whether they were eligible for the scheme. The main areas of confusion around eligibility are;

- 1 their group exercise instructor income being less than half of their total income
- 2 being short on tax returns as they are new to instructing
- 3 have significantly increased their income from instructing over the last 6 months
- 4 being set up as a limited company or company director – even if they are a company of one
- 5 Some respondents told us that they have since found alternative work, therefore feared this would have an impact upon their eligibility to claim

It was evident that instructors require further support and guidance on how to access the scheme, with **55%** reporting they were still unclear on the process. Most respondents offered a neutral response when asked about their satisfaction levels of the scheme, demonstrating the uncertainty and confusion that still surrounds the scheme within the fitness industry.

Aside from uncertainty, there is a real sense of worry amongst group exercise instructors. With payments for the scheme due to be made in a lump sum at the beginning of June 2020, instructors have raised concerns over financial security, reporting that this will have a significant impact up on them maintaining their day to day living costs.

In addition to the self-employment income support scheme, there were concerns around continuing to support their clients and participants online, with previous subscriptions still being charged as well as further licencing and other costs being required to make the transition into the world of virtual classes. Respondents told us of their worries around phasing back into face to face classes after lockdown relaxes, suggesting additional support and guidance will be useful to enable them to get back up and running post covid-19.