

Pre-release information: 2021 Opera 3 Payroll Upgrade

This release includes the statutory payroll changes for the 2020-21 year-end and the new 2021-22 tax year.

Product versions

- Opera 3 (2.81.00) – All variants
- Pegasus Web Xchange (2.20.10)

There is no upgrade to Online Filing Manager this year. Users should continue to use Online Filing Manager (4.01.00) to send RTI submissions to HMRC.

Payroll changes

National Living Wage

The age threshold for the National Living Wage (NLW) will reduce from its current level of 25 years of age, to 23 from April 2021. Opera's NLW system table has therefore been updated for this age reduction. This age reduction has also been reflected in Opera's Payroll calculation and reporting functions.

Scottish Student Loans

Scotland will be raising their student loan earnings threshold to £25,000 from April 2021. This threshold will be for new and existing borrowers and the repayment period has also been reduced to 30 years, previously 35 years which will bring it in line with England and Wales. As a result of this increase, a new Scottish student loan plan, type 4 has been introduced.

P60 End of Year Returns

For the 2020-21 tax year, HMRC are no longer providing pre-printed P60 stationery. Therefore, the option to print to HMRC stationery has been removed. The report can now be printed to plain paper in either colour or monochrome format and uses the approved HMRC substitute P60 design.

The P60 design itself has been updated for the 2020-21 tax year and includes the new statutory Parental Bereavement Pay box and new text has also been added to the Certificate by Employer/Paying Office section.

Personnel - Benefits

The Fuel Type field in the Car and Car Fuel section in the Benefits form has been uplifted to display all the available fuel types for P11D benefits for the 2020/21 tax year. The options available include:

E | Not applicable

D | All other diesel cars

A | All other cars

F | Diesel cars meeting Euro standard 6d/RDE2

Real Time Information (RTI) – Full Payment Summary (FPS) & Employer Payment Summary (EPS) updates

Opera's RTI file formats has been updated to comply with HMRC specific 'tax year related fields' in the file format of the FPS and EPS XML files for the 2021/22 tax year.

Payroll – Job Retention Scheme Assistance Reports

Two new reports (Standard & Excel variants) have been added to this release to handle the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) from February 2021 to April 2021. Both reports are available from the Payroll, EOY/Special Reports – Advanced Pay/Ded List report.

Statutory rates, bands, etc.

It is anticipated that the release will include the usual adjustments to tax and NI bands/rates, statutory payment amounts, auto-enrolment thresholds, etc. At present we are still waiting for tax bands/rates and auto enrolment thresholds to be confirmed.

Non payroll changes

Pegasus Web Xchange (2.20.10)

PWX (2.20.10) is compliant with Opera 3 (2.81.00) and reflects all the payroll information for Payroll Self Service and Timesheet processing. In addition, the encryption algorithm which controls the communication between the Pegasus Web Xchange website and the Mobile Sales application has also been updated to enhance the security protection and protocols used within PWX. Therefore, users of Mobile Sales will need to upgrade to Mobile Sales (1.00.05) to take advantage of the enhanced security protection.

To download the latest version of the Mobile Sales application please visit

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.co.pegasus.mobilesales>