

Help for Businesses – COVID business support grants March 2020 to September 2020

Last updated 16.02.2021

In a response to the current coronavirus outbreak, the Government has announced new measures to support businesses. Further information regarding these measures, may be obtained at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employersandbusinesses-about-covid-19>

PLEASE NOTE:

We are currently receiving a high volume of calls and correspondence regarding these announcements. **As a result, response time to queries and other communications may be delayed whilst we identify qualifying accounts and install updates on our systems to apply reductions.**

The Covid Businesses Support Grant schemes available from March 2020 to September 2020 have now **CLOSED**. You will no longer be able to apply for the grants mentioned below. For further information on current grants available to businesses please contact your Local Authority direct.

- [Breckland Council](#)
- [East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)
- [East Suffolk Council](#)
- [Fenland District Council](#)
- [West Suffolk Council](#)

Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant (**now closed**)

A one-off grant of £25,000 will be provided to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses which occupy properties with a Rateable Value between 15,000 to 51,000.

Eligible businesses in these sectors with an occupied property that has a rateable value of up to £15,000 will receive a one-off grant of £10,000.

Small Business Grant (**now closed**)

A one-off grant of £10,000 grant will be provided to business who occupy small properties and are currently eligible for Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Relief. This grant should be used to help these businesses meet their ongoing business costs.

Please note that the Small Business Grants Fund, the Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grants Fund and the Discretionary Grants Fund will be closed on Friday 28th August 2020. If you think you are eligible but have not yet been in touch with your local Authority, please do so as soon as possible.

Qualifying criteria and exclusions to the grants:

- The ratepayer according to the billing authority's records liable for the qualifying property on 11.03.2020 will be entitled to the grant
- Only one grant will be awarded per property
- Properties occupied for personal uses such as private stables, loose horseboxes, beach huts, personal storage and mooring are excluded
- Car parks and parking spaces are also excluded

- Businesses which as of the 11.03.2020 were in liquidation or dissolved will not be eligible

Relief for Non-Local Authority Childcare providers – Nursery Discount

Due to the recent school closures, Central government have announced a business rates “holiday” for all non-local authority childcare providers for 20/21. How much relief - 100%

Qualifying criteria:

- Providers on Ofsted’s Early Years Register
- Wholly or mainly used for provision of the Early Years Foundation Stage

Local Authority will identify potential qualifying properties and apply any appropriate reduction.

Retail Relief

Central Government announced in March 2020 a business rates “holiday” for occupied retail, leisure and hospitality properties.

How will this work?

- 100% retail discount will be applied to all eligible properties
- 100% retail relief will be applicable for financial year 2020/21
- No Rateable Value limit on the relief
- Relief has been extended to include leisure and hospitality properties as well as retail properties.

Below is a list of properties that will benefit from this relief:

- Shops (such as: florists, bakers, butchers, grocers, greengrocers, jewellers, stationers, off licences, chemists, newsagents, hardware stores, supermarkets, ect) – Charity Shops
- Opticians
- Post Offices
- Furnishing shops / display rooms (such as: carpet shops, double glazing, garage doors)
- Car / caravan show rooms
- Second-hand car lots
- Markets
- Petrol stations
- Garden Centres
- Art Galleries (where art is for sale/hire)
- Hair and beauty services (such as: hairdressers, nail bars, beauty salons, tanning shops, ect)
- Shoe repairs/key cutting
- Travel Agents
- Ticket offices e.g. for theatre
- Dry cleaners
- Laundrettes
- PC / TV / domestic appliance repair
- Funeral directors
- Photo Processing
- Tool hire
- Car hire
- Restaurants
- Takeaways

- Sandwich shops
- Coffee shops
- Pubs
- Bars
- Cinemas
- Live music venues
- Sports grounds and Clubs
- Museums and art galleries
- Nightclubs
- Sports and leisure facilities
- Stately homes and historic houses

- Theatres
- Tourist attractions
- Gyms
- Public Halls – Clubhouses
- Hotels, Guests and Boarding Houses
- Holiday homes
- Caravan parks and sites