

COVID-19 Business support grants November 2020

(Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) and Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector))

Eligibility criteria

What grant funding is the Government offering?

1. The Government is offering grant support to businesses who are required to close under localised restrictions. Localised restrictions are legally binding restrictions imposed on specific local authority areas or multiple local authority areas, where the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care requires the closure of businesses in a local area under regulations made using powers in Part 2A of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 in response to the threat posed by coronavirus.
2. Between 00.01am on 5 November and 00.01am on 2 December 2020, the Government has imposed these localised restrictions on all areas of England.
3. Businesses on the ratings list in West Suffolk which are required to closed under localised restrictions are therefore now eligible for grant support.
4. The grant funding is distributed by the Council through the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed).

How much funding will be awarded?

5. Businesses forced to close that have premises with a rateable value of £15,000 or below on 5 November 2020 will receive a one-off grant of £1,334, subject to eligibility criteria.
6. Businesses forced to close that have premises with a rateable value of £15,001 to £50,099 on 5 November 2020 will receive a one-off grant of £2,000, subject to eligibility criteria.
7. Businesses forced to close that have premises with a rateable value of £51,000 or above on 5 November 2020 will receive a one-off grant of £3,000, subject to eligibility criteria.
8. Business who were forced to close in March 2020 and have not yet reopened (for example, nightclubs), will also receive an additional amount of funding for the period 1 November to 4 November 2020 under the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector). This will be a pro-rata amount, based on the rateable value of the premises.
9. Subject to EU State Aid limits, businesses are entitled to receive a grant for each eligible premises for which they are the ratepayer.

Which businesses are eligible?

10. The list of businesses that must close between 5 November and 2 December 2020 and are therefore eligible for grant support, providing other criteria are met, is available at: [GOV.UK National restrictions form 5 November - Businesses and venues which must close](#)
11. To be eligible for grant support, businesses on the above list must have been either:
 - open as usual in week commencing 2 November 2020 and providing in-person services to customers from the above premises before being required to close as a result of regulations made under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984or
 - required to close under national lockdown restrictions in March 2020 and not yet permitted to reopen.
12. If a business chooses to operate as a takeaway, click and collect or online with delivery services, it will be counted as closed because the substantive business has to close.

Which businesses are not eligible?

13. The following businesses are not eligible for grant assistance:
 - Businesses that are able to continue to trade because they do not depend on providing direct in-person services from premises and can operate their services effectively remotely.
 - Businesses that have chosen to close but not been required to.
 - Businesses which have already receive grant payments that equal the maximum levels of EU State Aid permitted under the De minimis and the COVID-19 Temporary State Aid Frameworks.
 - Businesses that were in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made.
14. If a business that is required to close by Government but continues to operate in-person services and successfully applies for a grant, the grant may be recovered, and the business referred for enforcement action under public health legislation.

Who are the grants payable to?

15. The person who according to the billing authority's records was the ratepayer in respect of the property on 5 November 2020.
16. Where a Council has reason to believe that the information held about the ratepayer on 5 November 2020 is inaccurate, the council may withhold or recover the grant and take reasonable steps to identify the correct ratepayer.

17. Any changes to the rating list (rateable value or to the hereditament) after 5 November 2020 will not be taken into account.

How does it work for properties where the landlord or management agent pays the business rates for more than one business in the property?

18. Please contact your Local Council to discuss this further.