

Additional Restrictions Grant Omicron – FAQs

Why are personal care businesses not being supported?

Government announced further grants to support some businesses impacted by the Omicron Covid19 variant on 21 December, this included an additional sum of Additional Restriction Grant (ARG). As Government has recognised through the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) the businesses most impacted by the variant are predominantly within the hospitality, accommodation and leisure sectors, however it is recognised that some of these businesses will not be eligible for the main OHLG.

It has therefore been decided by the County Council that the limited level of ARG received in January 2022 will be focused on those businesses within hospitality, accommodation and leisure sectors which can demonstrate they have been severely impacted, as well as businesses that supply directly to the hospitality, accommodation and leisure sectors, who have been impacted, but which are ineligible for OHLG. ARG is a discretionary grant for Local Authorities to determine their own support schemes, and the limited level of funding received unfortunately means not all businesses or sectors in the economy can be supported. As with previous schemes the County Council will continue to monitor the take up of the grant and review criteria for future grants if funds remain.

Why are non-rated self-catering holiday lets not included?

Due to the limited funds available the grant scheme is not able to support all businesses and sectors in the economy, and this includes 'home based' businesses, which self-catering holiday lets not registered as a business and therefore not paying business rates are classed as. For the purposes of this grant, accommodation providers are businesses whose main lodging provision is used for holiday, travel and other purposes and where in-person service is provided.

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Helpful definitions

**** RV Proxy** means the annual payment under a premises' lease, license or other formal rental agreement, or commercial mortgage for those who own their own premises.

Directly Supplying means providing services for which an invoice would be issued to the business being supplied.

Home based – ‘home based’ businesses are not eligible for this fund and eligibility requires the demonstration of fixed non-residential property costs of at least £200 per month (with the exception of registered B&Bs).

Public-facing means a business that primarily interacts directly with public customers / consumers on its premises.

Severely impacted means a negative financial impact to the net income of a business.

Hospitality means a business whose main function is to provide a venue for the consumption and sale of food and drink

Leisure is a business that provides opportunities, experiences and facilities, in particular for culture, recreation, entertainment, celebratory events, days and nights out, betting and gaming

Accommodation, for the purposes of this grant, is a business whose main lodging provision is used for holiday, travel and other purposes and where in-person service is provided. Self-catering holiday lets that are not in the business rates system are not eligible for this grant.

Registered bed and breakfast refers to businesses providing Bed & Breakfast accommodation (accommodation in rooms which are serviced daily and offer the option of breakfast cooked by the proprietor) that are registered with Northumberland County Council food hygiene rating scheme as a food business and are registered with organisations such as Northumberland Tourism, Visit Northumberland or Visit England.

Trading - business is considered to be trading if it is engaged in business activity. This should be interpreted as carrying on a trade or profession, or buying and selling goods or services in order to generate turnover, for example managing accounts, preparing for reopening, planning and implementing COVID safe measures, or trading online.