



## **Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant - Guidance for Applicants**

On 21 December 2021, the Government announced the introduction of grant support for hospitality and leisure businesses in England. The scheme provides support to hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses, in recognition that the rise of the Omicron variant means that some businesses are likely to be adversely impacted

The support will take the form of a one-off grant funding scheme. The funding is for the Financial Year 2021-2022.

The scheme is called the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant and will be administered by the Council in line with Government guidance.

### **Scope of the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant**

The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant is aimed at hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses in the business rates system.

### **Which businesses this scheme will support**

The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant will support hospitality, leisure and accommodation business premises in the business rates system with one-off grants.

For the purposes of this scheme:

- **Hospitality business** can be defined as a business whose main function is to provide a venue for the consumption and sale of food and drink.
- **Leisure business** can be defined as a business that provides opportunities, experiences and facilities, in particular for culture, recreation, entertainment, celebratory events and days and nights out.
- **Accommodation business** can be defined as a business whose main lodging provision is used for holiday, travel or other purposes.

## **Level of grants available**

The level of funding will be a one-off grant payment and will be calculated based on the rateable value of the qualifying business property as follows:

- For properties with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under, on 30 December 2021, payments of £2,667.00
- For properties with a rateable value over £15,000 and below £51,000, on 30 December 2021, payments of £4,000.00
- For properties with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 and over, on 30 December 2021, grants of £6,000.00

Businesses can make an application for each property with a rateable value that they operate from within Northumberland. Each property requires a separate application and supporting information.

Any changes to the Rating List after 30 December 2021 should be ignored for the purposes of eligibility.

## **Eligibility criteria**

- Businesses must have a qualifying property within Northumberland with a rateable value on 30 December 2021.
- Businesses must have been trading on 30 December 2021 to be eligible to receive funding under this scheme.
- Businesses will only be eligible where their main service falls within hospitality, leisure or accommodation. If a business operates services that could be considered hospitality or leisure, and also fall into another category, the main service can be determined by assessing which category constitutes 50% or more of their overall income.
- Businesses that are in administration, are insolvent, or, where a striking-off notice has been made are not eligible for funding under this scheme.
- Businesses that, were they to receive grant payments under this scheme, breach subsidy control rules are not eligible for funding under this scheme.
- The primary principle of the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme is to support businesses that offer in-person services, where the main service and activity takes place in a fixed rate-paying premises, in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors.
- Annex A (below) gives a list of businesses that fall into scope for hospitality, leisure and accommodation. This list is indicative of the types of businesses, but is not exhaustive. It also includes some excluded business types from this scheme.
- Businesses that are not within the rating system will not be eligible to receive funding under this scheme.

## **How to apply for the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant**

An online application process is available at [northumberland.gov.uk](http://northumberland.gov.uk)

The form prompts applicants for confirmation of certain information and the applicant must make a subsidy control declaration. Bank statements covering 30 December 2021 are required to prove that the applicant was trading on that date.

Applications must be made by 18 March 2022. Final decisions on applications will be made by 31 March 2022. All payments will also be made by 31 March 2022.

Queries regarding this scheme can be addressed to the County Council at the following dedicated email address: [covidgrants@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:covidgrants@northumberland.gov.uk)

### **Appeals**

Applicants whose applications are rejected may request a review. The review will be carried out by an officer who was not involved in the original decision. The decision of the review is final. Details about how to request a review will be provided to every applicant whose application is rejected.

### **Assurance**

The Council will carry out company and bank account checks to ensure applications are in line with the scheme eligibility

### **Managing the risk of fraud**

Neither the Government nor Northumberland County Council will accept deliberate manipulation and fraud - and any business caught falsifying their records to gain grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error.

It is important that applicants ensure that they provide accurate bank details for grant payments and that these relate to the business concerned.

### **Will these grant schemes be subject to tax?**

Grant income received by a business is taxable. The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant will need to be included as income in the tax return of the business. Only businesses that make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.

## Annex A - Business categorisations for the purposes of grant funding thresholds

The threshold definitions for the purposes of this scheme are as follows:

- **Hospitality definition:** a business whose main function is to provide a venue for the consumption and sale of food and drink
- **Leisure definition:** a business that provides opportunities, experiences and facilities, in particular for culture, recreation, entertainment, celebratory events, days and nights out, betting and gaming
- **Accommodation definition:** a business whose main lodging provision is used for holiday, travel and other purposes.

This table sets out types of businesses that are eligible under the sector thresholds for this scheme. This list is not exhaustive, but indicative of the types of businesses that can be supported under this scheme.

Support type	Types of businesses
Hospitality*	Food courts Public houses/pub restaurants Restaurants Roadside restaurants Wine bars Cafés
Leisure**	Casinos and gambling clubs Cinemas Museums and art galleries Stately homes & historic houses Theatres Zoos & safari parks Amusement parks Wedding venues Events venues Night clubs & discotheques Arenas Concert halls Tourist attractions Theme parks Amusement arcades Soft play centres or areas Indoor riding centres Clubs & institutions Village halls & scout huts, cadet huts
Accommodation***	Caravan parks Caravan sites and pitches Chalet parks Coaching inns Country house hotels Guest houses Hostels Hotels Lodge Holiday apartments, Cottages or bungalows

	Campsites Boarding houses Canal boats or other vessels B&Bs Catered holiday homes Holiday home
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\* The definition of a hospitality business **excludes** food kiosks and businesses whose main service (generating 50% or more of income) is a takeaway.

\*\* The definition of a leisure business **excludes**: all retail businesses, coach tour operators, tour operators, and gyms and sports businesses where physical exercise or training is conducted on an individual basis or group basis.

\*\*\* The definition of an accommodation business **excludes** private dwellings, education accommodation, residential homes, care homes, residential family centres and beach huts.