



Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment - Guidance for Applicants

In response to the impact of local restrictions on footfall and business demand, the Government has announced as part of its business support package for January Lockdown a one-off Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment.

This scheme will be in addition to the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum 5 January scheme.

Scope of the Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment

The one-off Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment is for businesses that have been required to close from 5 January 2021 due to national restrictions. The funding is not retrospective.

Which businesses this scheme will support

The Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment will support businesses that have been mandated to close by Government and include:

- Non-essential retail
- Leisure
- Personal care
- Sports facilities
- Hospitality

A full list can be found on the Government website [here](#).

Level of grants available

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

- For properties with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under, grants of £4,000.00

- For properties with a rateable value over £15,000 and below £51,000, grants of £6,000.00
- For properties with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 and over, grants of £9,000.00

Businesses can make an application for each property with a rateable value that they operate from within Northumberland. Each property requires a separate application. Some businesses may, therefore, receive more than one grant payment. A successful application for one property does not guarantee the same business a successful application for any additional properties if they do not meet the eligibility criteria. State Aid rules will apply to single and multiple applications.

Eligibility criteria

- Businesses must have a property within Northumberland with a qualifying rateable value.
- Businesses must have been mandated to close by Government and eligibility for a payment is the same as for the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum 5 January scheme.
- Businesses that were 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 State Aid rules are not eligible for funding under this scheme.
- Businesses that have chosen to close but not been required to will not be eligible for this scheme;

How to apply for the Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment

Businesses who qualify for this scheme are those who were successful applicants under the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum 5 January scheme.

In order to reduce the administrative burden an email will be sent to those successful businesses with a link to a shortened electronic form for completion.

The form prompts applicants for confirmation of certain information including a demonstration of a loss of income related to COVID-19. The applicant must make a declaration. Applications must be made by 31 March 2021 and final payments will be made by 30 April 2021 when the scheme will close.

Queries regarding this scheme can be addressed to the County Council at the following dedicated email address: 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.

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 Closed Businesses Support 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.