



Northumberland County Council

Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum Guidance for Applicants

In response to the closure of businesses due to national restrictions, the Government has announced a new grant for businesses, the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB) (Closed) Addendum.

Scope of the LRSB (Closed) Addendum

The LRSB (Closed) Addendum is aimed at businesses that have been legally required to close due to national coronavirus restrictions. National restrictions will supersede any local restrictions; LRSB (Closed) Addendum will supersede the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) and the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open).

If Northumberland were to move out of national restrictions, then the LRSB (Closed) Addendum will no longer apply. Depending on local restrictions, the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) or Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) could apply to some businesses.

Which businesses will this scheme support?

The LRSB (Closed) Addendum will support any businesses that have been legally required to close under national restrictions. This will provisionally last between 5th November and 2nd December 2020.

Businesses legally required to close include non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality businesses. [You can see a full list on the Government's website here.](#)

Level of grants available

Under national restrictions, the level of grant funding available to a business through the LRSB (Closed) Addendum will be calculated based on that business' rateable value.

Under LRS (Closed) Addendum, which currently applies in Northumberland, the following tiered system will be used:

- Businesses with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under will receive a payment of £1,334 per 28-day qualifying restriction period.
- Businesses with a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000 will receive a payment of £2,000 per 28-day qualifying restriction period.
- Businesses with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or over will receive a payment of £3,000 per 28-day qualifying restriction period.

Businesses can submit 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. State Aid rules will apply to single and multiple applications.

Eligibility criteria

1. Businesses must have a property with a rateable value, where the business is the ratepayer, within Northumberland.
2. Businesses must have been legally required to close, due to national restrictions.
3. Businesses must have been open for trading on 4th November 2020, unless the business was closed as part of normal weekly trading arrangements.
4. If a business chooses to operate as a takeaway, click and collect or online with delivery services they will be counted as closed if their substantive or main business has had to close.
5. Businesses that were in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made are not eligible for funding under this scheme.
6. Businesses that, were they to receive grant payments under this scheme, breach State Aid rules are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

How to apply for the COVID-19 LRS (Closed) Addendum

This grant funding scheme must be applied for by means of an online application form, available on Northumberland County Council's website, which can be accessed at www.northumberland.gov.uk/businesshub.

The online form guides businesses through the application process and prompts applicants for the information required, as well any supporting documents needed (see 'Evidence to support applications' below).

Queries regarding this scheme can be addressed to the County Council at the following dedicated website address: covidgrants@northumberland.gov.uk

Evidence to support applications

Businesses are required to submit the following evidence to support their application:

- Your business' name and address
- Your business rates reference number
- The business ratepayer's email address
- The value of your turnover in the last year and your last balance sheet total
- How many employees you have; and
- Your business bank account details and a copy of your business bank account statement.

Timescale for applications

Applications for the LRSG (Closed) Addendum will open in November 2020 and it will be a rolling fund for as long as restrictions apply. Northumberland County Council will communicate via its website any future deadlines for applications.

Appeals

There is no appeal process.

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.