



Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) Version 2 - Guidance for Applicants

In response to the impact of local restrictions on footfall and business demand, the Government has announced a new grant for businesses, the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) Version 2.

This scheme will provide additional financial support to businesses that have remained open but have been severely impacted by local restrictions by Tier 2 and Tier 3 restrictions.

The scheme takes effect from 2 December 2020. Funding will be provided based upon 14-day eligibility cycles.

Scope of the LRSO (Open)

The Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) Version 2 is aimed at certain business types that have remained open, but which are severely impacted by restrictions in areas where Tier 2 and Tier 3 restrictions apply. This grant is aimed at businesses in the hospitality, hotel, bed and breakfast and leisure sectors.

Which businesses this scheme will support

The LRSO (Open) will support businesses that remain open but are severely impacted by restrictions and will be focused on businesses within:

- Hospitality
- Accommodation
- Leisure

This grant scheme will be aimed at businesses that have experienced a significant reduction in income or loss of demand as a direct result of local restrictions being in place. Appendix 1 below contains more details on the types of qualifying businesses.

Level of grants available

The level of grant funding available to a business will be calculated based on the

rateable value of the qualifying business property. The level of grant available for the period 2 December 2020 onwards are as follows:

- For properties with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under, grants of £467.00 per 14-day period
- For properties with a rateable value over £15,000 and below £51,000, grants of £700.00 per 14-day period
- For properties with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 and over, grants of £1,050.00 per 14-day period

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 be within one of the following three sectors: hospitality; accommodation; leisure. See Appendix 1 (below) for further details
- Businesses must be open for the duration of the 14-day payment cycle.
- Businesses must be able to demonstrate that they have been severely impacted by Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions.
- 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.

The Council reserves the right to vary the terms of the scheme at any time, and without notice, should it be necessary to do so.

How to apply for the COVID-19 LRSG (Open) Version 2

Businesses who qualify for this scheme are those who were successful applicants under the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) scheme that covered the period 18 September to 4 November. 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 also make a declaration.

The Council may write to ask for additional supporting documentation where necessary.

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

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 Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) Version 2 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.

Appeal

Applicants whose application is 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.

Appendix 1

The Council considers Hospitality, Accommodation and Leisure businesses to mean the following rating list properties:

Hospitality

Public Houses
Bars
Restaurants
Pub Restaurants
Wine bars
Social Clubs
Cafes

Accommodation

Bed and Breakfast accommodation
Hotels
Caravan Parks
Chalet Parks
Guest & Boarding Houses
Hostels

Leisure

Bingo Halls
Bowling Alleys
Casinos and Gambling Clubs
Cinemas
Clubhouses
Clubs & Institutions
Ice Rinks
Museums and Art Galleries
Roller Skating Rinks
Stately Homes & Historic Houses
Theatres
Zoos & Safari Parks
Amusement parks
Arenas
Concert Halls

Go Kart rinks
Model villages
Tourist attractions
Aquaria
Miniature railways
Theme parks
Village Halls
Scout Huts/Cadet Huts
Amusement arcades
Pleasure Piers
Pavilions
Conference and Exhibition Centres
Heritage Railways
Public Halls

This list is not exhaustive and may be subject to change