



Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) 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).

This is to provide additional financial support to businesses that have remained open but have been severely impacted by local restrictions, reductions in demand or income, as a result of coronavirus restrictions.

Scope of the LRSG (Open)

The LRSG (Open) is aimed at businesses that have remained open, but which are severely impacted by restrictions in High Local COVID Alert Level (LCAL 2) and Very High Local COVID Alert Level (LCAL 3) situations. This grant is aimed at businesses in the hospitality, hotel, bed and breakfast and leisure sectors.

Businesses can apply for grant payments to retrospectively cover any period that their business remained open and was impacted by restrictions in LCAL 2 or LCAL 3 situations. In Northumberland, this means businesses can apply for grant payments dating back to the 18 September 2020 and ending in this phase on 4 November 2020 as the scheme was superseded by the LRSG Closed (Addendum) Scheme with effect from 5 November 2020.

Which businesses this scheme will support

The LRSG (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 18 September 2020 to 4 November 2020 is as follows:

- For properties with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under, grants of £1,634.50
- For properties with a rateable value over £15,000 and below £51,000, grants of £2,450.00
- For properties with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 and over, grants of £3,675.00

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 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 7-week payment cycle.
- Businesses must be able to demonstrate that they have been severely impacted by LCAL 2 or LCAL 3 restrictions.
- Only businesses established prior to the introduction of LCAL 2-type restrictions, 18 September in Northumberland, are eligible. Businesses established after 18 September will not be eligible for this grant.
- 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)

This grant funding scheme must be applied for by way of an online application form, available on Northumberland County Council's website, which can be accessed via the Council's website

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).

All applicants will be required to demonstrate loss of income related to COVID-19 as part of the application process. The applicant must make a declaration regarding this. 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

Evidence to support applications

Businesses are required to submit evidence to support their application:

- The address and rateable value of the property from which they operate.
- A bank statement to confirm the details of the business bank account the grant is requested to be paid into.
- A declaration that the business has been severely impacted by local restrictions and complies with state aid requirements.

Northumberland County Council may require additional evidence to the above.

Timescale for applications

Applications for the LRSG (Open) will open from 23 November 2020. 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.

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