



Northumberland County Council

Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector) Guidance for Applicants

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

Scope of the LRSG (Sector)

The LRSG (Sector) is aimed at specific businesses that have been required to close due to national restrictions imposed on 23 March 2020, and which have not been able to re-open as a result of regulations made under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984.

The LRSG (Sector) will cease to apply from 5 November, as relevant businesses will receive funding from the LRSG (Closed) or LRSG (Closed) Addendum schemes.

Which businesses will this scheme support?

The LRSG (Sector) will support specific types of businesses that have been required to close due to national restrictions imposed on 23 March 2020, and which have not been able to re-open as a result of regulations made under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984.

Eligible businesses are:

- a. Nightclubs, dance halls, and discotheques.
- b. Sexual entertainment venues and hostess bars.

Businesses in these categories will not be eligible for a grant if they have re-purposed their business and as a result been able to open, for example changing their business from a nightclub to a bar. If you have re-purposed the business, you may be eligible for support under the LRSG (Open) and / or LRSG (Closed) Scheme.

Level of grants available

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

Payments will be made for the 4-day period of closure from 1 November 2020 to 4th November inclusive, and will not be backdated.

Under LRSG (Sector), the following tiered system will be used:

- Businesses with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under will receive a payment of £191.00 for the 4-day qualifying period.
- Businesses with a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000 will receive a payment of £286.00 for the 4-day qualifying period.
- Businesses with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or over will receive a payment of £429.00 for the 4-day qualifying 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 23 March 2020, unless the business was closed as part of normal weekly trading arrangements and have remained closed continuously since 24 March 2020.
4. Businesses that were in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made are not eligible for funding under this scheme.
5. 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 LRSG (Sector)

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
- 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 (Sector) will open on 4 December 2020. Northumberland County Council will communicate via its website any future deadlines for applications.

Appeals

There is no appeal process, however Northumberland County Council will allow a review of the original decision on request.

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.