

LATEST GOVERNMENT BUSINESS GRANTS

Last updated: 12.00 noon Friday 15th January 2021

This is our third version of this document since the 2nd January 2021 !

Set out below are some basic facts which we hope will act as a guide for businesses being able to claim those grants which central government have made available in order to try and ensure the maximum number of businesses survive, in economic terms, the current pandemic. **Unlike the original (April 2020) scheme the property related grants are only available we believe for “hospitality and non-essential retail” businesses. Some grants are also available for businesses with no property base.**

The links below are not listed in any order of importance, as one grant may favour one type of business whilst a second grant may assist another. All these grants are being administered by your local council. You will need to apply to your council, although some local authorities are approaching their local businesses on a proactive basis, only seeking e-mail confirmation that they believe they are eligible, before making bank transfers. Please be patient with your council officers as they are under pressure, however we do recommend that you make contact with your council and register your interest by Friday 22nd January. Most council will understandably pay-out on a first-come-first-served basis.

All constructive comments will be appreciated and should be sent to reception@centre-p.co.uk. We will update as regularly as necessary!

National lock-down guidance notes. Before looking at the grants, this link published 6th January 2021 sets out information covering the national lock-down which you may find helpful. It includes information on those businesses that must close. Please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

It may also be helpful to consider the information provided in the government’s publication dated Friday 8th January 2021. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summary-of-existing-economic-support/summary-of-existing-economic-support>

Grants commencing 5th January (for those Businesses based in a property with a Rateable Value). Business that have been required to close due to national restrictions imposed by government as of 5 January 2021 will be eligible for a one-off grant to cover a six week period from 5th January to mid-February 2021.

| | |
|---|--------|
| For premises with a rateable value of £15,000 and under - | £4,000 |
| For premises with a rateable value of £51,000 and under - | £6,000 |
| For premises with a rateable value over £51,000 - | £9,000 |

The Chancellor indicated that in addition to the above there would be further support for businesses and the latest guidance notes from the government have now confirmed that additional funding is being granted for the 42 day period commencing 5th January, and this is as follows.

| | |
|---|--------|
| For premises with a rateable value of £15,000 and under - | £2,001 |
| For premises with a rateable value of £51,000 and under - | £3,000 |
| For premises with a rateable value over £51,000 - | £4,500 |

The Guidance note sent-out to local councils (*dated 13th January*) from central government can be found here : https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/951799/business-support-package-january-2021-lockdown-la-guidance.pdf **Please note** it has an introduction followed by the basic details of the funding, three pages of guidance to councils on insuring funds are only given to eligible businesses, and then a summary set out in APPENDIX A . **We suggest you study Appendix A first, and then read the previous pages if interested.**

Most councils will by now have up-loaded guidance on their web-sites for local businesses. Here is an excellent example of a recently loaded guide by our local council CHERWELL, who have produced a form combining all recent schemes; It has been set out in date order with the latest one at the bottom of the listing; <https://www.cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk/xfp/form/484?council=cdc> . We would expect many councils to have similar documentation.

It covers all of the property based funding available which we have mentioned on this information page. We suggest you complete the form asap and allow the council time to process your details.

Grants available November to early December 2020. We appreciate that some businesses who were forced to close during the national lock-down in November may not yet appreciate that they may have been eligible for a grant for that period. Here is a link to the Guidance Note provided by central government to all local authorities. We have no reason to believe this grant is still not available to businesses:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/935131/local-restrictions-support-grant-CLOSED-ADDENDUM-la-guidance.pdf

Grants available from 2nd December 2020 until the national lock-down on 5th January 2021. Certain businesses were offered grants to assist even after the November "lock-down" finished on 2nd December and we recommend all businesses look on either the government web-site or their local council web site to seek guidance on these grants. Here is one link that may give some guidance. It was sent by central government to all local councils. Some councils have up-loaded this information, some have not.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946373/local-restrictions-support-grant-OPEN-2-dec-onwards-la-guidance.pdf:

It includes this recommendation:

"Local Authorities have the freedom to determine the precise eligibility criteria for these grants. However, Government would expect the funding to be targeted at hospitality, hotel, bed & breakfast and leisure businesses"

and it goes on to state:

"The Government has announced the following funding tiers as a guide for Local Authorities. We would anticipate that Local Authorities provide grant funding under the following tiers, unless there is a local economic need to deviate:

7 a. Grants of up to £467 per 14-day period for businesses occupying hereditaments with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under on the date of the commencement of the local restrictions.

b. Grants of up to £700 per 14-day period for businesses occupying hereditaments with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on the date of the commencement of the local restrictions.

c. Grants of up to £1,050 per 14-day period for businesses occupying hereditaments with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or above on the date of the commencement of the local restrictions."

Additional grants. There are a variety of other grants available including those for pubs, the self-employed, those with businesses that are property based but have no rateable values such as market-stall holders. In all cases your local council's web-site should provide information. If in doubt we always recommend clients view a second or even third local council web-site (elsewhere in the country) to obtain clarification as understandably not all local councils have been able to update their web-sites in the limited time that has been given to them by central government.

For on-going details of all the financial support available to businesses from central government please click <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

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