

OUTLOOK February 2022

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This month's issue of our newsletter is intended to bring to your immediate attention the recently announced grants available to many businesses effected since 1st December 2021 by the economic effects of the Omicron Virus. We have set out on page 2 some detailed information which we hope will be of assistance. Please forward this OUTLOOK to colleagues and friends.

We continue to be busy with our agency work and the market, particularly for industrial premises, remains very strong. We have completed the letting of a 3,000 sq ft unit in Fenny Compton, whilst a retail unit in a prime location in Chipping Norton has also generated excellent interest and solicitors have now been instructed.

Please keep in touch. Visitors are always welcome to join us in the coffee shop adjacent to our office. IAN B. SLOAN FRICS



Above is a montage of some of the properties we are currently marketing. For full details please see www.centre-p.co.uk/availableproperties.htm

If you are reading this issue of OUTLOOK in print format, we recommend that you visit our website at www.centre-p.co.uk/OUTLOOK_February_2022.pdf in order to benefit from the many links included. Should you wish to be added to our database, please email reception@centre-p.co.uk writing YES PLEASE in the subject box. To see previous issues of our newsletter please visit www.centre-p.co.uk/LATESTNEWS.htm

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LATEST COVID GRANT

On 21st January 2022 the government published their latest **guidance to Local Authorities** relating to support grants for local businesses, mainly intended to support those businesses not receiving the previously announced Hospitality and Retail Support grant. The link to the new guidance is here (**but please don't read it yet!**)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1048759/additional-restrictions-grant-la-guidance.pdf

Since this was updated 9 days ago, all local authorities, we believe, should have up-dated their web-sites promoting this new scheme, which is nothing like as generous as the April 2020 scheme but we think is still worth you considering / claiming **if you are eligible**. This scheme relates only to issues effecting businesses since December 2021.

Clause 28 of the government's publication (link above) is the section that is a starting point for all our friends and clients. It reads (**our highlights!**)

28. Local Authorities are encouraged to support businesses from *all sectors that may have been severely impacted by restrictions, or by the Omicron variant, including those outside of the business rates system*. These may include, but are not limited to: hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care, the travel and tourism sector, including group travel, travel agents and tour operators, coach operators, wedding industries, nightclubs, theatres, events industries, wholesalers, English language schools, breweries, freelance and mobile businesses (including caterers, events, hair, beauty and wedding related businesses), gyms, and other businesses that may have not received other grant funding. There is no restriction on the number of grants a business may receive, subject to subsidy limits. (N.B. We have in the last few hours seen details of one council scheme **which is only supporting the business sectors in this list** and is not giving further support to those who have already received funding under the mandatory Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant. They are also not accepting applications from takeaway food businesses. This illustrates that each council has total discretion on how they formulate their own individual policies.

and goes on

29. Local Authorities are encouraged to focus their support on:
In allocating first top-up payment: businesses **from all sectors** that may have been severely impacted by restrictions but were not eligible for the LRSG and CBLP Grant schemes.

and clause 34 reads

34. Previous guidance for the Additional Restrictions Grant indicated that businesses must have been trading before relevant restrictions were introduced in order to be eligible. **This is no longer the case. All businesses that are trading and meet other eligibility criteria may apply to receive funding under this scheme. There is no starting date from which businesses must have been trading in order to qualify for grant funding.**

Now, we suggest you go to YOUR council's web site and try and find a link (post 20th January 2022) and also work out if you are eligible. Even £1,000 of free non-refundable grant is worth having.

If you think this has been helpful, as in the past, please feel free to donate a coffee and brownie for us (both) at Monkeybean Coffee shop <https://www.monkeybeancoffee.com/> **next to our office**. We really won't, however, have the time to make claims for you all. Check carefully the application deadline date; in some cases we've noticed it is as soon as 14th February. It may take you 20 minutes to complete your local authority's form, but that's all. Try to ensure you meet the conditions set by the government / your local authority. You won't wish to face a claim for fraud!

Do please keep remembering BANKIER SLOAN. Any acknowledgements will, as ever, be appreciated.

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