

Guidance and FAQs

National Lockdown Grant

National Lockdown Grant otherwise known as LRSG (Closed) Addendum scheme Grant

On 31 October 2020 the Government announced that there would be further funding to support businesses who are forced to close under the second national lockdown, which came into force on Thursday 5th November, will be entitled to a new grant up to £3,000 a month

Businesses that are eligible:

Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating (e.g. pay Business Rates) that were open as usual and providing in-person services to customers from their business premises and have been mandated to close by Government on 5th November 2020 for 28 days and include non-essential retail, leisure, personal care, sports facilities and hospitality businesses.

List of Businesses and Venues, which must close:

To reduce social contact, the regulations require some businesses to close and impose restrictions on how some businesses provide goods and services. These include:

- Non-essential retail, such as clothing and homeware stores, vehicle showrooms (other than for rental), betting shops, tailors, tobacco and vape shops, electronic goods and mobile phone shops, and market stalls selling non-essential goods. These venues can continue to be able to operate click-and-collect (where goods are pre-ordered and collected off the premises) and delivery services
- Hospitality venues such as cafes, restaurants, pubs, bars and social clubs; with the exception of providing food and drink for takeaway (before 10pm; and not including alcohol), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery
- Accommodation such as hotels, hostels, guesthouses and campsites. Except for specific circumstances, such as where these act as someone's main residence, where the person cannot return home, for homeless people, or where it is essential to stay there for work purposes
- Leisure and sports facilities such as leisure centres and gyms, swimming pools, tennis and basketball courts, golf courses, fitness and dance studios, climbing walls, archery, driving, and shooting ranges
- Entertainment venues such as theatres, concert halls, cinemas, museums and galleries, casinos, amusement arcades, bingo halls, bowling alleys, skating rinks, go-karting venues, soft play centres and areas, circuses, fairgrounds, funfairs, zoos and other animal attractions, water parks and theme parks. Indoor attractions at botanical gardens, heritage homes and landmarks must also close, though outdoor grounds of these premises can stay open
- Personal care facilities such as hair, beauty, tanning and nail salons. Tattoo parlours, spas, massage parlours, body and skin piercing services must also close. It is also prohibited to provide these services in other peoples' homes
- Community centres and halls must close except for a limited number of exempt activities as set out below Libraries can also remain open to provide access to IT and

digital services - for example for people who do not have it at home - and for click-and-collect

- Places of worship, apart from for the purposes of independent prayer, for funerals or funeral commemorative events, to broadcast an act of worship, to provide essential voluntary services or urgent public support services, for registered childcare, and to host permitted gatherings.

These businesses and places will be permitted to be open for a small number of exempt activities, including:

- education and training (for schools to use sports, leisure and community facilities where that is part of their normal provision)
- childcare purposes and supervised activities for children
- hosting blood donation sessions and food banks
- to provide medical treatment
- for elite sports persons to train and compete (in indoor and outdoor sports facilities), and professional dancers and choreographers to work (in fitness and dance studios)
- for training and rehearsal without an audience (in theatres and concert halls)
- for the purposes of professional film and TV filming

Businesses and venues, which can remain open:

Other businesses and venues are permitted to stay open, following COVID-19 Secure guidelines. This includes those providing essential goods, including:

- Essential retail such as food shops, supermarkets, pharmacies, garden centres, hardware stores, building merchants and off-licences.
- Petrol Stations, car repair and MOT services, bicycle shops, and taxi and vehicle hire businesses.
- Banks, building societies, post offices, short-term loan providers and money transfer businesses
- Funeral directors
- Laundrettes and dry cleaners
- Medical and dental services
- Vets and pet shops
- Agricultural supplies shops
- Storage and distribution facilities
- Car parks, public toilets and motorway service areas.
- Outdoor playgrounds

Public Services

The majority of public services will continue and you will be able to leave home to visit them. These include:

- the NHS and medical services like GPs and dentists. We are supporting the NHS to carry out urgent and non-urgent services safely, and it is vital anyone who thinks they need any kind of medical care comes forward and seeks help
- Jobcentre Plus sites
- Courts and probation services
- Civil Registrations Offices
- Passport and Visa Services
- Services provided to victims
- Waste or Recycling Centres

Grant Payment to eligible businesses

Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list the rate of payment for eligible businesses will be:

- For properties with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under, grants will be £1,334
- For properties with a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000, grants will be £2,000
- For properties with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or over, grants will be £3,000

A single grant payment to cover the 4-week period will be paid to each eligible business. Businesses with more than one qualifying property will receive more than one grant.

Exclusions to the funding

Businesses that are able to continue to trade because they do not depend on providing direct in-person services from premises and can effectively operate their services remotely.

Businesses that have chosen to close but not been required to will not be eligible for this grant.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Does a business have to be required to close to be eligible?

Yes. Please see the regulations for those businesses mandated to close:
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/1200/pdfs/ukxi_20201200_en.pdf

Is there a date when businesses need to have started trading by to receive the National Lockdown Grant?

The business must have been trading the day before restrictions came into force.

Which businesses are eligible for the National Lockdown Grant?

Those that were open as usual and offering direct, in-person services to customers from their business premises and have been mandated to close by Government on 5th November 2020 for 28 days will be eligible. This could include, for example, non-essential retail, personal services or cafes/restaurants that operate primarily as an in-person venue but have been forced to close these services and instead provide takeaway-only or delivery services.

Businesses that are able to continue to trade because they do not depend on providing direct in-person services from premises and can effectively operate their services remotely (e.g. accountants, solicitors) are not eligible. Businesses in areas outside the scope of the restrictions, as defined by Government, are also excluded.

Are these grants subject to tax?

Grant income received by a business is taxable, therefore the National Lockdown Grant will be subject to tax. Only businesses that make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax.

Are businesses that are adversely impacted by local restrictions eligible for support under the National Lockdown Grant e.g. event companies, supply chain businesses?

Businesses adversely impacted by local restrictions, but not mandated to close by Government will not receive funding under the National Lockdown Grant. However, those businesses may be eligible for support under the Additional Restrictions Grant.

Is there any limit on the number of different hereditaments a business can claim a grant for?

Businesses will be able to claim for any eligible hereditaments within the area established by national restrictions that were on the rating list on the first full day of national restrictions. However, businesses must remain within the financial thresholds set by State aid law, which may be reached if businesses have previously received State aid funding.

Are pubs that provide a takeaway service eligible for a grant under the National Lockdown Grant?

Yes, any business that is required to close the part of its business that provides its main service is eligible for a National Lockdown Grant. This is the case even if the business adapts its business model to provide a reduced service, such as takeaways. We understand that it is not always completely clear if a business has closed the part of its business that provides its main service, however it is expected Local Authorities to use their discretion and make this judgement based on their local knowledge.

What happens where there is more than one liable party per property? Do they get a grant each, or are they expected to share?

Each hereditament will only have one registered ratepayer. They will take receipt of the grant.

What about retailers who have businesses that have mixed premises and only part of the business is subject to national closures (e.g. locksmith/shoe repairs, restaurant/takeaway)?

The hereditament will be eligible to receive a grant through the National Lockdown Grant if the business is required to close its main service. Local Authorities will be required to exercise their discretion and judge whether this is the case based on their local knowledge.