

Covid 19 Business Grants

Grants linked to Non-Domestic Rates Lockdown 1

As part of the fiscal stimulus package to support businesses in Wales through the Covid-19 pandemic, Welsh Ministers introduced two non-repayable grants that were linked to non-domestic properties.

- ▶ Grant 1: A grant of £25,000 was available for businesses operating in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors occupying properties with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000
- ▶ Grant 2: A £10,000 grant was available to all businesses eligible for small business rates relief (SBRR) with a rateable value of £12,000 or less. Grant limited to a maximum of 2 per organisation.
- ▶ Grant scheme opened on the 20th March 2020 and closed on the 30th June 2020.
- ▶ 2,061 grants were paid for a total of £25.7M
- ▶ 2,036 businesses were paid £25.4M by the closing date of the 30th June 2020.
- ▶ Remaining 25 grants: 22 were paid in July, 2 were paid in August and 1 in October.

Non-Domestic Rates Relief 2020-21

Retail, Leisure & Hospitality Rates Relief

The Scheme aims to provide support for eligible occupied properties by offering a discount of 100% of the non-domestic rates bill.

- ▶ Scheme applies to eligible businesses operating in the retail, leisure and hospitality sector who have business premises with a rateable value of £500,000 or below.
- ▶ Properties eligible for relief include shops, pubs, restaurants, gyms, performance venues and hotels.
- ▶ The scheme is open to any qualifying business that has a rates liability for the 2020/21 financial year.
- ▶ 1,007 businesses in the retail, leisure and hospitality sector have received full rates relief amounting to £10.4M.

Grants linked to Non-Domestic Rates

Lockdown 2

The Welsh Government introduced a Lockdown Non-Domestic Grant to help businesses survive the economic consequences of the national firebreak lockdown in Wales.

- ❓ Grant 1: A grant of £5,000 is available for businesses operating in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors occupying properties with a RV of between £12,001 and £51,000 and were forced to close.
- ❓ Grant 2: A £1,000 grant was available to all businesses eligible for small business rates relief (SBRR) with a rateable value of £12,000 or less. Grant limited to a maximum of 2 per organisation.
- ❓ Top up Grant 1: A grant of £1,000 available to businesses eligible for SBRR that were subject to local restrictions who had been impacted by a 50% reduction in turnover.
- ❓ Top up Grant 2: A grant of £2,000 available to businesses eligible for SBRR who were forced to close.
- ❓ Grant scheme opened on the 28th October 2020 and will close on the 20th November 2020.
- ▶ 1,293 Grants paid for a total of £4M.

Start-up Grants

- ▶ For new businesses not qualifying for self employed income support.
- ▶ £207,500 Allocation (83 Grants)
- ▶ 135 Received – 82 Grants Approved – 53 Rejected
- ▶ £2,500 Grants

Creative Freelancer Grants

This is a grant to provide financial assistance for freelancers in the cultural sectors that are facing financial challenges as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

This is a one off grant of £2,500 per eligible applicant.

- ▶ Vale of Glamorgan original budget allocation for Phase 1&2: £318,890 (127 applicants)
- ▶ Oversubscribed by 72 full applications – which WG have agreed to fund from underspend across Wales = +£167,500
- ▶ Currently have 56 applicants registered their interest and will be invited as part of an open call in phase three
- ▶ Phase Three will open on 23rd November with an additional £3.5m available across Wales

Discretionary Grants

- ▶ Vale allocation of £600,250
- ▶ Aimed at businesses not in rated properties up to £51k
- ▶ Grants of £1,500 or £2,000 depending on drop in turnover and whether or not they have been forced to close.
- ▶ Deadline for application is 20th Nov
- ▶ 63 Grants approved to date

Welsh Government ERF Funding

- ▶ Round 3 complex and oversubscribed
- ▶ Some applicants misunderstood the purpose of the scheme
- ▶ Resulted in a lot of queries direct to VoGC
- ▶ Round 4 – to be announced