

WELSH LOCKDOWN BUSINESS FUND

In a bid to offer further financial support to businesses across Wales facing the financial challenges of the national firebreak lockdown, the Welsh Government has launched two new grants under the Lockdown Business Fund.

To help you decide whether or not these funds are suitable for your business, we have summarised the key terms below. The list is accurate as of 29 October 2020 and is not an exhaustive list of all the terms attached to these grants.

	Lockdown Non-Domestic Rate Grant		Lockdown Discretionary Grant	
	Grant 1	Grant 2	Grant 1	Grant 2
Who is eligible? 	<p>To be eligible you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be a retail, leisure or hospitality business that occupies a property with a rateable value between £12,0001 - £51,000; have been on the Non-Domestic Rating list for your local authority on 1 September 2020; be liable for business rates payable to the local authority; have been forced to close the primary operation of the business during the firebreak period*; not have been forced to close as a result of infringing social-distancing rules (unless subsequent improvements have allowed you to re-open) not have received a Lockdown Discretionary Grant. <p>* If you are providing food delivery or takeaway and service and this is not your normal primary income source, you will still be eligible.</p>	<p>To be eligible you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be a business who have Small Business Rates Relief with a rateable value of up to £12,000; be liable for business rates payable to the local authority; declare that you are trading and generating turnover; not have been forced to close as a result of infringing social-distancing rules unless improvements have been made and you were allowed to re-open; not be eligible for, or have received a Lockdown Discretionary Grant. <p>In addition if you have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> been subject to local restrictions for 3 weeks or more up to the 23rd October 2020; and experienced at least a 50% reduction in turnover for that period <p>you may be eligible for a further grant (the "Local Lockdown Grant").</p> <p>There is also a discretionary enhanced grant available for those forced to close because of the national firebreak lockdown (the "Top Up Grant").</p>	<p>To be eligible you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have been trading prior to 1 September 2020 and actively trading up to the date of the national firebreak lockdown; have one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) Number; - VAT Registration Number or a VAT exemption certificate; - Company Registration Number; have been forced to close or have experienced a drop in turnover of >80% as a result of the national firebreak lockdown; have 49 or less employees receive more than 50% of your income from the business; aim to maintain employment for 12 months; and not be eligible for the Lockdown Non-Domestic Rate Grant. 	<p>To be eligible you must meet the eligibility requirements of Lockdown Discretionary Grant 1 and have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> been subject to local restrictions for 3 weeks or more up to the 23rd October 2020; and experienced at least a 50% reduction in turnover for that period.
How much funding is available? 	A grant of £5,000	A grant of £1,000 The Local Lockdown Grant of £1,000 The Top Up Grant of £2,000	A discretionary grant of £1,500	A discretionary grant of £2,000
Can you apply for more than one of the above grants? 	<p>No. The eligibility requirements of the grants means you are unable to apply for multiple types of grant.</p> <p>However, in relation to the Non-Domestic Rate Grant, the same rate payer may receive a grant for up to two properties in each local authority.</p>			
How long will the grant be available? 	<p>The fund became available on the 28th October 2020 and will remain open for applications until:</p> <p>i. 5pm on 20th November 2020; or</p> <p>ii. the fund is fully committed.</p> <p>Applications will be dealt with on a first comes first served basis and once the funds is fully committed, your application may not be appraised. Demand for these grants is expected to be high so it is vital that your application is submitted as soon as possible.</p>			
How to apply 	<p>Applications are submitted via online application form to the relevant local authority. Links to each local authority's form can be found here.</p> <p>Please note, all fields on the form are mandatory and failure to complete a field may result in your application being rejected. Each local authority has published guidance on completing each section of the form which can be found on their respective websites.</p>			

If the above grants are not suitable for your business, please see our [summary of Covid-19 Government Supported Loan Schemes](#) to explore further funding options. The summary can be accessed [here](#).

For more advice on how we can help, contact Jody Coleman



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