

# COVID-19

## BUSINESS SUPPORT UPDATE

Issue 15, 13 November 2020

### COVID-19: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK BUSINESS FUND

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Scottish Government announced a new package of support for businesses in Scotland, in line with its new levels approach to help stop the spread of COVID-19, introduced on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

This financial support will offer grants for businesses closed or impacted by protective measures, from 2<sup>nd</sup> November:

**Business Temporary Closure Grant** - a grant of £2,000 or £3,000 (depending on rateable value) for businesses required to **close by law**, payable every four weeks for the duration protective measures are in place.

**Business Restrictions Grant** - a grant of £1,400 or £2100 (depending on rateable value) for businesses that remain open but are specifically and legally required to **modify their operations by protective measures**, payable every four weeks for the duration measures are in place.

The Scottish Government has given clear guidance on the types of businesses which are eligible for this new funding – please see next page.

Both of these new funds are being delivered by local authorities. Applications to the funds are **NOW OPEN**, with a **closing date of 31 March 2021**.

A link to the South Ayrshire Council application form can be found [HERE](#)

For COVID-19 business support enquiries email:  
[COVID19.BusinessSupport@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19.BusinessSupport@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)  
or call: 01292 616 349

# ELIGIBILITY FOR SUPPORT

South Ayrshire is currently under Level 3 restrictions, and has been since 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

Types of businesses specified by the Scottish Government as being eligible for support are as follows:

## **Businesses/premises required to close and eligible for a Business Temporary Closure Grant (Level 3)**

- Pubs that do not serve food and do not have outdoor seating.
- Cinemas, arcades, soft play, funfairs, indoor bowling, theatres, snooker/pool halls, comedy clubs, concert halls, sports stadiums, conference or exhibition centres, music venues, casinos, bingo halls, nightclubs.

Please note, if your business provides ‘**mobile close contact services**’ – the Scottish Government has advised you should **NOT** apply for this grant. **As stated on the Scottish Government website: “we will publish details of support for mobile close contact services separately, so please do not contact your local authority.”**

## **Businesses eligible for a Business Restrictions Grant (Level 3)**

- Restaurants, licenced cafes, pubs, bars, licenced social and sports clubs ( No alcohol at any premise. Indoor and outdoor: no admittance after 5pm; closure 6pm).
- Hotels and other licenced accommodation – no alcohol after 6pm. Meals until 10pm. Alcohol allowed in rooms.
- Sports and other facilities no longer able to provide group exercise, includes dance studios, exercise class/yoga studios.

**Please note, according to the Scottish Government guidance, any business not specifically mentioned above for either grant is ineligible.**

To be eligible for the **Business Restrictions Grant**, your business must have been legally required to close earlier than normal, for example, not that you have to adopt physical distancing or that the demand for your products or services has been reduced because of the pandemic or other restrictions which impact on individuals and communities.

***Please see next page for additional eligibility criteria.***

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# ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY FOR SUPPORT

**Additional eligibility for either the Business Temporary Closure Grant or the Business Restrictions Grant includes:**

- Your business must have been open and trading on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.
- You must have a business bank account.
- Your business premises must be registered for Non-Domestic rates.
- Businesses which have breached wider COVID regulations/requirements prior to the Strategic Framework Restrictions being implemented on 2<sup>nd</sup> November are not eligible to apply.
- Businesses with connections to tax havens, as set out in the [Coronavirus \(Scotland\) \(No.2\) Act 2020](#), are not eligible to apply.

Applications are welcome from Limited Companies, Sole Traders, Trusts, Partnerships, Community Interest Companies or Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations, provided they meet the other criteria.

## FUNDS AVAILABLE

### Temporary Business Closure Grant:

- £2,000 (for businesses with a RV up to and including £51,000)
- £3,000 (for businesses with a RV of £51,001 and above)
- An upper limit of £15,000 in total in any four-week period will apply to any eligible business operating **multiple premises**, and subject to compliance with EC State Aid Limits.
- This limit applies to business entities. Individual ratepayers with more than one business, may receive up to £15,000 for each business entity.
- Where a business operates multiple premises it can apply for a grant for each premise which is eligible.

### Business Restrictions Grant:

- £1,400 (for businesses with a RV up to and including £51,000)
- £2,100 (for businesses with a RV of £51,001 and above)
- An upper limit of £10,500 in total in any four-week period will apply to any eligible business operating **multiple premises**, and subject to compliance with EC State Aid limits.
- This limit applies to business entities. Individual ratepayers with more than one business, may receive up to £10,500 for each business entity.
- Where a business operates multiple premises it can apply for a grant for each premise which is eligible.

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