



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE GRANGE, NUTHOLT LANE,
ELY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB7 4EE

Telephone: Ely (01353) 665555
DX41001 ELY Fax: (01353) 665240
www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Further to your information request FOI/EIR 21/22-118 please find your question and our response below.

Request:

We want to request every business, every sector under every single grant from the government for Covid 19 business support.

How much they received in grants, what grants they received from March 2020 up until April 6th 2021 and what sector they work in, if they have staff and a business premises or not.

Response:

Please see attachments

Attachment 1 covers the first tranche of grants from March 2020 to November 2020. Please note: for the first tranche there wasn't a need to capture number of employees or sector.

Attachment 2 list all of the Grants from the second tranche from November 2020 to March 2021. The 'size' column refers to staff numbers, please see the reference box below:

Micro	0-9
Small	10-49
Medium	50-249
Large	250 or more

All grant schemes were for those with business premises, with the exception of the ARG grants, which were also awarded to eligible businesses operating from domestic premises. Of the ARG grants paid, 85 grants were to paid businesses who provided a business rates account number (please note: it was not a requirement to provide a business rates account number).

A specific list of individuals and businesses that have been awarded a Covid grant and the value of that grant, is refused under Section 31(1)(a) – Prevention and Detection of Crime, and Section 40(2) – Personal Information, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This refusal is based on an ICO decision notice, please see the link below:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/action-weve-taken/decision-notice/2020/2618947/ic-49300-l5t3.pdf>

Section 31(1)(a) – Prevention and Detection of Crime

In respect of those requests that were answered in full or partially and the total refused please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 31(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

- State why the exemption applies:

31(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice - (a) the prevention or detection of crime.

As Section 31 is a qualified exemption, we, the authority, must consider the balance of public interest in the circumstances of the request.

Arguments in favour of disclosing the information

- Promote accountability and transparency for the Council's decisions
- Help increase public understanding, trust and participation in the decisions taken by public authorities
- To demonstrate how tax payer's money is being allocated

Arguments in favour of withholding the information

- Releasing the information could lead to fraudulent/fictitious claims
- Releasing the information could be used for cyber criminals to target the Council
- Releasing the information could lead to local businesses becoming the victims of crime
- The Council has a duty to its business owners to protect the information it holds and chooses to impart

Section 40(2) – Personal Information

In respect of those requests that are answered in full, partially or the total refused, please take this as notice under FOIA, that we:

- a) Consider the information as exempt from disclosure under the Act;
- b) Claim exempt under sections of the Act:

Section 40 (1) – Personal Information (ABSOLUTE)

- c) State why the exemption applies:

(1) Any information to which a request for information relates is exempt information if it constitutes personal data of which the applicant is the data subject.

**(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—
(a) it constitutes personal data which does not fall within subsection (1)**

As Section 40 is an Absolute exemption, it does not involve a public interest test.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 21/22-118

If information has been refused please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.