

## Tier 2 Local Restrictions Support Grant - for closed businesses

### Eligibility Criteria

The Tier 2 Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) (Closed) is available to businesses which have been **forced to close** because of the Tier 2 restrictions and have a business rates account.

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

Businesses that remain open in Tier 2 because they serve substantial meals are not eligible for this grant

**Further Government guidance on qualifying businesses and businesses that are excluded from the scheme can be found below:**

- [Local restriction tiers: what you need to know](#)
- [Closing certain businesses and venues in England](#)

### Eligibility Criteria

In Tier 2, the only businesses required to close are pubs and bars who serve alcohol without table meals.

To be eligible for a Tier 2 LRSG (Closed) grant businesses must:

- Be located within East Cambridgeshire
- Have been registered for Business Rates on 1 December 2020
- Have been **forced to close** because of the Tier 2 restrictions
- Have been trading the day before local restrictions came into force to be eligible to receive funding under this scheme. Where local restrictions are preceded by national 'lockdown' measures, requiring the extended closure of eligible businesses, it is accepted that those businesses are still trading.
- Be closed for the entirety of the 14-day payment cycle to be eligible. If a business is open and then decides to close during a payment cycle, it will only become eligible for a grant when it enters the next 14-day payment cycle.

In Tier 2, a business running a public house, bar or other business involving the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises must cease to carry on that business, unless alcohol is only served for consumption on the premises as part of a table meal, and the meal is such as might be expected to be served as the main midday or main evening meal, or as a main course at either such meal.

For the purposes of the above paragraph, a "table meal" is a meal eaten by a person seated at a table, or at a counter or other structure which serves the purposes of a table and is not used for the service of refreshments for consumption by persons not seated at a table or structure serving the purposes of a table.

If a business is required to close its main, in-person service but adapts its business to operate takeaway, click and collect or online with delivery services, it will be considered

closed and be eligible to receive grants under this scheme because its substantive business must close.

Please note that you must notify us immediately if your circumstances change and you no longer qualify for this grant. For example, you open for trade or your business ceases to trade completely. Please email your change in circumstance to [covid19businessgrants@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:covid19businessgrants@eastcambs.gov.uk)

## **Exclusions**

- Businesses that are able to conduct their main service because they do not depend on providing direct in-person services from premises and can operate their services effectively remotely (e.g. accountants, solicitors).
- Businesses subject to local restrictions that are implemented for less than 14 days and businesses that are closed for less than 14 days are not eligible for grant funding.
- Businesses that have chosen to close but not been required to will not be eligible for this grant.
- Businesses that have already received grant payments that equal the maximum levels of State aid permitted under the de minimis and the Covid-19 Temporary State Aid Framework.
- Businesses that were in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

## **How much funding will be awarded?**

For eligible businesses, the amount of Local Restrictions Support Grant payable is as follows:

- Businesses occupying properties appearing in the Rating List with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under on 2 December 2020, the grant payment will be £667 per 14 day qualifying restriction period
- Businesses occupying properties appearing in the Rating List with a rateable value of between £15,001 - £50,999 on 2 December 2020, the grant payment will be £1,000 per 14 day qualifying restriction period
- Businesses occupying properties appearing in the Rating List with a rateable value of £51,000 and over on 2 December 2020, the grant payment will be £1,500 per 14 day qualifying restriction period

Subject to EU State Aid limits, businesses are entitled to receive a grant for each eligible premises for which they are the rate payer.

## **Who are the grants payable to?**

The person who according to the billing authority's records was the ratepayer in respect of the property on 1 December 2020.

Where East Cambridgeshire District Council has reason to believe that the information held about the ratepayer on 1 December 2020 is inaccurate, the council may withhold or recover the grant and take reasonable steps to identify the correct ratepayer.

Any changes to the rating list (rateable value or to the hereditament) after 1 December 2020 will not be taken into account.

Once your application has been verified, the Council will be in touch regarding further payments whilst the Tier 2 restrictions remain in place.

### **State Aid**

The Tier 2 Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) (Closed) counts towards State Aid. Payments count towards the total de minimis State aid you're allowed to get over a 3-year period - €200,000. If you have reached that threshold, you may still be eligible for funding under the COVID-19 Temporary Framework. The limit for the framework is €800,000. For more information about State Aid, please visit [https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state\\_aid/what\\_is\\_new/covid\\_19.html](https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/covid_19.html)

If you proceed to make an application we will ask you to complete a declaration confirming that you will not exceed the relevant State aid threshold.

National businesses should check with their Head Office to ensure that this claim does not take the business over the limit.

### **Tax implications**

Grant income received by a business is taxable. The Tier 2 Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) (Closed) will need to be included as income in the tax return of the business.

### **Data protection and fraud detection**

We are required by law to protect the public funds we administer. We may share information provided to us with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds, or where undertaking a public function, in order to prevent and detect fraud. Further information can be found at: <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/content/data-protection-policy-and-guidance>

The Council has a duty to prevent and investigate allegations of fraud and error. The Council participates in fraud initiatives, including the National Fraud Initiative. We will share information from the application form with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for statistical and grant assurance purposes. We may disclose information to other bodies, including other billing authorities and government departments, where it is allowed by law or where you have given consent.

### **Further information**

If you have specific queries about the grant scheme, please contact: [covid19businessgrants@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:covid19businessgrants@eastcambs.gov.uk) or telephone 01353 665555.

