

COVID-19 Business support grants

Support for closed businesses in Tier 4 and national restrictions (December 2020 – February 2021)

(Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) and Closed Business Lockdown Payments)

Eligibility criteria

What grant funding is the Government offering?

1. The Government is offering grant support to businesses who are required to close under localised tier 4 restrictions and national restrictions. Localised restrictions are legally binding restrictions imposed on specific local authority areas or multiple local authority areas, where the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care requires the closure of businesses in a local area under regulations made using powers in Part 2A of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 in response to the threat posed by coronavirus.
2. West Suffolk was placed in Tier 4 restrictions on 26 December 2020 and under national lockdown on 5 January 2021 and is therefore distributing funding through the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB) (Closed) and Closed Business Lockdown Payments to those businesses required to close.

How much funding will be awarded?

3. Following the Government's announcement that the national restrictions will be in place for six weeks from 5 January 2021, West Suffolk Council is issuing grants on a **combined** basis as follows:
 - Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) for the 10-day period of Tier 4 restrictions from 26 December 2020 to 4 January 2021
 - Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) for the 42-day period of national restrictions from 5 January 2021 to 15 February 2021
 - Closed Business Lockdown Payments. These are one-off grants for closed businesses, announced by Government on 5 January 2021.
4. The grants that will be awarded to businesses are based on rateable value as follows:

Rateable value of premises on 26 December 2020 (£)	Value of grant for period 26 December 2020 to 15 February 2021 (£) (rounded)
Under 15,000	6,478
15,001 to 50,999	9,715
51,000 or over	14,572

5. These grants are made up of the following elements:

	10 days in Tier 4 (Rounded)	6 weeks in lockdown	Closed business lockdown payment	Total (Rounded)
RV under 15,000	477	2,001	4,000	6,478
RV 15,001 - 50,999	715	3,000	6,000	9,715
RV 51,000 and over	1072	4,500	9,000	14,572

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

Deductions for previous grants awarded for period of Tier 2 restrictions (for applications made before 11 January 2021)

7. In some cases, applicants will have been overpaid for the period 26 December to 29 December 2020, because they were paid on the assumption of a full 14-day tier 2 period from 16 December 2020, in advance of Tier 4 restrictions being announced.

8. In these cases, deductions will need to be made from the above amounts at paragraph 4, due to the overlap in payment periods between grants for tier 2 restriction periods and the imposition of tier 4 restrictions. Businesses who applied before 11 January 2021 for Local Restrictions Grant (Open) or Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) for the period 16 December to 29 December 2020 will receive a reduced grant under the Local Restrictions Grant (Closed) for the period 26 December 2020 to 15 February 2021, to take account of the payment already made for the period 26 December to 29 December. This issue has arisen because the Government guidance for grants awarded under Tier 2 restrictions was at that point that they should be awarded for 14-day periods. No business will be worse off, this is merely an administrative adjustment.

9. Grant amounts for these applicants (who applied before 11 January 2020) for 26 December 2020 to 15 February 2021 will be as follows, depending on whether they were paid from LRSO (Open) or (Closed). Grants paid under LRSO (Open) are smaller than under LRSO (Closed), hence the additional 'uplift' allowance:

LRSO Open	4 days of uplift between open and closed (26 – 29 December)	6 days in Tier 4 (30 December to 4 January)	6 weeks in lockdown	Closed business lockdown payment	Total
RV under 15,000	58	286	2,001	4,000	6,345
RV 15,001 - 50,999	86	429	3,000	6,000	9,515
RV 51,000	129	643	4,500	9,000	14,272

LRSG Closed	6 days in Tier 4 (30 December to 4 January)	6 weeks in lockdown	Closed business lockdown payment	Total
RV under 15,000	286	2,001	4,000	6,287
RV 15,001 - 50,999	429	3,000	6,000	9,429
RV 51,000	643	4,500	9,000	14,143

New businesses that start operating during the period 26 December 2020 to 15 February 2021

10. New businesses that commence trading during the period to which this grant scheme relates will be eligible for a pro-rata payment based on the date on which they became liable for business rates. These businesses should contact the council on covid19.BusinessGrants@westsuffolk.gov.uk or 01284 776333 to discuss their eligibility.

Potential extension of national restrictions beyond 15 February 2021

11. In the event that businesses are required to close for a period beyond 15 February 2021 they will be able to be automatically paid further grant amounts, subject to the Government schemes which are made available.
12. Businesses will only need to apply once for the tier 4 and national restrictions (December 2020 – February 2021) grants. The council will automatically calculate and pay these and any subsequent business support grants based on initial applications made from 11 January 2021. Businesses do not need to submit another application form.
13. Businesses must inform the council using covid19.BusinessGrants@westsuffolk.gov.uk if their circumstances have changed since submitting original applications, for instance if the business has closed or has reached State-aid limits for grants received.

Which businesses are eligible?

14. To be eligible for grant support, businesses must have been open as usual in the week before Government restrictions required them to close, either through tier-based restrictions or national restrictions. For wet-led pubs, this date is week commencing 2 November 2020. For all other businesses, this date is week commencing 21 December 2020. They must have been providing in-person services to customers from the above premises before being required to close as a result of regulations made under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. [National lockdown: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/national-lockdown-stay-at-home)

Which businesses are not eligible?

15. The following businesses are not eligible for grant assistance:
- Businesses that have chosen to close but not been required to.
 - Businesses which have already received grant payments that equal the maximum levels of EU State Aid permitted under the De minimis and the COVID-19 Temporary State Aid Frameworks.

- Businesses that were in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made.
16. If a business that is required to close by Government but continues to operate in-person services and successfully applies for a grant, the grant may be recovered, and the business referred for enforcement action under public health legislation.

Who are the grants payable to?

17. The person who according to the billing authority's records was the ratepayer in respect of the property on 26 December 2020.
18. Where West Suffolk Council has reason to believe that the information held about the ratepayer on the first day of the period of local restrictions is inaccurate, the council may withhold or recover the grant and take reasonable steps to identify the correct ratepayer.
19. Any changes to the rating list (rateable value or to the hereditament) after the first day of the period of local restrictions will not be taken into account.

How does it work for properties where the landlord or management agent pays the business rates for more than one business in the property?

20. Please contact covid19.BusinessGrants@westsuffolk.gov.uk or 01284 776333 to discuss this.