

Restart grants

Eligibility criteria

What grant funding is the Government offering?

1. As part of the 2021 Budget, the Government announced grant support for non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses in England, to help them reopen safely as COVID-19 restrictions are eased across the country.
2. The one-off grants will be paid to businesses on the ratings list by local authorities from 1 April 2021.

How much funding will be awarded?

3. The grants that will be awarded to businesses are based on rateable value as follows. Different amounts are payable to different types of business, because of their different reopening dates under the roadmap and the ongoing restrictions that will be in place for those opening later.

	Strand One: Non essential retail premises	Strand Two: Hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym premises
Rateable value of premises on 1 April 2021 (£)	Value of grant (£)	Value of grant (£)
Under 15,000	2,667	8,000
15,001 to 50,999	4,000	12,000
51,000 or over	6,000	18,000

4. Subject to subsidy limits, businesses are entitled to receive a grant for each eligible premises for which they are the ratepayer.

Which businesses are eligible?

5. The grants are for businesses that are predominantly reliant on delivering in-person services for the general public in the following sectors, and where the main service and activity take places in a fixed, rate-paying premises:
 - non-essential retail
 - hospitality
 - accommodation
 - leisure
 - personal care
 - gyms

6. Local authorities are responsible for determining into which 'Strand' a business falls. Attached at Appendix A is a set of criteria issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to support these decisions.
7. Also attached at Appendix B is a list issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy of businesses that fall into scope for each sector. The list is indicative but not exhaustive and local authorities have been asked to use their local knowledge to assist in making decisions on eligibility, alongside the criteria at Appendix A.
8. Where a business operates more than one service and the services fall into different categories, the "main service" can be determined by assessing which category constitutes 50 per cent or more of the overall business. The business should declare the main service and the local authority will take reasonable steps to determine eligibility.
9. To be eligible for grant support, businesses must have been trading as usual on 1 April 2021.

Which businesses are not eligible?

10. The following businesses are not eligible for grant assistance:
 - Businesses that are not in the ratings system
 - Businesses which have already received grant payments that equal the maximum levels of subsidy from a public sector organisation that are permitted.
 - Businesses that were in administration, are insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made.

Who are the grants payable to?

11. The person who according to the billing authority's records was the ratepayer in respect of the property on 1 April 2021.
12. Where West Suffolk Council has reason to believe that the information held about the ratepayer on 1 April 2021 is inaccurate, the council may withhold or recover the grant and take reasonable steps to identify the correct ratepayer.
13. Any changes to the rating list (rateable value or to the hereditament) after 1 April 2021 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?

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

Appendix A – Government criteria for defining eligible and ineligible business types

Business type	Definition	Eligible	Ineligible
Non-essential retail	A business that is used mainly or wholly for the purposes of retail sale or hire of goods or services by the public, where the primary purpose of products or services provided are not necessary to the health and well-being of the public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses offering in-person non-essential retail to the general public. • Businesses that were likely to have been required to cease their retail operation in the January 2021 lockdown. • Businesses that had retail services restricted during January lockdown. • Businesses that sell directly to consumers. 	Food retailers, including food markets, supermarkets, convenience stores, corners shops, off licences, breweries, pharmacies, chemists, newsagents, animal rescue centres and boarding facilities, building merchants, petrol stations, vehicle repair and MOT services, bicycle shops, taxi and vehicle hire businesses, education providers including tutoring services, banks, building societies and other financial providers, post offices, funeral directors, laundrettes and dry cleaners, medical practices, veterinary surgeries and pet shops, agricultural supply shops, garden centres, storage and distribution facilities, wholesalers, employment agencies and businesses, office buildings, automatic car washes and mobility support shops.
Hospitality	A business whose main function is to provide a venue for the consumption and sale of food and drink.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses offering in-person food and drink services to the general public. • Businesses that provide food and/or drink to be consumed on the premises, including outdoors. 	Food kiosks and businesses whose main service is a takeaway (not applicable to those that have adapted to offer takeaways during periods of restrictions, in alignment with previous COVID-19 business grant schemes).
Leisure	A business that provides opportunities, experiences and facilities, in particular for culture, recreation,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses that may provide in-person intangible experiences in addition to goods. • Businesses that may rely on seasonal labour. 	All retail businesses, coach tour operators, tour operators and telescopes.

Business type	Definition	Eligible	Ineligible
	entertainment, celebratory events and days and nights out .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses that may assume particular public safety responsibilities. • Businesses that may operate with irregular hours through day, night and weekends. 	
Accommodation	A business whose main lodging provision is used for holiday, travel and other purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses that provide accommodation for 'away from home' stays for work or leisure purposes. • Businesses that provide accommodation for short-term leisure and holiday purposes. 	Private dwellings, education accommodation, residential homes, care homes, residential family centres, beach huts.
Gym and sports	A commercial or non-profit establishment where physical exercise or training is conducted on an individual basis or group basis, using exercise equipment or open floor space with or without instruction, or where individual and group sporting, athletic and physical activities are participated in competitively or recreationally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses that offer in-person exercise and sport activities to the general public. • Businesses that open to members of the public paying an entry or membership fee. • Businesses that require extensive cleaning protocols, which significantly slow down trade. • Businesses that offer exercise classes or activities, which may mandate space and no masks etc. 	Home gyms, home exercise studios, home sports courts and home sports grounds.
Personal care	A business which provides a service, treatment or activity for the purposes of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses that deliver in-person holistic, beauty and hair treatments. 	Businesses that only provide personal care goods, rather than services; businesses used solely as training centres for staff, apprentices and others;

Business type	Definition	Eligible	Ineligible
	personal beauty, hair, grooming, body care and aesthetics, and wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses that provide services such as tattoos and piercings. • Businesses that offer close-contact services, which are required to deliver the treatment. • Businesses that offer services, treatments or activities that require social distancing and cleaning protocols, which have led to a reduction in their capacity to deliver personal care services. 	businesses providing dental services, opticians, audiology services, chiropody, chiropractors, osteopaths and other medical or health services, including services which incorporate personal care services, treatments required by those with disabilities and services relating to mental health.

Appendix B – Government list of examples of eligible businesses

Sector	Types of businesses
Non-essential retail	Betting offices Department stores Markets (other than livestock) Sales kiosks Showrooms (kitchen, bathroom, tile, glazing) Tobacco and vape stores Antiques stores Sales offices Travel agents Electronic goods and mobile phone shops Clothes shops Book shops Jewellers Stationery shops Gift shops Make-up shops Auction rooms Car auction Car showrooms Car supermarkets Car washes (standalone) Car or caravan sales, display or hiring sites Charity shops Carpet stores Furniture shops Sofa shops Homeware shops Florists Plant nurseries Animal groomers Sweet shops Photography studios
Hospitality	Food courts Public houses or pub restaurants Restaurants Roadside restaurants Wine bars Cafes
Leisure	Bingo halls Bowling alleys Casinos and gambling clubs Cinemas Ice rinks Museums and art galleries Roller skating rings Stately homes and historic houses Theatres

Sector	Types of businesses
	Zoos & safari parks Amusement parks Pleasure piers Pavilions Conference centres Exhibition centres including for use as banquet halls and other events Wedding venues Events venues Heritage railways Public halls Night clubs and discotheques Hostess bars Sexual entertainment venues Shisha bars, waterpipe consumption venues Arenas Concert halls Go kart rinks Model villages Tourist attractions Aquaria Miniature railways Theme parks Amusement arcades including adult gaming centres Animal attractions at farms Wildlife centres Botanical gardens Circus Visitor attractions at film studios Soft play centres or areas Indoor riding centres Clubs and institutions Village halls & scout huts, cadet huts etc
Accommodation	Caravan parks Caravan sites and pitches Chalet parks Coaching inns Country house hotels Guest & boarding houses Hostels Hotels Lodges Holiday apartments, cottages or bungalows Campsites Boarding houses Canal boats or other vessels Bed and breakfasts Catered holiday homes Holiday homes
Personal care	Spas, sauna and steam rooms Tanning salons Nail salons

Sector	Types of businesses
	Massage centres, massage treatments Tattoo and piercing studios Holistic therapy (reflexology, massage, acupuncture) Hairdressing salons Barbers, groomers Beauty salons Beauticians, aesthetics Other non-surgical treatments
Gyms and sport	Dance schools and centres Dance studios Gymnasia/fitness suites Cricket centres Ski centres Sports and leisure centres Outdoor sports centres Outdoor adventure centres Squash courts Tennis centres Sports courts Swimming pools Shooting and archery venues Driving ranges Water sport centres Golf courses