

Fact sheet: Local authority business grants

Policy	Local authority business grants											
Objective	The government is introducing a new grant scheme to support businesses that are experiencing difficulties because of the Omicron variant, and the dual impact of staff absences and lower consumer demand.											
Beneficiaries	<p>Hospitality (defined as accommodation, food &amp; beverage services) and leisure premises will benefit from targeted grant support.</p> <p>The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) will also be topped up so local authorities (LAs) can continue to use their discretion to support other businesses in their area, based on local economic need.</p>											
Territorial extent	England only, with Barnett implications.											
Design and eligibility criteria	<p><b>£1 billion of grants for businesses impacted by Omicron across the UK:</b></p> <p><u>Nearly £700 million of targeted grants for hospitality and leisure businesses in England:</u></p> <p>Recipients must be solvent businesses, and ratepayers in the hospitality and leisure sector. For example, a pub; hotel; restaurant; bar; cinema; or amusement park.</p> <p>Grants are per premises and the amount paid is varied by rateable value (RV) of each eligible premises, in three bands: £0-15k; £15-51k; and over £51k.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="531 1346 1370 1603"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="531 1346 730 1453">Rateable Value</th> <th data-bbox="730 1346 927 1453">£0-15k</th> <th data-bbox="927 1346 1163 1453">£15-51k</th> <th data-bbox="1163 1346 1370 1453">&gt;£51k</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="531 1453 730 1603">Value of grant available</td> <td data-bbox="730 1453 927 1603">£2.7k</td> <td data-bbox="927 1453 1163 1603">£4k</td> <td data-bbox="1163 1453 1370 1603">£6k</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This scheme will cost <b>£683 million</b>.</p> <p><u>Over £100 million of discretionary funding for local authorities in England:</u></p> <p>In addition, LAs in England will receive a top-up worth a total of £102 million to their ARG fund. Up to £250 million is still currently with LAs, which we expect them to distribute.</p>				Rateable Value	£0-15k	£15-51k	>£51k	Value of grant available	£2.7k	£4k	£6k
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	<p>This £102 million top-up, combined with the £2 billion previously allocated to LAs, means that they will have received over £2.1 billion of discretionary grant funding to support businesses in their local area who are experiencing a severe impact due to the Omicron variant.</p> <p>The ARG top up will be prioritised for those LAs who have distributed their existing allocation. Use of this funding is at the LA's discretion but is intended to support businesses who are impacted by COVID-19 but may not be eligible for the hospitality and leisure grant.</p> <p><u>£30 million made available through the Culture Recovery Fund:</u></p> <p>£30 million of further funding will be made available through the Culture Recovery Fund to support organisations in England such as theatres, orchestras and museums through the winter. This builds on nearly £240 million allocated to cultural organisations so far this year or currently available for applications online.</p> <p><u>Around £150 million for the Devolved Administrations through the Barnett formula</u>, which counts towards the £860 million funding guarantee announced by the UK Government for the devolved administrations in the last week. If additional funding is due to the Devolved Administrations as a result of new announcements, the UK Government will honour that.</p>
<p><b>Duration of scheme</b></p>	<p>Final application and payment dates for the hospitality and leisure grants and the ARG will be confirmed in guidance published by BEIS.</p> <p>The further funding made available through the Culture Recovery Fund will support the sector until March 2022. Further details on how organisations can access funding will be set out in due course.</p>
<p><b>Legislation and State Aid</b></p>	<p>No legislation is required.</p> <p>All grants will be subject to the subsidy control allowances. The subsidy control policy will be published as part of the scheme guidance.</p>
<p><b>Compliance measures</b></p>	<p>Businesses that are in administration, insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made, are not eligible for funding under this scheme.</p> <p>The government will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud. Any business caught falsifying their records to gain</p>

	<p>additional grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be recovered, as may any grants paid in error.</p> <p>LAs are responsible and accountable for the lawful use of funds and must be satisfied that all eligibility and subsidy allowance conditions have been fully complied with when making grant payments. To do this, LAs will be expected to have pre- and post-payment assurance plans in place and undertake a Fraud Risk Assessment.</p>
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## Fact sheet: Statutory Sick Pay Rebate scheme (SSPRS)

Policy	Statutory Sick Pay Rebate scheme (SSPRS)
<b>Objective</b>	The government is reintroducing the Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme (SSPRS). This will be a temporary scheme to support employers facing heightened levels of sickness absence due to COVID-19. The SSPRS will refund small and medium-sized employers' COVID-related SSP costs for up to two weeks per employee.
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	Small- and medium-sized employers (i.e. employers with fewer than 250 employees).
<b>Territorial extent</b>	UK-wide
<b>Design and eligibility criteria</b>	<p>Employers will be eligible for the scheme if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. They are UK-based.</li> <li>2. They employed fewer than 250 employees as of 30 November 2021.</li> <li>3. They had a PAYE payroll system as off 30 November 2021.</li> <li>3. They have already paid their employees' COVID-related SSP.</li> </ol> <p>Employers will be able to claim the costs for up to two weeks of SSP per employee that has to take time off because of COVID-19.</p> <p>This two-week limit will be reset so an employer will be able to claim up to two weeks per employee regardless of whether they have claimed under the previous scheme for that employee.</p> <p>More guidance will be published shortly.</p>
<b>Duration of scheme</b>	<p>The scheme will be reintroduced so that employers can claim for COVID-related sickness absences occurring from 21 December 2021 onwards.</p> <p>Employers will be able to make a claim through HMRC from mid-January onwards, using this website:  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-your-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-to-your-employees-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19</a>.</p> <p>This is a temporary scheme to support employers facing heightened levels of sickness absence due to COVID-19. The government will keep the duration of the scheme under review.</p>
<b>Legislation and State Aid</b>	The legal basis for this scheme will be secondary legislation laid by HMRC under powers provided by sections 39 to 44 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.

	<p>The scheme provides selective aid and could therefore constitute state aid. However, it will come within the Temporary Framework for State Aid for COVID-19 responses adopted by the European Commission.</p>
<b>Compliance measures</b>	<p>Employers must keep records of Statutory Sick Pay that they've paid and want to claim back from HMRC.</p> <p>Employers must keep the following records for 3 years after the date they receive the payment for their claim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the dates the employee was off sick</li><li>• which of those dates were qualifying days</li><li>• the reason they said they were off work due to COVID-19</li><li>• the employee's National Insurance number</li></ul>