

Business Rates Discretionary Funding
Additional Restrictions Grant
(Omicron)



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Runnymede
BOROUGH COUNCIL 

Contents

Content	Page
Introduction	1
Eligibility for scheme	1
Level of Grants	2
Subsidy Allowance	3
Appeal Rights	3

Additional Restrictions Grant (Omicron)

Introduction

On 21 December 2021, the Government announced further support for businesses severely impacted by coronavirus restrictions and the rise of the Omicron variant. This will be a one-off payment grant.

Runnymede Borough Council has been awarded £188,866 for 2021/22 year for the Additional Restrictions Grant (Omicron) . Local Authorities should continue to administer grants at their discretion and based on local economic needs.

Business that will be prioritised are those in the retail sector affected by the public's reaction to Covid-19 restrictions during December 2021 e.g. Hairdressing Salons, Barbers, Beauty Salons, Nail Bars. If funding allows consideration will be given to wedding industries, nightclubs, coach operators, travel and tourism sector, theatres, and events industries.

Businesses will be required to demonstrate they have been severely impacted by the national restrictions by evidencing a loss of at least 25% in turnover for December 2021 as compared to December 2019. Accounts for the relevant months must be produced for comparison. A full year's accounts illustrating yearly turnover cannot be considered.

The Council will also consider the number of employees and the scale and risk of potential job losses, whether businesses have had to reduce operations and the consequent scale of impact of Covid19 losses.

The Government have stated that there must be an application process and have listed the information that must be provided as a minimum which is detailed on the application form. If any questions remain unanswered your grant application will not be progressed.

Eligibility for scheme

- Businesses in the personal care retail sector affected by the public's reaction to Covid -19 restrictions e.g., Hairdressing Salons, Barbers, Beauty Salons, Nail Bars.
- Mobile Hairdressers, Mobile Beauty Therapists, Mobile Nail Technicians.
- Gymnasiums.
- Businesses in the events sector.
- Businesses in the Travel and Tourism sector.
- If funding allows consideration will be given to wedding industries, nightclubs, coach operators and theatres
- Businesses must be trading within the Runnymede Borough Council Area.
- The business is NOT in liquidation, dissolved, struck off or subject to a striking off notice or under notice
- Business which have received a payment from the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme are ineligible for funding from the Additional Restrictions Grant (Omicron) scheme.

The amount of money provided by the Government for this scheme is fixed and therefore grant payments are subject to funding.

Additional Restrictions Grant (Omicron)

Level of Additional Restriction Grants

Type of applicant	Grant Amount
Mobile Hairdressers, Mobile Beauty Consultants who continued to trade but suffer a severe loss of income due to Covid19	£500.00
B&B's which pay Council Tax instead of business rates who continue to trade but suffer a severe loss of income due to Covid 19	£1000.00
Businesses, as listed above, occupying a commercial property listed on the Valuation Office list with a rateable value of £15,000 or less Where there is no rateable value, then businesses paying rent of £15,000 per annum or less who continued to trade but suffer a severe loss of income due to Covid19	£2667.00
Businesses, as listed above, occupying a commercial property listed on the Valuation Office list with a rateable value of over £15,000 but less than £51,000 Where there is no rateable value, then businesses paying rent of over £15,000 but less than £51,000 per annum who continued to trade but suffer a severe loss of income due to Covid19	£4000.00
Businesses, as listed above, occupying a commercial property listed on the Valuation Office list with a rateable value of over £51,000 Where there is no rateable value, then businesses paying rent of over £51,000 per annum who continued to trade but suffer a severe loss of income due to Covid19	£6000.00

Businesses will be obliged to submit a written application with supporting evidence to the Council by 5pm on 14th February 2022. Any applications received after this time will not be considered.

Additional Restrictions Grant (Omicron)

Subsidy Allowance

On Thursday 4th March 2021 new subsidy allowances were established for the COVID-19 business grant schemes, based on the principles set out in article 3.4 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) with the EU. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/complying-with-the-uks-international-obligations-on-subsidy-control-guidance-for-public-authorities>

Appeal rights

Whilst there is no formal right of appeal except by judicial review, in the interests of natural justice and to eliminate the risk of administrative error, applicants may seek a review of the decision from the Council within 14 days.

Powers given to the authority for the granting, varying, reviewing and revocation of discretionary relief under the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Local Government and Rating Act 1997, the Local Government Act 2003 and the Localism Act 2011 shall be delegated to the Corporate Head of Customer, Digital and Collection Services in conjunction with the Revenues Technical Manager.

The amount of funding to be provided by the Council in respect of discretionary grant funding relief shall be determined by the Government's funding allocation of £188,866.

Where the authority receives a request from the ratepayer for a review of the decision regarding the granting or refusal of discretionary funding grant, the case will be reviewed by the Assistant Chief Executive (Resources).

In exceptional circumstances, the Assistant Chief Executive may refer the case to the Council's Corporate Management Committee if it is believed that the case merits further consideration. The ratepayer shall be informed of the outcome.

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