

April Restart Grants - England

The government has now released the guidance notes on the Restart Grants, the scheme which supports businesses in the non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure, personal care and accommodation sectors with a one-off grant, to reopen safely as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. The scheme supports businesses that are predominantly reliant on delivering in-person services for the general public in these sectors where the main service and activity takes place in a fixed rate-paying premises in the relevant sectors.

Eligible businesses will be paid a one-off grant dependent on their rateable value and which strand their business falls into:

Strand One – Non Essential Retail with a qualifying business in the rating list on 1 April 2021

1. £2,667 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under
2. £4,000 for businesses with a rateable value of between £15,000 and £51,000
3. £6,000 for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000

Strand Two – Hospitality, Accommodation, Leisure, Personal Care and Gyms with a qualifying business in the rating list on 1 April 2021

1. £8,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under
2. £12,000 for businesses with a rateable value of between £15,000 and £51,000
3. £18,000 for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000

Local authorities will be responsible for determining whether businesses meet the eligibility criteria for this grant scheme and which strand they fall within.

Eligible businesses include those ratepayers based in England, trading on 1 April 2021 and in the non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care or gym sectors. Businesses are excluded if they are in administration, insolvent, struck off or have exceeded the subsidy allowance (state aid) limits.

Any changes to the rating list after 1 April 2021 should be ignored for the purposes of eligibility. Subject to subsidy allowance (state aid) conditions, businesses will be entitled to receive a grant for each eligible hereditament.

Full guidance [can be found here](#) including a list of businesses that fall into scope for each sector at Annex C. Local authorities will use the criteria to assist in decision making but will also use their local knowledge for determinations.

If a business potentially falls into both funding strands, regard will be had to which category constitutes 50% or more of their overall business. Businesses will need to declare which is their main service, and local authorities have the discretion to exercise their reasonable judgement in order to determine whether or not a business is eligible for grants and under which strand.

Applications will close on 30 June 2021 with final payments being made by 31 July 2021.

In addition, local authorities have also received a proportion of £425 million top-up to the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG). This is a discretionary scheme and may support businesses outside of the business rates system, businesses which supply hospitality, leisure and retail sectors, businesses in the events sector and larger businesses important to the local economy. Each local authority has designed their own scheme and eligibility and deadlines will vary. Follow this link to the Cherwell website.

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/258/coronavirus/675/coronavirus-guidance-for-businesses/2>