



YOUR BUSINESS & CORONAVIRUS:

Frequently Asked Questions

Following the First Minister's announcement on 12 March 2021 the current grant open for applications via the Council is the Restrictions grant. The Restrictions grant is aimed at businesses that were affected by the restrictions put in place by the Welsh Government.

Who is eligible for a grant?

If you receive a business rates (Non Domestic Rates) invoice, the following grants are available to businesses in the Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure sectors (HLT) and some retail businesses:

Grant 1 : £4,000 cash grant payment for **hospitality, tourism and related supply chain businesses including some retail businesses** with Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) qualifying hereditaments with a rateable value of £12,000 or less. See <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/business-advice-and-support> to apply.

Grant 2: £5,000 cash grant payment for **hospitality, tourism and related supply chain businesses including some retail businesses** occupying hereditaments with a rateable value between £12,001 and £500,000. See <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/business-advice-and-support> to apply.

Businesses registering for the first time will be asked to self-declare whether they have experienced a 40% reduction in turnover for January 2021 and February 2021 as compared to January 2020 and February 2020.

Applicants must have been on the NDR rating list as of the 1st March 2021.

The registration process for these businesses opens the week commencing Monday 15th March 2021 and closes at 5pm on Wednesday 31st March 2021.

See the webpage for detailed guidance.

Whilst hairdressers are able to open from 15th March they will still be eligible to receive / apply for the NDR related grant

If you are a business that is not paying Non Domestic Rates there currently is no Discretionary Grant available.

Details of any new **Discretionary Grant** will be published on the Council's website when available. See <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/business-advice-and-support>.

I thought the grants were automatic?

Where possible, automatic payments will be made on the 17th March 2021. Any further grants will be issued via the application process on our website. If you do not receive one of the automatic payments relating to the Non Domestic Rates grant, then you will need to apply via the website.

How do I know if I can apply?

The criteria for the grants are on the Councils website, it is advised that you read this guidance before you proceed with an application.

See <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/business-advice-and-support> for the Non Domestic Rates related grant.

What grants are available to me?

The following tool is a useful aid to see exactly what support is available for your situation.

See: <https://www.gov.uk/business-coronavirus-support-finder>

Who do I contact if there is an issue or I have a question?

The covid19businesssupport@pembrokeshire.gov.uk email address has been set up to try and answer as many questions as possible. The query will be directed to the relevant department to answer.

Unfortunately due to the volume of work and home working situation, we are not able to return phone calls.

How long does it take to get a reply to my emails to the Council?

We endeavour to return a reply as soon as we can, some questions are not straight forward or require input from other departments and so this may take longer.

What is my rateable value? What is my Business Rates Reference Number?

You can check your rateable value here: <https://www.gov.uk/correct-your-business-rates>

Your Business Rates Reference Number is on the recent annual business rate demands issued to you. If you do not know your Business rates reference number you can email revenue.services@pembrokeshire.gov.uk and a copy of the demand will be reissued in the post.

If I am eligible for a grant, what do I have to do? How long before it arrives?

Application forms for eligible businesses are available online and can be found following this link.

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/business-advice-and-support>

Receipt of your application will be acknowledged within 10 working days.

Decisions on applications will be made based on the information provided in the application form, associated evidence and information checks that are conducted from other business data sources. If any data is incomplete or incorrect or the evidence provided is insufficient we will not process the application and it will be rejected.

We aim to process finalised grant applications within 30 working days of receipt.

Grants will be paid on the basis that 100% of the grant is paid up front. You will receive confirmation of payment and the funds will be in your account 3 days later.

If your application is unsuccessful, you will receive an email outlining the reason[s] for rejection. There is no appeal process.

Please understand this will be as soon as possible, due to the volume of applications that we expect.

Am I eligible for business rate relief?

The Welsh Government intend to extend the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rates Relief scheme for properties up to a rateable value of £500,000 in Wales for a period of 12 months. Businesses in the leisure and hospitality sector with a rateable value of over £500,000 will also receive 100% rates relief for 2021-22.

Further information on Non-Domestic Rates and the support provided by the Welsh Government can be found at the following link: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/business-rates-relief-in-wales>

I have staff to pay but no income due to business closure, how do I get help?

The Government has pledged to pay a wage subsidy paying up to 80% of wages of furloughed staff on your payroll. You should contact HMRC by following:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

When will other support become available?

We are gathering information from businesses all the time and highlighting identified gaps in support available to the Welsh Government. Lobbying for groups and sectors that are not covered by existing schemes and we will promote new initiatives as and well they become available.

What can I do if I struggle to pay my bills?

In the first instance contact the organisation or business and explain the issues. Mortgage companies are offering payment holidays, some landlords are offering deferred rent periods, check with your provider.

If you are struggling with payments on a current Pembrokeshire Lottery loan, call them on 01646 690 800, however they are not taking any new loans at the moment.

What about tax bills?

HMRC has issued a helpline for businesses concerned about being able to pay your tax due to COVID-19. Access this dedicated helpline on 0800 0159 559

I am not currently eligible for a grant, can I get a loan?

The Development Bank of Wales has loan and equity funding available immediately to Welsh businesses. The Welsh Government is working closely with the Development Bank of Wales to consider additional support to help businesses through the Covid-19 impact.

For further information please visit the [Development Bank of Wales](#) website or call 0800 587 4140.

High street banks are also offering facilities to support and help businesses through the Covid-19 impact, such as fee free overdrafts, payment holidays etc. see individual the banks website for more details.

State Aid explained

This means that the money is granted by the state selectively to certain businesses and the aid has the potential to distort competition. State aid is always illegal unless it is administered in accordance with an approved derogation. Pembrokeshire CC is using two derogations in relation to the Covid-19 grants. These are:

- The de minimis aid Regulation EC 1407/2013; and where we cannot use that:
- The UK Covid-19 Temporary Framework.

To use the de minimis Regulation, we need to know what de minimis aid a business has received in the last three years from all sources. To gather this information we use a form DM1.

To use the UK Covid-19 Temporary Framework, we need to know how much aid a business has already received under this Framework (as well as certain other information). We use the DM1 form to capture the information on previous aid also.

What aid falls into which category?

This table is work in progress. It will updated from time to time.

De minimis aid	Covid-19 Temporary Framework	No Aid
Café Culture Grant	Self-Employment Income Support Scheme	Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ("furlough scheme")
High Street Rate Relief (2018/19 and 2019/20 only)	Covid-19 Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund from English local authorities	Small Business Rate relief
Employer's Allowance (2020/21 only)	Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (England only)**	Rural Rate Relief
Assistance through the Pembrokeshire CC Cam Nesa project	Welsh Government Economic Resilience Fund (SME & Large Funds)	High Street Rate Relief (2020/21 only)
Assistance through the Pembrokeshire CC BUCANIER project		
Covid-19 Small Business Grants Fund from English local authorities*		
Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (England only)**		
Welsh Government Economic Resilience Fund (Micro Fund)		

Jobs Growth Wales		
Welsh Government Apprenticeships		
Welsh Government Traineeships		
Welsh Government Employability Skills Programme		
Covid-19 NDR grants from Welsh local authorities*		

If marked * note that in most cases this will be administered as de minimis aid but it may exceptionally be administered under the Covid-19 Temporary Framework. If marked ** note that this grant may be administered either as de minimis aid or as Covid-19 Temporary Framework aid at the discretion of the local authority concerned.

Still got questions? Please email covid19businesssupport@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Also follow us on social media, this will be updated as soon as we have more information.



<https://www.facebook.com/PembrokeshireCountyCouncil>



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