



The Federation of Racecourse Bookmakers Limited

Guidance Note - Coronavirus Additional Restrictions Grant (November 2020)

Members are aware of the Local Restriction Support Grant and are referred to the Guidance note provided to Members in October 2020.

That Guidance note was circulated to Members in the light of a letter from the Chancellor to Members of Parliament dated 9th October to explain the purpose of the discrete discretionary fund available to non-rateable businesses.

Subsequently on 31st October 2020 the Government announced the introduction of additional support for Local Authorities under national and Local Covid Alert Level 3 restrictions called the **Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)**. The essential aspects of the **ARG** are as follows:

- All Local Authorities are eligible for funding due to the widespread national restrictions coming into force on 5th November 2020.
- Local Authorities can use the funding for business support activities. The Government envisages this would primarily take the form of discretionary grants.
- Certain conditions of grant apply as for the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed).
- Local Authorities are responsible for delivering this funding to businesses.
- Local Authorities can determine how much funding to provide to businesses from the ARG funding provided, and *exactly which businesses to target*.
- The Government encourages Local Authorities “to develop discretionary grant schemes” to help businesses *severely impacted by the restrictions, for example, businesses in the leisure sector*.
- As with the Local Restriction Support Grant, Local Authorities may also choose to help businesses **outside the business rates system** which are effectively forced to close.
- Local Authorities are invited by the Government to take into account: the level of fixed costs faced by the business in question; the number of employees; and *whether they are unable to trade online and the consequent scale of coronavirus losses*.
- Businesses must have been trading on the first full day of national or local Covid Alert Level 3 restrictions to be eligible to receive a Support Grant. Members should note that our view is that this means prior to restrictions first being announced under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984, in other words in March. Some local authorities appear to be construing this to mean actively trading on and before the 4th November 2020, but that is not our view of the purpose of this Additional Support Grant.
- Members are advised to make an application for financial support under both the Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed) scheme and the Additional Support Grant scheme. This will require your local council to apply its mind as to whether it is going to support your business under one or the other or both of the schemes.
- You must visit your local council’s website to find out how to apply.