



Omicron Hospitality and Leisure and Additional Restrictions Grants Policy January 2022

Contents

Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant	2
How much funding will be provided to businesses?	2
Hospitality	2
Leisure	3
Accommodation	3
Exclusions to Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant funding.....	3
Application Process	4
Closing Date.....	4
Additional Restrictions Grant	4
OHLG Top-Up Payments.....	4
Other Businesses.....	4
Closing Date	5
Application process:	5
Appeals Process	5

Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant

The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG) is a one-off grant which will support hospitality, leisure and accommodation business premises on the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) rating list, on 30 December 2021 only.

The primary principle of the OHLG scheme is to support businesses that offer in-person services, where the main service and activity takes place in a fixed rate-paying premises, in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors.

Businesses will only be eligible where their main service falls within hospitality, leisure or accommodation. If a business operates services that could be considered hospitality or leisure, and also fall into another category, the main service can be determined by assessing which category constitutes 50% or more of their overall income. The main service principle will determine whether a business receives funding. Businesses will need to declare which is their main service.

How much funding will be provided to businesses?

For the avoidance of doubt, the Council will pay OHLG in line with prevailing Government guidance which may be changed from time to time and may include discretion for the Council to consider exceptional circumstances.

- Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under on 30 December 2021 will receive OHLG of £2,667. The Council will award a discretionary top up, from its Additional Restrictions Grant Fund of £2,000 making a total of **£4,667**
- Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on 30 December 2021 will receive OHLG of £4,000. The Council will award a discretionary top up, from its ARG fund of £3,000 making a total of **£7,000**
- Businesses occupying hereditaments appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value of exactly £51,000 or over on 30 December 2021 will receive OHLG of £6,000. The Council will award a discretionary top up, from its ARG fund of £4,500 making a total of **£10,500**

Any changes to the rating list (rateable value or to the hereditament) after 30 December 2021 will be ignored for the purposes of eligibility.

Hospitality

For the purposes of this scheme, a hospitality business can be defined as a business whose main function is to provide a venue for the consumption and sale of food and drink. The food and drink must be available to the general public for consumption on the premises, including outdoors.

For these purposes, the definition of a hospitality business should exclude: food kiosks and businesses whose main service (generating 50% or more of income) is a

takeaway (not applicable to those that have adapted to offer takeaways during periods of restrictions, in alignment with previous COVID-19 business grant schemes).

Leisure

For the purposes of this scheme, a leisure business can be defined as a business that provides opportunities, experiences and facilities, in particular for culture, recreation, entertainment, celebratory events and days and nights out.

The Council will use the following criteria to assess whether a business is eligible for a grant under this threshold:

- Businesses that may provide in-person intangible experiences in addition to goods.
- Businesses that may rely on seasonal labour.
- Businesses that may assume particular public safety responsibilities.
- Businesses that may operate with irregular hours through day, night and weekends.

For these purposes, the definition of a leisure business will exclude: all retail businesses, coach tour operators, and tour operators.

Accommodation

For the purposes of this scheme, an accommodation business can be defined as a business whose main lodging provision is used for holiday, travel or other purposes.

The Council will use the following criteria to assess whether a business is eligible for a grant under this threshold:

- Businesses that provide accommodation for 'away from home' stays for work or leisure purposes.
- Businesses that provide accommodation for short-term leisure and holiday purposes.

For these purposes, the definition of an accommodation business will exclude: private dwellings, education accommodation, residential homes, care homes, residential family centres and beach huts.

Exclusions to Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant funding

The following businesses are excluded from receiving OHLG:

- Businesses that are not within the rating system will not be eligible to receive funding under this scheme.
- Businesses that have already received grant payments that equal the maximum permitted subsidy allowances will not be eligible to receive funding.
- Businesses that are in administration, insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made, are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

Application Process

The Council will invite electronic applications from organisations that are believed to be eligible for OHLG. Applicants will be required to provide such supporting evidence as it believes to be appropriate to establish eligibility.

Businesses will also be required to supply such information as is required by Central Government departments and other agencies in order to record and analyse payment data and to prevent or detect fraud. Application and payment data will be forwarded to those relevant agencies.

Closing Date.

Applications are requested to be submitted no later than 21 February 2022, with payments being made by 31 March. The closing date for this process is Monday 21 February 2022. The policy will be reviewed at that time.

Additional Restrictions Grant

The has launched a new fund under the Additional Restrictions Grant in support of businesses severely impacted by the rise of the Omicron Variant.

OHLG Top-Up Payments.

As described above, the Council will use ARG funding to provide top-up payments o OHLG recipients, as follows:

Rateable Value Range	OGLG Payment	ARG Payment	Total
£0 to £15,000	£2,667	£2,000	£4,667
£15,000 to £51,000	£4,000	£3,000	£7,000
Over £51,000	£6,000	£4,500	£10,500

No separate application will be required.

Other Businesses

The Council retains discretion to award grants, in exceptional circumstances, to businesses not meeting the above criteria but can demonstrate they have been and continue to be adversely affected by COVID-19. Such awards will need the approval of the Economic Development Manager or Head of Economic Prosperity. The factors used to determine the grants will include but not be restricted to:

- Severe financial hardship
- Disproportionate impact of trading restrictions
- Eligibility for other grants or external funding streams
- Any benefit to the local community of services provided by the business
- Detriment to the local community of the business being forced to close.

If you are considering applying for this discretionary grant, you are required to submit your enquiry, in the first instance by email to econdev@cannockchasedc.gov.uk for further information regarding the application process.

Closing Date

The closing date for this process is Monday 21 February 2022. The policy will be reviewed at that time.

Application process:

Eligible businesses seeking to apply should provide the following:

- Application form authorised by a director/business owner
- Copy of a recent bank statement clearly showing bank name, account holder name, sort code and account number, for payment verification purposes

Appeals Process

Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grants and Additional Restrictions Grants are paid at the discretion of the Council with awards being determined within the Economic Development and Revenues departments as appropriate. No formal right of appeal exists, but an applicant who is dissatisfied with a grant determination can request that it be reviewed by a more senior officer.