

(CCC) Coronavirus grant schemes

- Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSG)
- Additional Restrictions Support Grant (ARG)
- Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) - closed August 2020
- Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund (RHLGF) - closed August 2020
- Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (LADGF) - closed August 2020

Please provide the following information for each of the schemes above separately:

1. How much money has been issued from the start of the scheme to date and to how many businesses?
2. How much money has been assessed as obtained fraudulently and how many businesses have been involved?
3. How much of the money identified in the answer to Q2 has been recovered to date?
4. Where fraud was identified how many of those cases have been referred to the authorities to date?
5. How much has been issued in error and to how many businesses? For each please explain what the error was.
6. How much of the money issued in error identified in Q5 has been recovered to date?
7. What policy was in place to ensure that grants were not fraudulently obtained or granted in error to businesses?

Response:

- Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSG)
- Additional Restrictions Support Grant (ARG)
- Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) - closed August 2020
- Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund (RHLGF) - closed August 2020
- Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (LADGF) - closed August 2020

Please provide the following information for each of the schemes above separately:

1. How much money has been issued from the start of the scheme to date and to how many businesses?

- Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSG) £9,803,491.33 - 1030 businesses
- Additional Restrictions Support Grant (ARG) £2,736,882.25 - 961 businesses
- Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) - closed August 2020 £8,310,000.00 - 831 businesses
- Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund (RHLGF) - closed August 2020 £13,885,000 - 628 businesses

FOI Ref

Response sent

8841

20 April 2021

• Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (LADGF) - closed August 2020
£1,119,820.65 - 230 businesses

2. How much money has been assessed as obtained fraudulently and how many businesses have been involved?

We have no cases of proven fraud under any grant category.

3. How much of the money identified in the answer to Q2 has been recovered to date?

N/A

4. Where fraud was identified how many of those cases have been referred to the authorities to date?

N/A

5. How much has been issued in error and to how many businesses? For each please explain what the error was.

Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) - closed August 2020 - 2 cases of duplicate payments , both repaid to the council

6. How much of the money issued in error identified in Q5 has been recovered to date?

100%

7. What policy was in place to ensure that grants were not fraudulently obtained or granted in error to businesses?

“Anti-fraud measures: The Council made it clear to applicants that we will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud. Any applicant found to have falsified records to gain grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error.

The Government’s grants management and counter fraud functions have made their digital assurance tool (Spotlight) available to local authorities to support the

FOI Ref

Response sent

application process. In addition to the pre-payment eligibility checks, the Council will make use of Government schemes, such as the National Fraud Initiative, to take reasonable steps to prevent fraud and error."

From April 2020, the Council's policy will elaborate on the pre-payment and post-payment checks being carried out to prevent fraud and follow-up any cases that subsequently appear suspicious.

The anti-fraud approach is also highlighted prominently on the Council's grant application forms. This includes the declaration at the end of the form. Applicants are required to confirm that: "The information that I have provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any business found to be falsifying their records to gain additional grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back, as may any grants paid in error."

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk