

WAKEFIELD FIRST

COVID-19 BUSINESS GRANT

Wakefield Council have introduced the online application process for the COVID-19 business grants and the form is now live, we want to thank you for patience during this difficult time.

If you occupy business premises and believe you **meet the below eligibility criteria** (see below) to apply for one of the business grants, then please complete the application form here.

It is **essential that all the information you provide is correct** to ensure an **efficient and reliable payment**. The **Government are making the funds available to local authorities from the 1st April 2020**.

Before payment can be made, **Wakefield Council will use the details provided to check business eligibility** for the grant **including that the business is in the rating list as of 11 March 2020**. **Eligible recipients will receive one grant per hereditament only**.

Eligibility Criteria:

Businesses that pay little or no business rates are eligible for a one-off grant of £10,000 if:

- your business is based in England
- you are a small business and already receive Small Business Rate Relief and/or Rural Rate Relief
- you are a business that occupies property

Businesses in retail, hospitality and leisure sectors are eligible for a grant of up £25,000 per property - For businesses in these sectors with a rateable value of under £15,000, they will receive a grant of £10,000.

Businesses in these sectors with a rateable value of between £15,000 and £51,000, will receive a grant of £25,000.

You are eligible for this grant if:

- your business is based in England
- your business is in the retail, hospitality and/or leisure sector

Properties that will benefit from the relief will be occupied hereditaments that are wholly or mainly being used:

- as shops, restaurants, cafes, drinking establishments, cinemas and live music venues
- for assembly and leisure
- as hotels, guest and boarding premises and self-catering accommodation

We are **expecting high volumes of applications** in the coming days. **We will work through your grant request as soon as possible** to ensure all eligible businesses receive this payment.

Should we require additional information, we will contact you on the details provided.

If your business is facing further hardship please contact info@wakefieldfirst.com for more information.

-To find out your Rateable Value, you can **check your latest Rates statement**, or alternatively **[visit the government's rates site](#)**. Please note, **this information may not be fully up to date**.

-For reference, an SME (small medium enterprise) is classed as a business with fewer than 250 employees.

Commercial tenants who cannot pay their rent due to the impact of Covid-19 will be protected from eviction. These measures will mean no business will automatically forfeit their lease and be forced out of their premises if they miss a payment up until 30 June.

This is **not a rental holiday**. All commercial tenants will still be liable for the rent. Commercial tenants are protected from eviction if they are unable to pay rent.

All commercial tenants in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are eligible.

The change will come into force when the Coronavirus Bill receives Royal Assent.
No action is required.