

West Lindsey District Council
Additional Restrictions Grant Omicron Impact (ARGOI)
Policy – February 2022

1. Introduction

Government announced on the 21st December 2021 a further top up allocation to the ARG for Local Authorities to support businesses that were being affected by the rise of the new Omicron virus. Funding can be awarded at Local Authority discretion to support businesses severely impacted by restrictions or by the impact of the Omicron variant.

This funding is in addition to previous Additional Restrictions Grant payments which have been the subject of past papers. The funding criteria is largely the same as previous Additional Restrictions payments however, this payment can only be used for awarding direct discretionary grant payments and not wider business support activity.

West Lindsey Council has been awarded a third top up of £161,000.

2. Guidance

The guidance issued to the Council by Government on 30th December 2021 states: *‘Local Authorities are encouraged to support businesses from all sectors that have been severely impacted by restrictions or by the Omicron variant, including those outside of the business rates system. These may include but are not limited to; hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care, the travel and tourism sector, including group travel, travel agents and tour operators, coach operators, wedding industries, nightclubs, theatres, events industries, wholesalers, English language schools, breweries, freelance and mobile businesses (including caterers, events, hair beauty and wedding related businesses), gyms and other businesses that may have not received other grant funding. There is no restriction on the number of grants a business may receive, subject to subsidy limits.*

3. ARG Omicron Impact Grant (ARGOI)

The council have determined that the third Additional Restriction grant award is used to fund an ARG Omicron Impact Grant (ARGOI). This grant is intended for identified sector specific businesses (see below) significantly impacted by the Omicron variant through reduced footfall and spend, which are not eligible for the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant.

A business (property) must meet all the qualifying criteria that are set out below to be eligible to receive the grant funding:

- Be fully operational (trading) on 30th December 2021 (businesses that are in administration, insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made are ineligible for this grant)
- Be able to provide evidence of significant impact as a result of the Omicron variant on footfall and income (e.g. cancelled or reduced bookings), and be able to provide additional evidence of significant impact on request
- Has not benefitted from an OHLG payment (including those businesses that were eligible but have not made an application)

Eligible businesses will fall into one of the following categories:

- Non-rated Hospitality, Leisure and Accommodation businesses including:

Support type	Types of businesses	
Hospitality	Food courts Public houses/pub restaurants Restaurants	Roadside restaurants Wine bars Cafés
Leisure	Casinos and gambling clubs Cinemas Museums and art galleries Stately homes & historic houses Theatres Zoos & safari parks Amusement parks Wedding venues Events venues Night clubs & discotheques	Arenas Concert halls Tourist attractions Theme parks Amusement arcades Soft play centres or areas Clubs & institutions Village halls & scout huts, cadet huts, etc.
Accommodation	Caravan parks Caravan sites and pitches Chalet parks Coaching inns Country house hotels Guest houses Hostels Hotels Lodge	Holiday apartments, Cottages or bungalows Campsites Boarding houses Canal boats or other vessels B&Bs Catered holiday homes Holiday homes

- Travel Consultants, Travel Agents and Tour Operators (rated and non-rated)
- Kennels and Catteries (rated and non-rated).

Businesses must demonstrate that they have not exceeded COVID-19 Business Grant Subsidy allowances via self-declaration having reviewed the appropriate Government guidance. As a reference point, please go to: [Additional Restrictions Grant: guidance for Local Authorities \(updated 30 December 2021\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) (Pages 14 to 16 - paragraphs 83 to 93) and [Complying with the UK's international obligations on subsidy control: guidance for public authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\) \(opens new tab\)](#).

4. Ineligibility

This grant is not intended for businesses:

- that do not satisfy all the eligibility criteria set-out in the above
- that do not operate in the sectors identified in above (e.g. retailers, personal care service providers, gyms etc.)
- that are in liquidation or dissolved or subject to a striking off notice, or are defined as an undertaking in difficulty on 31 December 2019, (See appendix 1);
- that have exceeded COVID-19 Business Grant Subsidy allowances via self-declaration having reviewed the appropriate Government guidance;
- and;
- Businesses eligible for the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant.

5. Grant Awards

The eligible business rate payer appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value, annual lease, rent or mortgage costs over £51,000 will receive £6000

The eligible business rate payer appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value, annual lease, rent or mortgage costs over £15,000 and less than £51,000 will receive £4000

The eligible business rate payer appearing on the local rating list with a rateable value of under £15,000 or business with annual lease, rent or mortgage costs of between £4,001 - £15,000 will receive £2667

Business with annual lease, rent or mortgage costs between £500- £4000 will receive a payment of £1334.

Business with annual lease, rent or mortgage costs below £500 do not qualify.

6. Process for applying for Additional Restrictions Grant Omicron Impact (ARGOI)

Eligible businesses need to register their interest for this grant by emailing- growth@west-lindsey.gov and outlining the nature of their business.

Businesses deemed to be eligible will be sent a link to an online application form which must be completed and submitted for verification by **28th February 2022.**

7. Other information

All grant income received by a business is taxable. The Additional Restrictions Grant Omicron Impact will need to be included as income on tax returns (only businesses which make an overall profit once grant income is included will be subject to tax). Grant payments made to businesses before 5 April 2021 will fall into the 2020/21 tax year. Unincorporated businesses will be taxed when they receive the grant income.

West Lindsey District Council will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud – and any business caught falsifying their 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 Governments Grant Management and Counter Fraud digital assurance tool, Spotlight, will be used to check pre-payment and post-payment compliance.

By self-certifying you are confirming that all information you have provided is a true and accurate record and can be used for the purposes of accurately verifying your 'application'.

Businesses must tell the Council of any changes in circumstances that might affect eligibility for grant payments. Failure to do this could lead to grants being clawed back.

Subsidiary rules apply to this scheme and applicants may be required to complete a declaration.

Data collected and processed in part of the application process will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. Data may be shared with other Departments within the Council, HMRC and other Government departments for improving services, keeping records up-to-date and for the protection of the public fund. All personal data is treated with the utmost care and appropriate steps to protect it. WLDC do not sell any personal information to anyone and will never share your information for marketing purposes. For further information, please see the privacy notice here: www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/privacy

WLDC reserve the right to close the fund at any point and will keep it under review.