

Growth Support Kickstart Grant Scheme for SMEs

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Is my business eligible to apply?

Yes. Any small or medium sized business based and registered within the country are eligible to apply though, final call on eligibility will be taken by local Growth Hubs.

2. Where and when can I submit my application for Grant Funding?

You can directly register your business for updates and newsletters at your local Growth Hub's official website, or let us know your business details so we can do it for you. Further, the go live date for the application process for all the Growth Hubs are still being worked upon. We expect this to go live very soon.

3. Will everyone who apply will get the grants?

No. Applications for availing the grant will be considered based on first come – first served basis, given your application fulfills all other checks and criteria stipulated by Growth Hubs.

As per our communication with associates of various Growth Hubs, we believe that demand for this grant will relatively remain high and exhaustion of allocated funds with each Growth Hubs in a small time frame cannot be ruled out.

4. What is the amount of funds allocated to my local Growth Hub?

[Kindly refer to the this page.](#)

5. Do I have to obtain quotations?

Yes. It is essential to your application to obtain the supporting information requested, may need one or more quotations per item as stipulated by local Growth Hubs.

6. How long does it take to approve my request for Grant Funding?

At this juncture, we are still unsure about the turnaround time post acceptance of application. As this grant scheme is being administered through local Growth Hubs; it may be different for different Growth Hubs. At the same time, as per our communication with various Growth Hubs, it could be anywhere between 7-14 days.

7. Do I have to provide match funding?

No match funding is needed. The grant will cover 100% of eligible costs between £1000 - £3000 and in some exceptional cases up to £5000. Guidance from the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government states that £5000 can only be offered under exceptional circumstances.

8. Is this a cash Grant, if yes, when will I receive money post approval of application?

No. Once your application is approved you will need to purchase the equipment and goods your business requires and submit a claim for your growth hubs to reimburse you the agreed value. The grant is only open to trading entities and grant payments can only be made into a business bank account. The grant cannot pay for day-to-day running costs, servicing debt or towards cash flow.

9. What is the scope of the grant?

The funds can be used in response to one-to-many events providing guidance to respond to coronavirus

Grants (£1,000- £5,000) can be used by businesses access specialist professional advice such as HR, accountants, legal, marketing, financial, IT and digital, and to purchase minor equipment to adapt or adopt new technology in order to continue to deliver business activity or diversify in face of evolving business dynamics/ making them Covidsecure.

To make it clearer, below is a set of examples of the supports which can be provided:

- 1. IT equipment, e.g. Tablet & Contact payment systems, ICT equipment to support home working/social distancing.**
- 2. Minor equipment e.g. plastics screens & Sanitizer dispensers**
- 3. Building alterations e.g. creation of one way systems, building of outdoor seating, serving hatches etc.**
- 4. Web sites, Mobile Apps, etc.**

10. I need to obtain Specialist Consultancy Support or buy specific equipment, but I cannot afford to pay for advice/equipment and then claim it back. What do I do?

Well in that case you will have to make an application in the normal way and then contact your respective Growth Hub advising that you do not have the available cash flow to pay for the support up front and then claim it back in arrears. The respective team might call you to identify a workable solution, but they might require proof that you do not have available funds in your business account. This may vary among different Growth Hubs.

11. What happens to my application if I do not provide supporting evidence e.g. Quotations?

You might receive an email explaining that we are unable to process your application due to missing information. You may have to re submit a complete application form again. Given the demand for this grant, we believe, there wouldn't be enough time and funds left out in your Growth Hub's share of allocation.

12. Is there any bifurcation between allocation to Visitor and Non-Visitor economies?

As of now, clarity on this is still awaited. Some Growth Hubs may bifurcate total allocated share between the two and some may not. Still, we won't speculate and wait for official communication.

13. How long is the scheme open for applications?

The scheme will stay open for applications as long as there is money left to allocate to businesses. The scheme will officially close 28 Feb 2020 which is the date that everyone who has been awarded or approved a grant must claim by.

14. Are the people who are self-employed/Sole trader with no physical infrastructure i.e. Freelancer or Consultants?

Clarity on this is awaited. More or less everyone fulfilling their Growth Hub's eligibility criteria can apply.

15. In relation to the recently concluded Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF) which was a one-off cash grant up to £25000 based on property's rateable value, can a business which has already availed this, be eligible to avail grant?

More likely yes, they will be eligible until they don't breach the upper cap of £2,00,000 in the last 3 years but again clarity on this is awaited and it may vary among various Growth Hubs.

16. Is there a list of suppliers for specialist consultancy services?

Funding can be used for specialist business support to best suit your business recovery plan. There is no list of "approved" suppliers for this scheme.

[Click here to go back to Kickstart Grant scheme description page.](#)