

# FAQs

## Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Phase 1

### Q1. What is the purpose of the ARG?

- The ARG supports businesses that have not received Local Restrictions Support Grant or where additional funding is needed.

### Q2. Who is eligible for Phase 1

- businesses that were forced to close (between 5 Nov and 2 Dec 2020), which are not registered for business rates
- **Suppliers** to non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure and events businesses that did not have to close but which were severely impacted by the national restrictions (between 5 Nov and 2 Dec 2020) because the businesses they supply to had to close
- must pay commercial rent

### Q3. What is the definition of 'severely impacted'?

- 'Severely impacted' is defined as a clear and obvious drop in business income and/or trade of at least 30% as a result of the national restrictions (between 5 Nov and 2 Dec) compared to the period prior to those restrictions.

### Q4. Who will be evaluating the applications?

- The Business Response team will be leading on application processing with support from the Business Rates team.

### Q5. What are the mandatory criteria for this scheme?

You cannot get funding if:

- your business is in administration, insolvent or has been struck off the Companies House register
- you have exceeded the permitted state aid threshold
- you are eligible for or have already received a Local Restrictions Support Grant
- you were not trading as normal on 4th November 2020 before the period of national restrictions began.

### Q6. I have not been severely impacted by the national restrictions as such, but my business has been affected by COVID-19 pandemic generally. Can I still apply for an ARG?

- No. Those claiming to be severely impacted must show a deterioration in income and/or trade compared to the period prior to those restrictions. Businesses need to evidence a 30% drop in turnover from 5th November to 2nd December due to the national restrictions imposed during this period.

### Q7. I have already received a Local Restrictions Support Grant for the national lockdown period (between 5 Nov and 2 Dec), can I apply for ARG Phase 1 too?

- No. You cannot receive both an LRSG and an ARG in this phase. Those who have received an LRSG or an ARG may be eligible for future phases of ARG.

### Q8. What types of businesses are being prioritised?

- For Phase 1 businesses which supply the non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure, and events sectors, and market traders

### Q9. Can other types of businesses apply?

- Yes. Businesses forced to lock down that don't pay business rates but do pay commercial rent

### Q10. How are applicants prioritised?

- Grants will be processed after the closing date, if the scheme is oversubscribed, applications will be prioritised on percentage of loss.

**Q11. Can a business with two or more premises in Enfield apply for two or more grants?**

- No. A business is only eligible for one ARG Phase 1 award, regardless of the number of premises.

**Q12. Does the applicant need to pay business rates to be eligible?**

- No. Businesses forced to close who do have a business rates assessment should check to see if they are eligible for the LRSG scheme before applying for this scheme.

**Q13. Is there scope to provide grants to businesses without premises costs?**

- No. ARG Phase 1 is for business that pay commercial rent, this may change in further phases.

**Q14. Can the self-employed/sole traders apply?**

- Yes. All types of businesses can apply for as long as they meet the eligibility criteria.

**Q15. Can those who work from home or work on a mobile basis apply?**

- No. Applicants must be paying for commercial rent to be eligible for ARG Phase 1, this may change in future phases

**Q16. Is there a rateable value limit for businesses receiving this fund?**

- No. All types of businesses can apply for as long as they meet the mandatory and local criteria.

**Q17. Is there a limit to the number of employees for businesses receiving this fund?**

- Yes. Businesses with more than 249 employees cannot apply for ARG Phase 1.

**Q18. Can businesses that started trading after 5 November 2020 apply?**

- No. The mandatory criteria set out in the Government's guidance prevents local authorities from awarding grants to anyone who started trading after 5 November 2020.

**Q19. How can businesses apply?**

- Businesses will be able to apply online via the Enfield Council website.

**Q20. Can the Council provide an application form in paper format?**

- No. The application form can only be filled in online.

**Q21. What supporting documents will applicants need to provide?**

- 3 bank statements October 2020 to December 2020
- Business certificate of incorporation or HMRC Registration match form
- Copy of tenancy or rental agreement/lease/coworking agreement/trading license or similar
- Annual accounts including at least a profit and loss account or income and expenditure statement

**Q22. What happens if an applicant forgot to upload adequate information and wants to send additional documents post-application?**

- Applicants can email us at [ARG@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:ARG@enfield.gov.uk) to provide additional information. They must include their case reference number in the title of the email.

**Q23. My business cannot provide a or tenancy/lease agreement. What should I do?**

- The business must pay commercial rent, they will need to provide evidence to demonstrate this, this could include monthly rent payments on their bank statement

**Q24. When will grants be issued?**

- Assessment of the grant applications will be carried out as they are received we will aim to make payments within 28 days.

**Q25. How will an applicant know if they have been successful?**

- The applicant will be notified by email as to whether they have been successful and when they can expect to receive payment.

**Q26. Will grants be issued on a first come first serve basis?**

- No, applicants will be reviewed after the closing date

**Q27. Will grant payments to a particular applicant be paid out all in one go or in smaller portions over time?**

- A grant to an applicant will be paid out all in one go.

**Q28. Is this a one off payment?**

- Yes. A new application will need to be submitted for further grants

**Q29. Do applicants need to pay back the grant?**

- No, except in cases where a grant was paid in error or if there has been fraudulent activity can the local authority reclaim the funds.

**Q30. My previous discretionary grant was unsuccessful, can this be reviewed?**

- No. The previous discretionary fund is closed and there is no appeal process

**Q31. My previous discretionary grant was unsuccessful, can I apply for ARG Phase 1?**

- Yes. As long as you meet the criteria

**Q32. How many phases will there be?**

- This is not certain yet, however phase 2 criteria is currently being developed and will be announced soon.

**Q33. What businesses will be eligible for future ARG?**

- The criteria has not been agreed for future phases, as soon as they have been agreed information will be provided on the Enfield council webpage

**Q34. When is the closing date?**

9<sup>th</sup> April applications and/or supporting evidence received after this date will not be accepted

**Q35. Can I appeal**

- No. There is no appeal process, the business rates team decision is final