



Data Protection Officer  
Freedom of Information  
NW Leicestershire District Council  
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Date: 20 April 2021

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 1554**

I write further to your email dated 25 March 2021.

Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), explained on our [freedom of information](#) page.

### **Your request:**

I am writing to you to ask for information under FOI Act 2000 relating to the following coronavirus grant schemes:

- Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSB)
- 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?

### **Our response:**

#### **Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSB)**

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

*Amount Paid: £846,972*

*Number Of Businesses Paid: 564*

2. How much money has been assessed as obtained fraudulently and how many businesses have been involved?  
*No cases we have come across can be proved as fraud (an intentional or deliberate act)*
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.  
*Analysis still to be completed.*
6. How much of the money issued in error identified in Q5 has been recovered to date?  
*Analysis still to be completed.*
7. What policy was in place to ensure that grants were not fraudulently obtained or granted in error to businesses?  
*We used a third party provider to host the application process. The evidence requirements were clearly prescribed and if the evidence was not supplied the grant would be refused. We also use the Cabinet spotlight tool to complement existing pre- and post-award checks.*

#### **Additional Restrictions Support Grant (ARG)**

1. How much money has been issued from the start of the scheme to date and to how many businesses?  
*Amount paid: £2,400,709*  
*Number Of Businesses Paid: 364*
2. How much money has been assessed as obtained fraudulently and how many businesses have been involved?  
*None*
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.  
*n/a*
6. How much of the money issued in error identified in Q5 has been recovered to date?  
*n/a*

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

*We have a general grant policy for each discretionary grant scheme that sets out eligibility criteria. Businesses have had to apply for each grant and provide documentation to demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria prior to payments being made. Each application was reviewed by an officer to ensure the application was genuine and eligible, with further checks by a separate office for quality control purposes. We are now undertaking post-payment assurance work to ensure eligibility.*

**Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF)**

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

*Amount Paid: £5,550,000  
Number Of Businesses Paid: 555*

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

*No cases we have come across can be proved as fraud (an intentional or deliberate act)*

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.

<i>Amount</i>	<i>Number Of Businesses</i>	<i>Reason For Error</i>	<i>Amount Recovered</i>
<i>£30,000</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Paid Twice In Error</i>	<i>£30,000</i>
<i>£10,000</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Incorrect Bank Details Entered</i>	<i>Invoice Issued</i>

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

*As above.*

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

*Customers were contacted by telephone where they provided a password. Customers then completed an online application. The password and other information were then verified by using information held on the system.*

**Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Business Grants Fund (RHLGF)**

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

*Amount Paid: £4,675,000  
Number Of Businesses Paid: 266*

2. How much money has been assessed as obtained fraudulently and how many businesses have been involved?  
*No cases we have come across can be proved as fraud (an intentional or deliberate act)*
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.  
*None*
6. How much of the money issued in error identified in Q5 has been recovered to date?  
*None*
7. What policy was in place to ensure that grants were not fraudulently obtained or granted in error to businesses?  
*Customers were contacted by telephone where they provided a password. Customers then completed an online application. The password and other information were then verified by using information held on the system.*

#### **Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (LADGF)**

1. How much money has been issued from the start of the scheme to date and to how many businesses?  
*Amount Paid: £969,427*  
*Number Of Businesses Paid: 200*
2. How much money has been assessed as obtained fraudulently and how many businesses have been involved?  
*None*
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.  
*N/A*
6. How much of the money issued in error identified in Q5 has been recovered to date?  
*N/A*

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

*We have a general grant policy for each discretionary grant scheme that sets out eligibility criteria. Businesses have had to apply for each grant and provide documentation to demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria prior to payments being made. Each application was reviewed by an officer to ensure the application was genuine and eligible, with further checks by a separate office for quality control purposes. We are now undertaking post-payment assurance work to ensure eligibility.*

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## **GOING FORWARD**

If you are dissatisfied with the information supplied please feel free to contact me on the number above for any queries in relation to this response. Please note that in responding to further enquiries I can only comment on the information contained within this correspondence and cannot provide any further information that may pertain to an additional FOIA request.

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the above informal review, you have the right to ask for an internal review. A request for a review whether formal or informal should be submitted within two calendar months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be sent to [DPO@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk](mailto:DPO@NWLeicestershire.gov.uk) or the address above.

Please remember to quote the Authority's four digit reference number given at the top of this email in any future communications.

Further details on our appeals and complaints procedure can be found on our website [here](#).

If you remain dissatisfied following the conclusion of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at [accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk](mailto:accessicoinformation@ico.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mackenzie Keatley  
Information Governance Officer