



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Paul Scully MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

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Christopher Hudson
President of the British Racecourse Bookmakers' Association
89 Penda's Way
Crossgates
Leeds
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20 May 2021

By email only.

Dear Mr Hudson,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 April to Nigel Huddleston MP and myself, about the problems individuals you represent have faced when applying for financial support during the Pandemic. I am replying as this matter falls within my Ministerial portfolio.

I know that it is an incredibly difficult period for businesses, and we are working closely with Local Authorities in England to ensure that funding can get to the right places as quickly as possible.

For all mandatory schemes such as the Local Restrictions Grant and Restart Grants Schemes, the business must occupy hereditaments appearing on the local rating list. Further to this the criteria for the Restart Grant includes offering in-person services where the main service and activity takes place in a fixed rate-paying premises. Therefore, if a business that does not meet this requirement, they will not qualify for the Restart Grant Scheme.

The Additional Restrictions Grant guidance encourages Local Authorities to target those businesses that fall outside of the business rates system and those that have not been mandated to close but have had their trade adversely affected by restrictions. Local Authorities may use their discretion and local knowledge to target businesses best suited for support in their area.

Local Authorities are responsible for administering all grant funding and taking decisions on eligibility and the value of grant to be paid to an applicant. All enquiries about specific grant should be made directly to them. The Government has provided guidance for Local Authorities that sets out the level of support that businesses should receive in relation to mandatory grant schemes like Restart Grants.

The Department does not run a central appeal process for this scheme and cannot comment further on the eligibility of any claims. To take up this issue, you will need to discuss this with individual Local Authorities and follow their usual appeals process.

I would encourage businesses that have not been able to access support, or who are unsure about the support available, to contact their nearest Business Growth Hub. Government has supported the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in England to establish a network of 38 of these hubs, where expert advisers can offer businesses of all sizes free, tailored 1-1 guidance on areas such as planning, building resilience, and funding. Growth hubs can also

signpost further resources such as webinars and networking opportunities. All contact details are listed online here at: www.lepnetwork.net/local-growth-hub-contacts/.

The Government's Business Support Helpline, FREEPHONE 0800 998 1098, also provides free, impartial information and advice to businesses.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Scully', with a stylized, cursive style.

PAUL SCULLY MP

Minister for Small Business, Consumers & Labour Markets
Minister for London