

The Bingo Association

Grant Landscape

January 2021



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Executive Summary

This guide covers the range of COVID-19 related grants issued by the UK Government for English funding and Scottish and Welsh Governments for the devolved regions.

The guide is organised into three main sections. The first shows the currently available funding in each country. The second section shows funds that have closed which were announced across two phases of the pandemic, Spring-Summer and Autumn-Winter of 2020. The last section is a Q&A on the Welsh grants in particular to clarify which funds exclude the gambling companies and which do not.

There is colour coding of cells throughout to aid reading.

- ▶ Green – funds are open, and available to gambling companies
- ▶ Yellow – funds are open, but are not available to gambling companies
- ▶ Red – funds are closed (contains both those funds that are available and those that are not).

Weblinks have been included providing for more information – these links have all been accessed in January 2021. Website updates are also indicated in the fund details.

Overall, it is clear that there is a broad range of funds of small amounts that have emerged since the start of the pandemic. Many are focused on businesses in “hospitality, retail and leisure” and use rateable values of properties to ascertain the appropriate level of grant.

Scotland had a flurry of new funds in 2020, but many have been consolidated under a new Strategic Framework which is the only scheme to explicitly mention bingo clubs (for areas under the strictest COVID restrictions).

Wales has used a mix of national Economic Resilience Fund funding and local authority funding. Gambling/gaming is excluded explicitly from the Sector Specific Scheme and also in the details of the Restrictions Business Fund.

England and Scotland’s cultural and heritage funding, while using headline terms that could relate to the bingo sector (e.g. ‘cultural life’), do not include the sector in the details scope of the funds. The cultural funds include the largest grants in this study of £3,000,000. In England, cultural and heritage funds are administered by the Arts Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, rather than the central government.

1 Open and soon-to-be-open Funds

1.1 England

Open Schemes	England
Name of fund	Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF)
Range of Grant	£4,000-£9,000
Eligibility	Rateable Values from £15,000 upwards
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Open (additional funds announced)
Detail	<p>One-off top-up grant for leisure, hospitality and retail businesses of up to £9,000 was announced in January 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £4,000 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or under - £6,000 for businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000 - £9,000 for businesses with a rateable value of over £51,000 <p>Government announcement accessed 18 January 2021</p>
Name of fund	Local Restrictions Support Grant Addendum
Range of Grant	£667 to £1,500 per 14 days closed
Eligibility	English business, required to close for at least 14 days and unable to provide its usual in-person customer service from its premises
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Open
Detail	<p>The grant will be based on the rateable value of the property on the first full day of local restrictions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If rateable value \leq £15,000, grant of £667 for each 14 day period your business is closed. - If rateable value $>$ £15,000 and \leq £51,000, grant of £1,000 for each 14 day period the business is closed. - If rateable value $>$ £51,000, grant of £1,500 for each 14 day period the business is closed. <p>If business is closed for 28 days, or 2 payment cycles, it will receive £1,334, £2,000 or £3,000, depending on the rateable value of the property</p> <p>Government announcement accessed 18 January 2021</p>

Open Schemes	England (continued)
Name of fund	Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG)
Range of Grant	Discretionary
Eligibility	Businesses forced to close or impacted by COVID restrictions
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Open in some local areas – see local authority websites
Detail	<p>The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) supports businesses that are not covered by other grant schemes or where additional funding is needed.</p> <p>Announced in November 2020, local councils will be able to award grant funding to support closed businesses, as well as businesses that do not have to close but which are impacted.</p> <p>- Local authorities were free to determine the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Government funding announcement accessed 18 January 2021, updated 22 December 2020</p>
Name of fund	Culture Recovery Fund
Range of Grant	£25,000 - £3,000,000
Eligibility	Cultural Organisations
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Open
Detail	<p>To support cultural organisations as they transition back to a viable and sustainable operating model during April-June 2021.</p> <p>Cultural organisations that are based in England, or those that can demonstrate that the majority of their work takes place in England</p> <p>‘Cultural organisation’ is defined as “an organisation that works in one of our supported artforms or disciplines: music, theatre, dance, combined arts, visual arts, museums, or literature.”</p> <p>Funding information accessed 19 January 2021</p>
Name of fund	Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage
Range of Grant	£10,000 - £3,000,000
Eligibility	Range of organisations in heritage
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Open
Detail	<p>Deadline 26 January 2021</p> <p>National Lottery Heritage Fund is distributing £36m to organisations in England, in partnership with Historic England, based on criteria set by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). It will support organisations to transition from the challenging months of lockdowns and social distancing to resume business activity and welcome visitors back to the country’s diverse heritage sites.</p> <p>Applications are welcome from organisations and businesses that own, work with or manage heritage in England</p> <p>Funding information accessed 19 January 2021</p>

1.2 Scotland

Open Schemes	Scotland
Name of fund	Strategic Framework Business Fund
Range of Grant	£1,400-£3,000 every four weeks
Eligibility	Closed businesses (explicitly mentions Bingo Clubs for Tier 3 and 4)
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Open
Detail	<p>Announced 27 December 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Covers businesses facing restrictions since 2 November 2020 - Bingo clubs can apply for funding at higher restriction levels (Tiers 3 and 4) - Funding available through local councils - Grants from £1,400-£3,000 paid every four weeks - No upper limit for businesses operating in multiple locations <p>Operates through two strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary closure grant - £2,000 or £3,000 depending on rateable value if forced to close by law - Business restrictions grant - £1,400 or £2,100 depending on rateable value if business can stay open but must modify its operations <p>Funding website accessed 18 January 2021, updated 11 January 2021</p> <p>On 11 January 2021, additional funding was made available specifically for the Hospitality, Retail and Leisure sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £6,000 for smaller hospitality businesses on top of the 4-weekly £2,000 - £25,000 for larger hospitality businesses on top of the 4-weekly £3,000 - £6,000 for smaller retail and leisure businesses on top of the 4-weekly £2,000 - £9,000 for larger retail and leisure businesses on top of the 4-weekly £3,000 <p>This will be administered automatically if businesses have already applied for the Strategic Framework Business Fund with next payment due 25 January 2021 Extension announcement accessed 18 January 2021, published 11 January 2021</p>
Name of fund	Grants for businesses
Range of Grant	£1,400-£3,000
Eligibility	Businesses closed by law or constrained by COVID measures
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Open
Detail	<p>From 2 November, firms that are required by law to close will be eligible for grants every four weeks for as long as the restrictions last. Based on rateable values, awards will be for either £2,000 or £3,000.</p> <p>Businesses which can remain open, but are directly constrained by the measures, will be eligible for grants worth £1,400 or £2,100, again based on rateable value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants will be paid every four weeks in arrears as long as restrictions last. - Grant funding for eligible business will cover the period of any closures or restrictions with the earliest claim date being 2 November 2020. This includes where the period for which restrictions are in place does not correspond to a four week period. <p>Fund details accessed 18 January 2021, updated 11 January 2021</p>

Open Schemes	Scotland (continued)
Name of fund	Local Authority Discretionary
Range of Grant	Discretionary
Eligibility	Businesses adversely affected since October 2020
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Open
Detail	Local authorities can use this fund at their discretion, and will undertake their own assessment of need and develop application processes accordingly. Funding announcement accessed 18 January 2021, updated 18 December 2020

1.3 Wales

Open Schemes	Wales
Name of fund	Small Business Grant
Range of Grant	£10,000
Eligibility	All businesses with an rateable value of less than £12,000
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Possibly until 31 March 2021
Detail	Opened 1 April 2020, Closes 31 March 2021* All businesses with an rateable value of less than £12,000 to receive £10,000. Detail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One grant per business/hereditament - Subject to State Aid rules. - To be applied automatically by Local Authorities. Package of support accessed 18 Jan 21, published 3 Apr 2020 * Closing date published by Swansea local authority – not on government sites, accessed 18 January 2021, published in April 2020
Name of fund	Economic Resilience Fund Phase 4
Range of Grant	Tbc
Eligibility	Businesses in Wales seeking to invest in their economic growth.
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Opening in Feb 2021 to Expressions of Interest
Detail	The £400m Economic Resilience Fund was launched in April 2020. This is the fourth round. Eligibility may be similar to ERF Phase 3 but is not yet confirmed.

Open Schemes	Wales (continued)
Name of fund	Economic Resilience Fund (ERF) Scheme (includes Restrictions Business Fund & Restrictions Discretionary Fund)
Range of Grant	£2,000 to £5,000
Eligibility	All businesses
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Open – Bingo eligible for ERF Restrictions Discretionary Fund
Detail	<p>Announced 30 November 2020 with a size of £340m Two different grants under one scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ERF Restrictions Business Fund - website accessed 18 January 2021 - ERF Restrictions Discretionary Fund - website accessed 18 January 2021 <p>- ERF Restrictions Business Fund: Available to hospitality, non-essential retail, tourism, leisure and supply chain businesses impacted by the new restrictions that are in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief (which can include bingo clubs). Supply chain also eligible in certain conditions.</p> <p>To qualify, businesses must already on, or register to, the Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Rating List (a list is a rate payers which can include bingo clubs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If Rateable value ≤ £12,000, a £3,000 grant - If Rateable value between £12,001 to £150,000, a £5,000 grant <p>- ERF Restrictions Discretionary Fund: Businesses not eligible for NDR linked grants (including the ERF Restrictions Business Fund) should use the ERF Restrictions Discretionary Fund. Application via local authorities with grant up to £2,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £110m for all businesses affected by Tier 4 restrictions from 19/12/20 ERF Restrictions Business Fund information, accessed 18 January 2021
Name of fund	Local Lockdown Discretionary Grant
Range of Grant	£1,000 - £1,500
Eligibility	All businesses
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Open
Detail	<p>Business was trading prior to 1 March 2020 Businesses must be operating in Wales Businesses must have one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - HMRC Unique Taxpayer Reference (UTR) Number - VAT Registration Number or a VAT exemption certificate - Company Registration Number <p>and have experienced a drop in turnover greater than 40% as a result of the local lockdown imposed as a result of Covid-19.</p> <p>Supported businesses must aim to maintain employment for 12 months Only one application per business</p> <p>Businesses cannot use both this fund and the Local Lockdown Non Domestic Rate Grants (described above).</p> <p>Guidance accessed 19 January 2021</p>

Open Schemes	Wales (continued)
Name of fund	ERF Sector Specific Support Scheme
Range of Grant	Specific Sectors (excluding gambling) where company turnover is >£50,000 per annum
Eligibility	From £2,500 - £150,000
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Open
Detail	<p>ERF Sector Specific Support is discretionary funding targeted at Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure (HTL) businesses and associated supply chain businesses that will be materially impacted by a greater than 60% negative impact on turnover as a result of the restrictions introduced on 4 December 2020 until the 22 January 2021.</p> <p>To be eligible for support you must either be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A business registered with Companies House or the Charity Commission and with a turnover above £50,000 - A VAT registered business with a turnover of £85k or over - A VAT exempt business with a turnover of £85k or over <p>The electronic application form includes conditions that state that the following activities are not eligible for funding from this scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - party political purposes; - the promotion of particular secular, religious or political views; - gambling; - pornography; - offering sexual services; - any kind of illegal activities; - any kind of activity which in our opinion could bring the Welsh Government into disrepute <p>Guidance notes accessed 18 January 2021</p>

2 Closed Funds

2.1 England

Closed schemes	England
Name of fund	Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLGF)
Range of Grant	£10,000-£25,000
Eligibility	£15,000-£51,000 (and above from January 2021)
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed
Detail	<p>Opened: 1 April 2020, Closed: 5 October 2020</p> <p>a. Eligible properties with rateable value up to £15,000 to receive £10,000.</p> <p>b. Eligible properties with rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000 to receive £25,000.</p> <p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One grant per hereditament. - Subject to State Aid rules. - For occupied properties, or properties that would be treated as occupied if not for Government closure guidance. - Eligible person is the one who, according to the billing authority's records, was the ratepayer in respect of the hereditament on the 11 March 2020 - To be applied automatically by Local Authorities. <p>Funding page accessed 18th January 2021</p>
Name of fund	Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF)
Range of Grant	£10,000
Eligibility	All businesses in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief and Rural Rate Relief
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed
Detail	<p>Opened: 1 April 2020, Closed: 5 October 2020</p> <p>All businesses in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief and Rural Rate Relief to receive £10,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applies to RVs under £15,000. - One grant per hereditament. - Subject to State Aid Rules. - Car parks not eligible. - To be applied automatically by Local Authorities. <p>Government funding page accessed 18th January 2021</p>

2.2 Scotland

Closed schemes	Scotland
Name of fund	Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant
Range of Grant	£25,000
Eligibility	£18,000-£50,999
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed
Detail	<p>First Tranche closed 10 July 2020 Eligible businesses with rateable value between £18,000 and £50,999 to receive £25,000</p> <p>Detail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One grant per business. - List of eligible properties included in Scotland includes warehouses and offices. - Subject to State Aid rules. - For occupied properties, or properties that would be treated as occupied if not for Government closure guidance. - Must apply to local authority to receive grant. - Eligible person is the person who, according to the billing authority's records, was the ratepayer in respect of the hereditament on the 11 March 2020 - From 2 November, businesses required to close were to be eligible for grants every four weeks for as long as the restrictions lasted. Based on rateable values, awards were either £2,000 or £3,000. Businesses that could remain open, but directly constrained by the measures, would be eligible for grants worth £1,400 or £2,100, again based on rateable value. <p>Website, accessed 18 January 2021</p>
Name of fund	Small Business Grant Fund
Range of Grant	£10,000
Eligibility	Businesses receiving relief
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed
Detail	<p>One £10,000 grant for business receiving any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small Business Bonus Scheme. - Rural Relief. - Nursery Relief. - Business Growth Accelerator Relief. - Disabled Relief. <p>Detail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applies to rateable values under £18,000. - One grant per business. - Subject to State Aid Rules. - Must apply to local authority to receive grant. <p>Opened 8 June 2020 Closed 10 July 2020 Website, accessed 18 January 2021</p>

Closed schemes	Scotland
Name of fund	Temporary Business Support
Range of Grant	£1,650
Eligibility	Businesses very directly impacted by the restrictions implemented on 9 October 2020
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed
Detail	Temporary business support funds were administered by Local Authorities, providing one-off grants to businesses
Name of fund	Business Hardship Fund
Range of Grant	£1,440-£2,155 per premise, subject to cap per business
Eligibility	Businesses that remain open but were still significantly impacted by the 9 October restrictions
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed
Detail	<p>Opened: 9 October 2020, Closed: 3 November 2020</p> <p>Local Authorities invited applications for a business hardship fund - with payments of £1,440 or £2,155, dependent on Rateable Value - to support some businesses that remain open but were still significantly impacted by the restrictions including those in the direct supply chains of firms that were required to close. Grants were made available per premise; with an upper limit of £14,000 applied in total to any eligible business operating multiple premises.</p> <p>Government announcement accessed 18th January 2021, last updated 7 December 2020</p>
Name of fund	COVID-19 Restrictions Fund
Range of Grant	£2,875 - £4,310 per premise, subject to cap per business.
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hospitality businesses and some gyms (required by regulations to operate in a restricted way) - Producers/wholesale businesses
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed, 3 November 2020
Detail	<p>Opened: 9 October 2020, Closed: 3 November 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - two-tiered scheme, £2,875 with Rateable Value (RV) ≤ £51,000 and £4,310 with a RV > £51,001. - Grants were available per premise; an upper limit of £21,000 in total applied to any eligible business operating multiple premises. <p>At the same time, Local Authorities invited applications for a business hardship fund – with payments of £1,440 or £2,155, dependent on rateable value – to support some businesses that remain open but were still significantly impacted by the restrictions including those in the direct supply chains of firms that were required to close. Grants were made available per premise; an upper limit of £14,000 applied in total to any eligible business operating multiple premises.</p> <p>Government announcement accessed 18 January 2021, last updated 7 December 2020</p>

Closed schemes	Scotland (continued)
Name of fund	Business Contingency Fund
Range of Grant	£10,000-£50,000
Eligibility	Nightclubs and soft play businesses that do not fall into the COVID-19 Restrictions Fund but remain closed
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed, 13 December 20
Detail	<p>This first phase of Contingency Fund grants operated as a three-tiered scheme, with awards dependent on Rateable Value. Eligible businesses receive a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £10,000 grant for a property from which they operate with a rateable value of £18,000 or under; or - a £25,000 grant for a property from which they operate with a rateable value between £18,001 and £51,000; or - a £50,000 grant for a property from which they operate with a rateable value above £51,001. <p>Businesses operating multiple premises will be eligible for each one, with second and subsequent locations payable at 75% of the standard rates set out above.</p> <p>Businesses that have received (or will receive) funding of equivalent or greater value from the Culture Organisations and Venues Fund (COVF) from Creative Scotland will not be eligible for funding except for insofar as a top-up payment may be made if the COVF award is less than the award otherwise payable through this Discretionary Fund.</p> <p>Local authorities process grants automatically</p> <p>Government information accessed 18 January 2021, updated 15 January 2021</p>
Name of fund	Cultural Organisations and Venues Recovery Fund
Range of Grant	£10,000 - £150,000
Eligibility	“Organisations that are most critical to the cultural life of Scotland, whose existence is threatened by COVID-19 restrictions”
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed, 24 September 2020
Detail	<p>The fund covers both organisations that provide opportunities for audiences (including, but not limited to: galleries, commercial theatres, performing arts spaces, festivals, comedy clubs and nightclubs) as well as those that enable and deliver cultural activity (including, but not limited to: production facilities, music and dance companies).</p> <p>Funding information, accessed 19 January 2021</p>

2.3 Wales

Closed schemes	Wales
Name of fund	Non-Domestic Grant Scheme (Round 1)
Range of Grant	£10,000 - £25,000
Eligibility	Businesses with rateable value from £51,000 to less than £12,000
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed 30 June 2020
Detail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £10,000 grant to all businesses eligible for small business rates relief (SBRR) in Wales with a rateable value of £12,000 or less - £25,000 grant for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses occupying properties with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000 <p>The same ratepayer may only receive the grant for a maximum of two properties in each local authority.</p> <p>Funding information, accessed 18 January 2021, updated 29 June 2020</p>
Name of fund	Economic Resilience Fund – April 2020
Range of Grant	£10,000 - £690,000 depending on company size
Eligibility	Businesses in Wales with drop in turnover
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed
Detail	<p>The £400m Economic Resilience Fund was launched in April 2020. It is primarily an economic development fund.</p> <p>Micro firms have to demonstrate 40% drop in turnover Others SMEs have to demonstrate 60% drop in turnover Large companies assessed case by case basis</p> <p>Criteria from April 2020</p> <p>Funding information, accessed 19 January 2021, published 9 Jun 2020</p>
Name of fund	Economic Resilience Fund - October
Range of Grant	Discretionary
Eligibility	Businesses in Wales with drop in turnover
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed 25 November 2020
Detail	<p>Opened 28 October, the £400m Economic Resilience Fund was launched in April 2020. It is primarily an economic development fund.</p> <p>There have been three phases to date. The last round, Phase 3 closed in November 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £20 million ring-fenced to support tourism and hospitality businesses facing particular challenges as they enter the winter months. - £80 million of business development grants open to micro businesses, SMEs and large businesses - Business case and staff development plans required as part of application <p>Phase 3 information accessed 19 January 2021, updated 9 October 2020</p>

Closed schemes	Wales (continued)
Name of fund	Lockdown Business Fund – Local Lockdown Discretionary Grant
Range of Grant	£1,000 - £1,500
Eligibility	Trading SMEs
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed 20 November 2020
Detail	<p>Business needed to be trading prior to 1 March 2020, operating in Wales, registered, and see a drop in turnover of 40% as a result of local lockdown.</p> <p>Funding information, accessed 18 January 2021, updated 29 June 2020</p>
Name of fund	Lockdown Business Fund – Non-Domestic Rate Grant Scheme (Round 2)
Range of Grant	£10,000 - £25,000
Eligibility	Businesses with rateable value below £51,000
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed 20 November 2020
Detail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £10,000 grant to all businesses eligible for small business rates relief (SBRR) in Wales with a rateable value of £12,000 or less - £25,000 grant for “retail, leisure and hospitality businesses” occupying properties with a rateable value of between £12,001 and £51,000. <p>This £25,000 retail, leisure and hospitality grant is not available to gaming establishments where gambling rather than amusement is the predominant activity.</p> <p>(Link opens Word document accessed 18 January 2021, created 26 Oct 2020)</p> <p>The same ratepayer may only receive the grant for a maximum of two properties in each local authority</p> <p>Funding information, accessed 18 January 2021, updated 29 June 2020</p>
Name of fund	Small Business Rate Relief Grant
Range of Grant	£1,000-£3,000
Eligibility	Businesses with rateable value below £12,000
Open/Closed as of Jan 2021	Closed 20 November 2020
Detail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Businesses eligible for small business rates relief that have been subject to local restrictions for three weeks or more and have been materially impacted (>50% reduction in turnover) up to the 23rd October will be eligible for a further grant of £1,000 - Businesses eligible for small business rates relief that have been forced to close (as defined by the regulations) as a result of the national firebreak lockdown will also be eligible for a further top up grant of £2,000 from their local authority. <p>Funding information (Word document), accessed 19 January 2021</p>