



## Information Governance

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Date: 23 April 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**  
**Request ID: FOI317283189**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Coronavirus grant schemes.

Your request and our responses are shown below:

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

- Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSG)**
- 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?**

Please see the table below:

Grant Scheme	Grant funding issued	Number of businesses
LRSB (including Closed Business Lockdown Payments and Christmas Support Payments)	£21,969,261	4543
ARG	£8,597,633	2931
SBGF	£24,455,060	2443
RHLGF	£23,653,333	1586
LADGF	£2,658,667	469

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

Grant Scheme	No of grants assessed as fraudulent	Amount	Amount recovered to date
LRSB	1	£1334	0
ARG	0		
SBGF	18	£180,000	£70,000
RHLGF	8	£140,000	£20,000
LADGF	1	£3000	£0

**3. How much of the money identified in the answer to Q2 has been recovered to date?**

See table above.

**4. Where fraud was identified how many of those cases have been referred to the authorities to date?**

5 cases have been referred in accordance with the guidance issued by Government.

**5. How much has been issued in error and to how many businesses? For each please explain what the error was.**

Grant Scheme	No of grants assessed as ineligible	No of grants where a payment error was made	Amount	Amount recovered to date
LRSB	13	27	£82,046.05	£19,654
ARG	0	0		
SBGF	9	0	£90,000	£60,000
RHLGF	16	0	£260,000	£220,000
LADGF	5	0	£35,000	£31,000

**Ineligible:** where it was subsequently identified that the business was not eligible to receive the grant but it was determined that they had not been dishonest / fraudulently applied for the grant.

**Error:** where the applicant was paid the incorrect amount.

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

Please refer to the table provided for Question 5.

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

The Council has followed government guidance to minimise the risk of fraud and error using both up-front low friction controls and post-event assurance. This has included the use of existing data sets to verify eligibility, application processes, fraud clauses, risk assessments and use of tools to

undertake due diligence checks.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the [Council's web site](#) and in particular its FOI/EIR [Disclosure log](#), [Council's Publication Scheme](#), [Open Data](#) and [Facts about Coventry](#).

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**