



Reference: FOI3657

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 (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? **LRSG - £16,430,831.50 to 1306 business premises. ARG - £5,007,690 to 1951 businesses. SBGF - £22,830,000 to 2283 business premises. RHLGF - £9,995,000 to 566 business premises. LADGF - £1,656,000 to 166 businesses.**
2. How much money has been assessed as obtained fraudulently and how many businesses have been involved? **21 potential overpayment cases totalling £225,000.**
3. How much of the money identified in the answer to Q2 has been recovered to date? **Nil.**
4. Where fraud was identified how many of those cases have been referred to the authorities to date? **One case identified as potential fraud (as opposed to overpaid) and in process of being referred.**
5. How much has been issued in error and to how many businesses? For each please explain what the error was. **Duplicate payment of £2096 issued incorrectly to 6 businesses due to paying ARG grant and LRSG for same 44-day period.**
6. How much of the money issued in error identified in Q5 has been recovered to date? **3 out of the 6 have been recovered in full, 1 has repaid £2000, and 2 remain outstanding.**
7. What policy was in place to ensure that grants were not fraudulently obtained or granted in error to businesses? **Extensive cross-referencing with the Council's business rate records to produce and maintain qualifying target lists. Proof of ratepayer status needed for ratepayer led grant types. Filtering of duplicate applications. Provision of documents as evidence when required (leases, accounts, bank statements for ARG etc)**

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