

## **ReStart Grant Plus - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. How soon will I get my grant?**

On average, we will aim to process (meaning *Yes/No/further information required*) applications within two weeks. This may not be possible at the early stages if there is a large initial surge of applications.

### **2. How much will I get?**

In most cases (but see FAQ's 11, 12, 13 and the Table at the end), the grant will be the amount of the rates assessment for the premises for 2019 with a minimum grant of €4,000 and a maximum grant of €25,000 (or maximum of €15,000 for businesses that received the maximum €10,000 under the original Restart Grant Scheme). Top-ups are available for a) businesses in Counties Kildare, Laois, Offaly, Donegal and Dublin, in respect of a further period of restrictions, for b) 'wet' pubs, bars and nightclubs nationwide that re-opened on 21 September, and for c) 'wet' pubs, bars and nightclubs in Dublin that remain closed. See Explanatory Grants Table at the end for details).

### **3. What can I use the grant for?**

The grant is a contribution towards the cost of re-opening or keeping a business operational and re-connecting with employees and customers. The grant could also be used to defray ongoing fixed costs during closure, e.g. utilities, insurance, refurbishment, or for measures to ensure employee and customer safety.

### **4. If I have not paid my 2019 rates, am I eligible?**

Yes.

### **5. If my rates are in arrears, am I eligible?**

Yes.

### **6. If my premises was not rate assessed in 2019 am I eligible?**

Yes. The Local Authority will estimate what your rates demand for 2019 would have been. (If for some reason an estimate cannot be made the minimum grant of €4,000 will be paid.)

### **7. How do I apply?**

The application can be made online via your local authority website at <https://consult.meath.ie/en/content/restart-grant-plus-application-form>. Businesses that qualified for a grant under the original Restart Grant scheme are simply required to re-declare that the information supplied continues to be true.

### **8. How will the grant be paid?**

In most cases the grant will be paid by electronic transfer to the business account detailed on the application form.

### **9. What are the criteria for qualifying for the grant?**

A business must:

- Be a commercial, trading, entity;

- Operate from a premises that is commercially rateable by a local authority (but see FAQ 10 re certain B&B establishments);
- Have 0 - 250 employees;
- Have a turnover of less than €100k per employee to a maximum of €25m<sup>1</sup>;
- Have suffered a 25%+ loss in turnover between 1 April and 30 June 2020.
- Commit to remain open or to reopen if closed; and
- Intend to retain employees that are on The Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS).

The DETE will arrange to carry out spot-checks to ensure compliance with the qualifying criteria.

#### **10. Can tourism-related businesses apply?**

Rate-paying tourism/hospitality related businesses, including independent hotels and B&B's that meet the qualifying criteria can apply.

B&Bs that are not in rateable premises can apply for a flat €4,000 grant. **PLEASE NOTE: This grant is administered by Failte Ireland, NOT the local authority.**

#### **11. Can sporting organisations apply?**

Rate-paying Sports Clubs, such as GAA Clubs and Golf Clubs that have commercial activities (e.g. bar/restaurant) can apply for a grant which will be the amount of the rates assessment for the premises for 2019 subject to a minimum grant of €4,000 and a maximum grant of €25,000 i.e. to cover all the commercial elements of the organisation. (See Table at end).

#### **12. What about Charity Organisations?**

Charity Shops with a trading income, and operating from rateable premises, can apply for a grant which will be the amount of the rates assessment for the premises for 2019 subject to a minimum grant of €4,000 and a maximum grant of €25,000. However, non-trading community and voluntary organisations are not eligible. (See Table at end).

#### **13. What about franchise stores, chain stores and tenant businesses?**

- a) A franchisee, which is a financially independent company and is completely separate to the franchisor, is eligible to apply.
- b) Multinational businesses are not eligible. Irish-based subsidiaries with overseas parent companies are not eligible.
- c) Stores that are part of a large chain group company, i.e., one legal entity with a number of branches, such as fast food, group and multiple supermarkets, group hotels, group betting shops and group pharmacies, are not eligible.
- d) Small business chains can apply if they meet the criteria of <250 employees and a maximum of €25m turnover in totality across the company and all the branches<sup>1</sup>.
- e) A company with a number of stores across one or more local authorities, which meets the turnover and employment criteria, and where each store has a separate rates id, is eligible to apply for the equivalent of the 2019 rates bill for each store, subject to the minimum of €4,000 and the maximum of €25,000 (combined Restart and Restart Plus) grant for each store.

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<sup>1</sup> The criteria regarding turnover of < €100K per employee will be assessed in groups of 25, e.g. <50 staff must have under a maximum €5m turnover, 51 to 75 staff must have a maximum of €7.5m turnover, 76 to 100 staff must have a maximum of €10m turnover, 101 to 125 staff a maximum of €12.5m turnover, 126 to 150 staff must have a maximum of €15m turnover, 151 to 175 staff a maximum of €17.5m turnover, 176 to 200 staff a maximum of €20m turnover, 201 to 225 employees a maximum of €22.5m turnover and 226 to 250 employees a maximum of €25m turnover. Employee numbers are expressed in Full-Time Equivalents.

- f) A company with a number of stores in just one local authority, which meets the turnover and employment criteria, and that pays rates under one account will be eligible to apply for the equivalent of the 2019 rates bill for each premises, subject to the minimum of €4,000 and the maximum of €25,000 (combined Restart and Restart Plus) grant for each store. The local authority can identify and verify that the individual premises are separate units in the rates account.
- g) For tenant businesses, the grant is for the business rather than the landlord. The local authorities can identify the rates equivalent for the individual business units and calculate the grant payable on that basis. If the rates payable is lower than €4,000, the tenant should receive the minimum grant of €4,000.

#### **14. What is the situation regarding Professional Services**

Professional Services such as Accountants, Architects, GPs, Dentists, Opticians, Consultants, etc., are eligible if they are operating from rateable premises and meet the criteria, including loss of turnover.

However, other services not operating from rateable premises, sole traders, etc., are not eligible.

#### **15. I am a Childcare Provider. Can I apply for the Restart Grant Plus and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs supports.**

Among the COVID-19 supports available from the DCYA are two reopening supports specifically to Childcare Providers: a DCYA Capital Grant and a DCYA Reopening Support Payment. Childcare Providers who are in receipt of the DCYA Reopening Support Payment cannot then receive the Restart Grant Plus. (Childcare Providers who have received a Restart or Restart Grant Plus must declare the amount due/received in the application form to the DCYA and this will be offset against the Reopening Support Payment. Receiving the DCYA Capital Grant does not affect whether you can apply for the DCYA Reopening Support Payment or the Restart Grant Plus.)

#### **16. What is the closing date?**

The closing date for receipt of applications is 31 October, 2020.

#### **17. What is my Customer Number?**

Your Customer Number is located on your commercial rates demand.

#### **18. What is my Rate Number?**

Your Rate Number (or LAID) is located on your commercial rates demand.

#### **19. What is a Bank Statement Header?**

The bank statement header is the top of a recent bank statement (dated within the past 6 months) indicating your business name and address and business bank account number, which should be scanned and uploaded as an attachment to the application form to verify your business name and address, and your bank account details i.e. BIC and IBAN.

#### **20. How do I sign the form?**

Applications should type in their name and by pressing submit they confirm all details are correct and true.

#### **21. Do I need to submit a Tax Clearance Access Number?**

If you are making an application totalling €10,000 or more, you must submit a Tax Clearance Access Number to allow your tax clearance status to be checked. To ensure no delays occur between approval and payment, it is advisable to include your Tax Clearance Access Number on your application.

**22. If I am not happy with the decision to refuse my grant can I appeal?**

Yes, any decision to refuse a grant may be appealed to [appealsrestartgrant@meathcoco.ie](mailto:appealsrestartgrant@meathcoco.ie)

**23. Where can I get more information?**

Further information can be obtained from your Local Authority at [restartgrant@meathcoco.ie](mailto:restartgrant@meathcoco.ie)

**Restart Grant Plus (RGP) – Further Top-up Payments from 7 October.**

<b>Business Type</b>	<b>Grant payable under RGP Scheme.</b>	<b>Top-up Grant for all local authorities.<sup>1</sup>  (RGP +30%) 7 October</b>	<b>Top-up Grant for Donegal.  (RGP +10%) 7 October</b>	<b>Top-up Grant for Dublin.  (RGP +20%) 7 October</b>	<b>Top up for ‘wet’ pubs outside Donegal and Dublin.  (RGP + 40%) From 21 Sept</b>	<b>Top up for ‘wet’ pubs in Donegal  (RGP + 40%) From 21 Sept</b>	<b>Top up for ‘wet’ pubs in Dublin.  (RGP + 40%) From 21 Sept</b>
Small & Medium sized Companies/independent hotels.	2019 rates assessment subject to minimum grant of €4k and a maximum of €25k.	A further top-up of 30% of the basic RGP grant subject to a minimum total RGP grant of €5.2k and a maximum of €32.5k.	A further payment equivalent to 10% of the basic RGP grant subject to a minimum total RGP grant of €5.6k and a maximum of €35k.	A further top-up of 20% of the basic RGP grant subject to a minimum grant of €6.0k and a maximum of €37.5k.	A further payment equivalent to 40% of the basic RGP grant subject to a minimum total RGP grant of €6.8k and a maximum of €42.5k.	A further payment equivalent to 40% of the basic RGP grant subject to a minimum total RGP grant of €7.2k and a maximum of €45k	A further payment equivalent to 40% of the basic RGP grant subject to a minimum total RGP grant of €7.6k and a maximum of €47.5k
Sports clubs commercial activities (in rateable premises)	2019 rates assessment subject to minimum grant of €4k and a maximum of €25k.	A further payment equivalent to 30% of the 2019 rates assessment, subject to a combined minimum grant of €5.2k and a maximum of €32.5k	As above	As above	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Trading Charity shops (in rateable premises)	2019 rates assessment subject to minimum grant of 4k and a maximum of 25k.	A further payment equivalent to 30% of the 2019 rates assessment, subject to a combined minimum grant of €5.2k and a	As above	As above	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

<sup>1</sup> In the case of Dublin and Donegal, the 30% top-up was available from 21 September. The further 20% and 10% respectively were available from 7 October.

**Applicants who received a grant under the original Restart Grant (RG) scheme can apply again under Restart Grant Plus (RGP).**

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Sample 2019 Rates Bill	Grant under original RG scheme.  22 May	Basic grant payable under RGP <sup>2</sup> for all businesses.  10 August	Top-up grant for all local authorities for all businesses.  (RGP +30%) 7 October <sup>3</sup>	Top-up Grant for Donegal for all businesses.  (RGP +10%) 7 October	Top-up grant for Dublin local authorities for all businesses.  (RGP +20%) 7 October		Top up grant for 'Wet' Pubs excl. Dublin and Donegal  (RGP + 40%) 21 Sept	Top up grant for 'wet' pubs in Donegal.  (RGP +40%) 21 Sept	Top up grant for 'wet' pubs in Dublin.  (RGP +40%) 21 Sept
Rates bill <€2k in 2019	€2k min	A further €4k (new minimum)	A further grant of €1.2k	A further grant of €0.4k.	A further grant of €0.8k		A further €1.6k payment.	A further €1.6k payment.	A further €1.6k payment.
€3k rates bill	€3k	A further €4k (new minimum)	A further grant of €1.2k	A further grant of €0.4k	A further grant of €0.8k		A further €1.6k payment).	A further €1.6kk payment).	A further €1.6kk payment).
€5k rates bill	€5k	A further €5k	A further grant of €1.5k	A further grant of €0.5k	A further grant of €1.0k		A further €2.0k payment.	A further €2.0k payment.	A further €2.0k payment.
€8k rates bill	€8k	A further €8k	A further grant of €2.4k	A further €0.8k	A further grant of €1.6k		A further €3.2k payment.	A further €3.2k payment.	A further €3.2k payment.
€10k rates bill or greater	€10k max	A further grant equivalent to 2019 rates bill to a maximum of €15k (combined max. Restart grant of €25k)	A further top-up of 30% of RGP grant to a max of €19.5k (combined max Restart grant of €29.5k)	A further top-up of 10% of RGP grant to a max of €21k (combined maximum of €31.k)	A further top-up of 20% of basic RGP grant to a max of €22.5k (combined max Restart grant of €32.5k)		A further payment equivalent to a 40% top-up on RGP grant to a maximum grant of €25.5k (combined max of €35.5k).	A further payment equivalent to a 40% top-up on RGP grant to a maximum grant of €27k (combined max of €37k).	A further payment equivalent to a 40% top-up on RGP grant to a maximum grant of €28.5k (combined max of €38.5k).

<sup>2</sup> Kildare, Laois and Offaly received a 20% top-up previously from 7 August, or a further grant of €0.8k (minimum) to a maximum of €18k (combined max of €28k). Kildare received a second 20% top-up from 21 August, or a further €0.8k minimum to a maximum of €21k (combined maximum of €31k).

<sup>3</sup> In the case of Dublin and Donegal the 30% top-up applied from 21 September.