



FOI/ EIR request – FOI238069201
Title: COVID-19 Discretionary Grant Allocations

Date received:	12/08/2020	Date closed:	25/08/2020
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Request

These questions all relate to the Covid-19 local authority Discretionary Business grants Announced by the government in May 2020 to help businesses which fell outside the small business rates grant scheme.

I am requesting the following information:-

1. How much in funds has East Suffolk council received from the Government for the Discretionary grants?
2. How many applications have you received for this fund in total?
3. How many applications have been processed to the 14.8.2020 (closing date)
4. How many applications have been successful?
5. How many claims have been rejected and what were the reasons given to the applicant.
6. Within rejected application numbers, how many applications that had fixed costs and showed there was a clear and dramatic drop in business due to the Covid-19 pandemic were declined and the subsequent reasons for the decline.
7. How much of the funds have been paid to successful applicants?
8. What is the average discretionary grant awarded?
9. What is the business type breakdown of the grants awarded both within the A-F business types eligible to apply and the actual type of businesses within each type of business.
10. How much of the fund was remaining unallocated as of 14.8.20 - The closing date for applications.
11. The names and job descriptions of the panel that made panel decisions.

12. The Full and Detailed criteria used to approve or decline individual applications.

13. How many grants were declined on the basis that the panel made incorrect assumptions about a business and how many of these businesses did not accept the declined status of the application and requested it be reviewed.

14. How many of group A - shared premises applications were decided by a panel, and how many of these were accepted and how many declined and the reasons for those declines.

Response

1. £3,668,250
2. 461
3. 421
4. 328
- 5.

Wrong Form (paid via SBG/RHL)	23
Out of Area or other not eligible	21
Withdrawn by applicant	4
Closed - no response to queries	9
Declined	32
Total	89

6. Not Available.
7. £3,423,500 88.6%
8. £10,438
Note: Grants are paid at two levels - up to £10,000 and £25,000. No grants are paid between £10,000 and £25,000.
9. Not available.
10. £442,750
11. Panel comprised: **Simon Taylor** (Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer)), **Andy Jarvis** (Strategic Director with responsibility for Economic Development), **Hilary Slater** (Monitoring Officer), and **Paul Wood** (Head of Economic Development).
12. Scheme guidance attached.
13. Not available.
14. Not available