

I suspect that these points will be made at Monday's webinar.

I am also picking some concern in the sector that the previous LA Grants advisory group, which met for the previous rounds of grants, has not been convened and there has been no chance to comment on confidential drafts of guidance before publication as was the case previously. I would repeat my suggestion in my e-mail to you of 21 December that this group be reconvened in addition to the webinar.

Happy to discuss.

Best wishes

NR

Senior Adviser (Finance)
Local Government Association

Tel: I&S

Mobile: I&S

NR @local.gov.uk

The 2022 Annual Local Government Finance Conference will take place on Thursday 13 January 2022, 10.00am – 12.25pm

The online event is free to member authorities. For more information and to book your place please visit the [LGA website](#)

www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-faqs

<https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/finance-and-business-rates>

 Please consider the environment before printing

From: NR

Sent: 21 December 2021 14:26

To: Osbourne2, Anastasia (BEIS) <Anastasia.Osbourne2@beis.gov.uk>

Subject: New business grants

Hi Anastasia

I see from the [press release](#) and [fact sheet](#) on the Treasury website that there is a new up to £6000 grant scheme to support businesses that are experiencing difficulties because of the Omicron variant, and the dual impact of staff absences and lower consumer demand. The beneficiaries will be hospitality (defined as accommodation, food & beverage services) and leisure premises. The estimated value of the total package is £683 million.

I also see that the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) will also be topped up by £102 million so local authorities (LAs) can continue to use their discretion to support other businesses in their area, based on local economic need. The ARG top up will be prioritised for those LAs who have distributed their existing allocation.

Use of this funding is at the LA's discretion but is intended to support businesses who are impacted by COVID-19 but may not be eligible for the hospitality and leisure grant.

The Treasury fact sheet says that final application and payment dates for the hospitality and leisure grants and the ARG will be confirmed in guidance published by BEIS.

I am sure you are busy drafting the guidance. I wonder if there is a case for reconvening the previous LA Grants Advisory Group to discuss any drafts; I know that in previous rounds your colleagues found their input useful.

Best wishes

NR

Senior Adviser (Finance)
Local Government Association

Tel: I&S

Mobile: I&S

NR

@local.gov.uk

The 2022 Annual Local Government Finance Conference will take place on Thursday 13 January 2022, 10.00am – 12.25pm

The online event is free to member authorities. For more information and to book your place please visit the [LGA website](#)

www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-faqs

<https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/finance-and-business-rates>

 Please consider the environment before printing

From: NR

Sent: 17 December 2021 14:18

To: Osbourne2, Anastasia (BEIS) <Anastasia.Osbourne2@beis.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: LA Grants Programme Steering Board - ARG outstanding

Hi Anastasia

I hope you are keeping well.

I gather from my colleague NR that the meeting on 8 December went well. I look forward to the next meeting.

I am getting in touch as the LGA has been picking up that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been briefing that around £250 million of ARG is still outstanding and available for distribution, within the context of calls for additional business grants to cope with the pressures caused by the current 'Plan B' situation.

Our information, which we have been relaying to the media, is that most councils have distributed or are in the process of distributing the last of the ARG and the [latest published BEIS figures](#) are out of date as they relate to information submitted at the end of August. I hope that this is also the message which you are relaying to ministers. It would be useful to know when you plan to update the figures.

Therefore if Government decide that another round of grants for businesses are required this would have to come through additional resources, perhaps through ARG, although of course the deadline for spending by March 2022 would then come into question.

Best wishes

NR
Senior Adviser (Finance)
Local Government Association
Tel: I&S
Mobile: I&S
NR [@local.gov.uk](mailto:NR@local.gov.uk)

The 2022 Annual Local Government Finance Conference will take place on Thursday 13 January 2022, 10.00am – 12.25pm

The online event is free to member authorities. For more information and to book your place please visit the [LGA website](#)

www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-faqs

<https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/finance-and-business-rates>

 Please consider the environment before printing

Best wishes

From: NR
Sent: 26 November 2021 16:49
To: Osbourne2, Anastasia (BEIS) <Anastasia.Osbourne2@beis.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: LA Grants Programme Steering Board

Thank you Anastasia. I am happy to continue on the Programme Board.

Please note however that I will be unable to make the meeting on 8 December as I on leave on that day.

If that is OK, I will endeavour to see if one of my LGA finance team colleagues is able to attend.

Best wishes