

# FAQs for Accommodation Providers Tourism Business Continuity Scheme 2022

**Note:** This is a living document which means that as frequently asked questions are received on the Scheme they will be added to this document, and it will evolve.

## 1. Who is the Scheme for?

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The overall purpose of the Scheme is to help Republic of Ireland tourism accommodation providers to withstand the impact of COVID-19 by providing a direct financial contribution to support their business continuity plans and contribute towards their fixed costs, seeking to position them to continue operating through 2022.

## 2. What tourism businesses can apply for this round of the scheme?

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**The following businesses can apply once they meet the eligibility criteria:**

All applicants that are included on the Fáilte Ireland Register of Statutory Accommodation or, the Fáilte Ireland Non-Statutory Approved Accommodation Listing (<https://www.failteireland.ie/Supports/Get-quality-assured.aspx>)

Accommodation registered under Third Party Frameworks, e.g., such as the B&B Ireland Framework, are also eligible.

Accommodation providers not included on, or who have not applied to, Fáilte Ireland's National Quality Assurance Framework by 8th March 2022 are ineligible to apply under this scheme.

Please refer to guidelines document for further information on eligible businesses.

### 3. How will the grant amount be determined?

A limited fund is available for this Scheme, and it is expected that there will be a high level of demand. The grant will be calculated when all applicants have been evaluated.

On closure of the Scheme, the total fund available will be divided by the total number of eligible units. This will determine the grant amount per unit. Each eligible applicant will then be allocated a grant amount according

to the number of units per applicant property. The maximum grant amount per legal entity / group is €800.

Because the grant award is based on the number of units per property, the units figures will therefore be subject to verification, which may include a physical check on the premises.

### 4. What is EU State Aid and how will it affect my grant?

EU State Aid is a term that refers to forms of public assistance, using taxpayer-funded resources, given to undertakings on a discretionary basis, with the potential to distort competition and affect trade between member states of the European Union.

The scheme is being funded under the COVID-19 EU State Aid Temporary Framework. There is a threshold of funding a legal entity can receive under this framework of €2.3m and grants will be capped in accordance. Other sources of funding under the COVID-19 EU State Aid Temporary Framework must be declared upon application and will be taken into account when calculating a successful applicant's final grant amount.

**Applicants must declare if they received any of the following forms of State Aid:**

	Title	Granting Authority
1	Repayable Advances Scheme Ireland	Enterprise Ireland & IDA Ireland
2	Sustaining Enterprise Scheme	Enterprise Ireland & IDA Ireland
3	Scheme to facilitate COVID-19 relevant research and development, to support construction and upgrade of testing and upscaling facilities of COVID-19 relevant products and to support investments into the production of COVID-19 relevant products	IDA Ireland
4	Covid 19- Credit Guarantee Scheme	Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland
5	Irish Restart Grant	Enterprise Ireland
6	COVID 19 Adaptation Fund for the Re-Opening of Tourism and Hospitality businesses	Fáilte Ireland
7	Beef Finishers Payment	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
8	Live Performance Scheme	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
9	Irish Coach Tourism Scheme	Fáilte Ireland
10	Ireland-Based Inbound Agents Business Continuity Scheme	Fáilte Ireland
11	Tourism Business Continuity Scheme 2021	Fáilte Ireland
12	Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC)	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

## 5. If a business received the Fáilte Ireland Adaptation Grant are they eligible for the Accommodation Providers Tourism Business Continuity Scheme?

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Yes, businesses in receipt of the Adaptation Grant may be eligible should they meet the full eligibility criteria set out in the Guidelines. They must declare whether they are in receipt of the Adaptation Fund along with any other funding under the COVID-19 EU State Aid Temporary Framework.

## 6. Is 2019 turnover relating to the business financial year or the calendar year?

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This relates to the calendar year, January to December 2019.

## 7. What if my financial year doesn't run from January – December?

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If your financial statements cover a period other than January – December 2019, please indicate on your application form the turnover relating to the January – December period. If further financial information is required during the assessment, the evaluation team will be in contact with you.

## 8. How do I apply?

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- Only eligible applicants will qualify for this Scheme
- All applicants will be required to have a profile on Fáilte Ireland's 'Trade Portal' which is accessible on [www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie). If you do not already have an account, you will be required to create one.
- Those that already have a Trade Portal account, the application form can also be found under '**Funding**'. Should the form not be available please contact [customersupport@failteireland.ie](mailto:customersupport@failteireland.ie)
- The Guidelines, Terms and Conditions and Application Form will be available on [www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie)
- Applicants should note that granting access to the application form does not confirm final eligibility of an applicant. Depending on the information provided in the application form, an applicant may still be deemed ineligible for funding later in the process.

## 9. What do I need to apply?

- The applicants property registration number as per the Fáilte Ireland Q2 2022 NQAF listings
- Details of the number of units per applicant property as detailed in the Scheme Guidelines.
- Confirm by way of declaration that the business has a reasonable prospect of survival and that it has resumed normal trading in 2022.
- Property groups will be required to upload an excel document to include all relevant property information, the template of which is available within the application form.
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- Tax Reference Number (TRN), Companies Registration Office number (CRO) or Charity (CHY) number as appropriate.
- If eligible tourism turnover is in excess of €1million in 2019, an independent auditor's letter is required confirming that this is the case.
- Be established and registered for Tax in the Republic of Ireland.
- The total value of State Aid received by the applicant and/or by its wider group entities to date under the EU Temporary Framework for State Aid Measures to Support the Economy in the Current COVID-19 Outbreak, sized enterprise over 3 years in business and was not an undertaking in difficulty as defined above, an uploaded letter of either (i) an independent accountant's verifying that this is the case or (ii) an audit letter/report (dated 2019 or 2021) signed by an accountant for the most recently prepared year-end financial statements is required.
- Bank Account Details and a copy of a recent Bank Statement Header. This information will only be used in verifying the payment details so that we can process the payment without unnecessary delay. It will only be retained for successful applicants for a period of 10 years.

## 10. How will the grant be paid?

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

## 11. When will the Scheme be open for applications?

The scheme opened for applications on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## 12. What is the closing date for applications to the Fund?

The closing date for the submission of applications is 5.00 p.m. Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## 13. How long will it take to receive payment?

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Evaluations for this Scheme will not begin until after the Scheme has closed for all applicants on this date. Due to the anticipated high volume of applications, Fáilte Ireland will endeavour to process applications as quickly as possible.

Only fully completed forms can be processed, and the onus is on the applicant to ensure that applications are completed correctly and fully in order to expedite the procedure.

The final grant awards can only be determined once all applications have been checked and the evaluation process is completed. While we anticipate that this may be June 2022, approximately 8 weeks after the scheme closes, every effort will be made to expedite payments as soon as possible.

## 14. Is there a limitation to what the grant aid can be spent on?

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Successful applicants must confirm payment received will be used for the defrayment of fixed costs. Any monies granted by Fáilte Ireland under the Scheme will be used solely by eligible beneficiaries in accordance with the purposes of and objective of the Scheme i.e., to support the continuity of tourism businesses.

## 15. I operate from more than one business premises, how do I apply?

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If the business is a single legal entity, but operates an accommodation group, or has more than one property on the Fáilte Ireland Q3 2021 NQAF listings (“Eligible Property”), then an application should be made at a group level, i.e., a single application to cover the entire group of eligible properties.

## 16. I have more than one eligible business, how do I apply?

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When submitting an application, applicants must declare any other applications being made for affiliated businesses to the same Scheme; i.e., an applicant should declare if they have more than one business (company, sole trader, partnership etc.) applying and/or if their business shares common ownership with another business that is also applying to the Scheme.

Failure to make the appropriate declaration may result in funding being declined, reduced or becoming repayable if already paid.

Each business may apply per eligible legal entity or as a group. While applications will be evaluated on their own merit, they will be considered a 'group' for the purposes of this Scheme, i.e., for entities that meet the conditions of a group, total combined eligible turnover is utilised to determine grant payment. Payment of any grants will be calculated subject to Scheme caps and with taking into account EU State Aid rules as set out below\*.

**Please note:** Multiple applicants with the same or common ownership/control are considered one economic unit and therefore a single "undertaking" for the purposes of EU State Aid rules.

\*The Schemes operated by Fáilte Ireland under the Business Continuity Programme are bound by the rules of "The EU approved Temporary Framework for State Aid Measures to Support the Economy in the Current COVID-19 Outbreak", which provides that the overall aid granted to a single undertaking on the basis of all Schemes notified under the Temporary Framework shall not exceed €2.3m per undertaking. All applications will be subject to this overall cap of €2.3m per undertaking across all aid granted under the Temporary Framework.

## 17. Who should I contact for general queries on this Scheme?

Please direct all queries to the Fáilte Ireland Customer Support Team by emailing [customersupport@failteireland.ie](mailto:customersupport@failteireland.ie)