

FAQ for the Tourism Business Continuity Scheme.

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.

Q1. What is the Scheme about?

The overall purpose of the Scheme is to help Republic of Ireland tourism 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 2021.

Q2. What tourism businesses can apply for this round of the scheme?

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

- Business Category A: Tourism Activity Providers
- Business Category B: Tourism Golf Courses
- Business Category C: Hop-On Hop-Off Tourism Bus Tour Operators
- Business Category D: Cruise Hire Companies
- Business Category E: Tourism Boat Tour Operators
- Business Category F: Visitor Attractions (not eligible for CRSS)
- Business Category G: Caravan and Camping and Outdoor Accommodation Providers

Q3. What is the CRSS?

Administered by the Revenue Commissioners, the Covid Restrictions Support Scheme (“CRSS”) was introduced by Finance Act 2020. The CRSS is a targeted support for businesses significantly impacted by restrictions introduced by the Government under public health regulations to combat the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Q4. Where can I find out if I am eligible to apply for CRSS?

Full details on CRSS and eligibility criteria of the scheme can be found at the following link: <https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/press-office/budget-information/2021/crss-guidelines.pdf>.

Q5. My business is in partial receipt of CRSS funding, can I apply?

No, businesses who have received any CRSS funding, even for a portion of their business, are not eligible to apply. Businesses that have been unable to access any government support under the CRSS scheme are the focus for this scheme.

Q6. How will the grant amount be determined?

The grant amount will be based on the annual eligible turnover from 2019. The grant payment is calculated as 9/12ths of 10% of the 2019 turnover figure. (9/12ths reflects the potential loss of earnings for the 9-month period, October 2020 to June 2021).

The minimum grant amount is €3,750 based on a minimum turnover of €50,000. The maximum grant amount is €200,000.

Grants will be calculated based on a 9-month period and funded at 10% to defray against fixed costs incurred in 2020. All funding approved is subject to State Aid regulations.

Q7. What is State Aid and how will it affect my grant?

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 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 (administered by Local Authorities)
6	COVID 19 Adaptation Fund for the Re-Opening of Tourism and Hospitality businesses	National Tourism Development Authority
7	Beef Finishers Payment	The 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 Tourism Agents Business Continuity Scheme	Fáilte Ireland

Q8. If a business received the Fáilte Ireland Adaptation Grant are they eligible for the Tourism Business Continuity Scheme?

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.

Q9. Will there be future funding for other types of tourism businesses under this scheme?

Phase 2 of this Scheme will be launched in March 2021 and full details will be available on www.failteireland.ie closer to the time.

Q10. How will the grant be paid?

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

Q11. When will the Scheme be open for applications?

The scheme will open on **Thursday February 11th, 2021.**

Q12. What is the closing date for applications to the Fund?

The closing date for the submission of applications is **12 Noon on Monday March 8th 2021.**

Q13. How long will it take to receive payment?

Due to the anticipated high volume of applications, Fáilte Ireland will endeavour to process applications as quickly as possible. However, applicants should be aware that during peaks in applications this may be a matter of weeks. We will keep all applicants informed throughout the application process of anticipated timeliness for completion.

Only fully completed forms will be processed, and the onus is on the applicant to ensure that applications are completed correctly and fully, in order to expedite the procedure. Our aim to evaluate and approve fully completed applications within 3 weeks.

Q14. What elements of my business's turnover are eligible?

The turnover must relate to tourism business only for the purposes of this scheme. Please see the guidelines for further information on eligible/ineligible turnover.

Q15. Is there a limitation to what the grant aid can be spent on?

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.

Q16. My business only operates from March to September due to certain regulations and weather dependency and is therefore closed between October and January every year. Am I ineligible?

Seasonal businesses are potentially eligible to apply if they meet the criteria of the scheme. In order to meet the 'Downturn in Turnover' criteria, the average monthly turnover in the 4-month period October 2020 – January 2021 must be down at least 75% compared to the average monthly turnover for the period January to December 2019. As the business is not operating between October and January, the business should meet this requirement. The business must meet all other eligibility criteria in order to qualify for the grant.

Q17. For the purposes of the "Downturn in Turnover" condition, how do you treat income that is earned earlier in 2020 but paid during the October – January period?

The revenue detailed in your financial statements, is used to determine if your business' eligible revenue is down 75% from 2019 to the defined period in the guidelines.

Q18. Golf clubs generally do not submit tax returns - can the application be completed if you don't have tax returns?

Golf clubs produce financial statements and applicants are required to submit these as part of the application. If further financial information is required during the assessment, the evaluation team will be in contact with you.

Q19. Is 2019 turnover relating to the business financial year or the calendar year?

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

Q20. What if my financial year doesn't run from January – December?

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, and upload the financial statements you have which end in 2019. If further financial information is required during the assessment, the evaluation team will be in contact with you.

Q21. I operate from more than one business premises, how do I apply?

Applications are to be made per business who meet the eligibility criteria. Applications should be submitted based on their legal entity regardless if the business activity occurs in more than one location.

Q22. I have more than one eligible business, how do I apply?

If you have more than one business/affiliate company that meets the eligibility criteria and are established as separate legal entities, applications are to be submitted per legal entity.

Payment of grants will be issued per legal entity taking into account State Aid rules per Applicant. The maximum funding level under the "Temporary Framework for State Aid Measures to Support the Economy in the Current Covid-19 Outbreak" will be considered per Applicant for all affiliate businesses.

The Applicant will be asked to declare all applications being submitted for affiliated businesses when submitting the application forms.

Q23. We are subsidised as a life-line service under the Subsidised Transport Services for Offshore Islands for a part of our business. Are we eligible to apply for this scheme?

If the application is being made by the same legal entity that is in receipt of a government subsidy under the Subsidised Transport Services for Offshore Islands, that entity is ineligible for funding under Phase 1 of the scheme.

Q24. As a Tourism Golf Club, are all turnover streams eligible for grant aid?

For Tourism Golf Clubs, green fee revenue is the revenue deemed eligible for this Scheme. Please see the guidelines for further information on eligible/ineligible turnover.

Q25. For coach/bus companies, is this grant applicable to just hop-on hop-off services? Or does it cover tours, private transfers etc?

The grant is available for hop-on hop-off service providers only. These are operators which provide a trip on a bus for the purpose of sightseeing, wildlife and nature experiences onboard for visitors to their destination on a licensed route. Typically, this is a tourist bus that follows a circular route with fixed stops through a town or city that allows paying passengers unlimited travel for a day (or other period of time) with the freedom to disembark at any stop and the option to reboard another bus to continue their journey.

Q26. Are accommodation providers eligible to apply for the scheme?

Caravan and camping parks that are registered with Fáilte Ireland under the Tourist Traffic Acts 1939 – 2016 and meet the Scheme eligibility criteria are welcome to apply. Other outdoor accommodation providers who are deemed ineligible to apply for CRSS and that have the Fáilte Ireland Welcome Standard classification are also eligible to apply for the scheme. This can include but is not limited to:

- Caravan pitches
- Tent pitches
- Yurts
- Pods
- Bell tents
- Tree Houses
- Camping style activity specific accommodation not classified as self catering or a hostel
- Glamping units

Accommodation providers with a fixed business, such as a hotel, are eligible to apply for CRSS and cannot avail of this scheme.