

Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant

As part of Budget 2024, the Government signed off on a package of €257m for the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant as a vital measure for small and medium businesses. Galway County Council, funded through Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE), will manage the rollout of the grant to qualifying businesses.

Eligible businesses will receive a once-off grant payment. The amount of the grant payable to eligible businesses is based on the value of the Commercial Rates bill the business received in 2023. However, it is not a Commercial Rates waiver and businesses should continue to pay their Commercial Rates bill as normal.

What is the purpose of the grant?

The grant is available to qualifying businesses as a contribution towards the rising costs faced by businesses. The grant is intended to aid businesses but is not intended to directly compensate for all increases in wages, or other costs, for every business.

How much is the grant?

The grant is based on the value of the Commercial Rates bill received by an eligible business in 2023.

For qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of <€10,000, the ICOB grant will be paid at a rate of 50% of the business's Commercial Rate bill for 2023.

For qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of between €10,000 and €30,000, the ICOB grant will be €5,000.

Businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rates bill greater than €30,000 are not eligible to receive an ICOB grant.

What businesses are eligible to receive the grant?

The following are the main qualifying criteria:

- Your business must be a commercially trading business currently operating from a property that is commercially rateable.
- Your business must have been trading on 1st February 2024 and you must intend to continue trading for at least three months from the date you verify your information.
- You must provide confirmation of your bank details.
- Your business must be rates compliant. Businesses in performing payment plans may be deemed to be compliant.
- Your business must be tax compliant and must possess a valid Tax Registration Number (TRN)

Please note that Galway County Council reserves the right to claw back any grant payment which is later found to be incorrect. This includes any circumstances such as error by the recipient business or the local authority making the payment, or where a business makes a false declaration of eligibility.

How soon can businesses avail of the grant?

An online system has been developed to manage the submission of essential information. Information on how to access the system has already been provided to customers along with their 2024 rates bill. Where you have not received this information or your 2024 rates bill please contact your local Collector or e-mail rates@galwaycoco.ie

What is the closing date?

The closing date for businesses to confirm eligibility and to upload verification details will be 1st May 2024.

Where can I find out further information?

Correspondence has been issued to rate payers containing log in details for making your application online. The online portal is now open at www.icob.ie. Please see attached FAQs in the 'Document Summary' section below.

If you have queries regarding your Commercial Rates account including outstanding balances, please contact your local Collector whose contact details are available on your bill or e-mail at. Our team are happy to discuss any balances outstanding on your rates and what steps can be taken to ensure compliance with the scheme.

Deontas i leith an Chostais Mhéadaithe Gnó (CMG)

Mar chuid de Bhuiséad 2024, chuir an Rialtas a shéala le pacáiste €257m do Dheontas i leith an Chostais Mhéadaithe Gnó (CMG) mar bheart ríthábhachtach do ghnólachtaí beaga agus meánacha. Is í Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe le maoiniú ón Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta (RFTF), a dhéanfaidh leithdháileadh an deontais do ghnólachtaí cáilitheacha a láimhseáil.

Gheobhaidh gnólachtaí cáilitheacha íocaíocht aon uaire. Tá méid an deontais is iníoctha le gnólachtaí cáilitheacha bunaithe ar luach an bhille Rátaí Tráchtála a fuair an gnólacht in 2023. Ní haon tarscaoileadh ar Rátaí Tráchtála é, áfach, agus ba cheart go gcoinneodh gnólachtaí orthu ag íoc an bhille Rátaí Tráchtála mar is gnách.

Cén cuspóir atá leis an deontas?

Tá an deontas ar fáil do ghnólachtaí cáilitheacha mar chúnamh i bhfianaise na gcostas méadaitheach atá os comhair gnólachtaí. Tá an deontas ceaptha le cúnaimh a thabhairt do

ghnólachtaí ach níl sé ceaptha le gach aon ardú pá, nó costais eile, a chúiteamh go díreach don uile ghnólacht.

Cé mhéad atá sa deontas?

Tá an deontas bunaithe ar luach an bhille Rátaí Tráchtála a fuair ghnólacht incháilithe in 2023.

I gcás ghnólachtaí cáilitheacha a fuair bille Ráta Tráchtála ar luach <€10,000 in 2023, íocfar an deontas CMG ar ráta 50% de bhille Ráta Tráchtála an ghnólachta in 2023.

I gcás ghnólachtaí cáilitheacha a fuair bille Ráta Tráchtála ar luach idir €10,000 agus €30,000 in 2023, beidh luach €5,000 ag an deontas CMG.

Níl ghnólachtaí a bhfuil bille Ráta Tráchtála acu do 2023 ar mó é ná €30,000 incháilithe chun deontas CMG a fháil.

Cé hiad na ghnólachtaí atá incháilithe leis an deontas a fháil?

Is iad seo a leanas na príomhchritéir cháilitheacha:

- Ní mór go mbeadh do ghnólacht ag trádáil ar bhonn tráchtála, i mbun gnó faoi láthair ó ionad réadmhaoine atá inráitithe ar bhonn tráchtála.
- Ní mór go mbeadh do ghnólacht i mbun trádála ar an 1 Feabhra 2024 agus ní mór go mbeadh sé ar intinn agat coinneáil ort i mbun trádála go ceann trí mhí ar a laghad ón dáta a dhearbhaíonn tú do chuid faisnéise.
- Ní mór duit do chuid sonraí cuntais baine a dheimhniú.
- Ní mór go mbeadh do ghnólacht comhlíontach ó thaobh rátaí a íoc. D'fhéadfaí go measfar ghnólachtaí a bhfuil plean íocaíochta á fheidhmiú acu a bheith comhlíontach.
- Ní mór go mbeadh do ghnólacht cáin-chomhlíontach agus ní mór Uimhir Chlárúcháin Chánach (UCC) a bheith aige

Tabhair faoi deara le do thoil go bhforchoimeádan Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe an ceart chun aon íocaíocht deontais a tharraingt siar más léir níos déanaí gur tugadh go mícheart í. Áirítear leis seo aon chúinse ina ndearnadh earráid ar thaobh an ghnólachta de, a fuair í nó an t-údarás áitiúil a d'íoc í, nó más rud é go ndearna ghnólacht dearbhú bréagach maidir le bheith incháilithe.

Cé chomh luath agus is féidir le gnólachtaí an deontas a fháil?

Tá córas ar líne forbartha lena ndéanfar láimhseáil ar an bhfaisnéis bhunriachtanach a chuirfear isteach. Tá treoracha i leith rochtain ar an gcóras seo tugtha do chustaiméirí cheana féin i dteannta lena mbille rátaí 2024. Más rud é nach bhfuair tú na treoracha seo ná do bhille rátaí 2024 téigh i dteagmháil le do Bhailitheoir áitiúil nó cuir ríomhphoist chuig rates@galwaycoco.ie

Cad é an dáta deiridh?

Is é an 1 Bealtaine 2024 an dáta deiridh faoinár féidir le gnólachtaí a n-incháilitheacht a dheimhniú agus a gcuid sonraí fíoraithe a uaslódáil.

Cá bhfuil tuilleadh eolais le fáil?

Eisíodh comhfhreagras chuig íocóirí rátaí ina bhfuil sonraí logáil isteach chun d'iarratas a dhéanamh ar líne. Tá an tairseach ar líne ar oscailt anois ag www.icob.ie. Féach le do thoil na Ceisteanna Coitianta faoi iamh sa mhír 'Achoimre ar Dhoiciméid' thíos.

Má ritheann aon cheist leat maidir le do chuntas Rátaí Tráchtála lena n-áirítear iarmhéideanna amuigh, déan teagmháil, le do thoil, le do Bhailitheoir áitiúil a bhfuil a shonraí teagmhála ar fáil ar do bhille nó seol ríomhphost chuig rates@galwaycoco.ie. Beidh ár bhfoireann sásta aon iarmhéid amuigh ar do rátaí a phlé leat agus na céimeanna ar féidir a ghlacadh chun comhlíontacht leis an scéim a chinntiú.