



ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

COVID-19 BUSINESS SUPPORT EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK BUSINESS FUND

With additional information on Hospitality, Retail and Leisure top-up funds and the Taxi and Private Hire Driver Support Fund

1. Summary

This publication provides experimental statistics for the Strategic Framework Business Fund (SFBF), which was set up to support businesses in Scotland that are required by law to close or to significantly change their operations due to COVID-19 restrictions from 2 November 2020. SFBF support is available under two funds called 'temporary closure grant' and 'business restrictions grant' (see introduction section for more details on these funds). This publication covers information on these funds cumulatively from their introduction on 2 November, up until the 25 of January.

Additionally, this publication provides information on the 'Hospitality, Retail and Leisure top-up funds' and the 'Taxi and Private Hire Driver Support Fund' (see introduction section for details of these funds). The information given for these funds is up until the 29 of January.

As at 25 January 2021 a total of £104,125,362 has been paid out under the SFBF business restrictions and closure funds. As at 29 January a total of £166,923,050 has been paid out under the Hospitality, Retail and Leisure Top Up funds, giving a total of £271,048,412 paid. These payments have gone to 32,450 premises across Scotland that are on the valuation roll.

Under the Taxi and Private Hire Driver Support Fund an additional £4,656,000 has been paid to 3,108 drivers. Up to the 29th of January 10% of 29,851¹ eligible drivers had been paid.

The total amount budgeted for the SFBF for the period from 2 November 2020 to 25th January 2021 is £182,300,000 (assigned pro rata for the period²). £104,125,362 or 57% of the budget has so far been disbursed to businesses, with 32,450 successful applications. This is a further £72,721,661 since the previous reported figure of £31,403,701 for the SFBF which was up to 28 December 2020.

At the national level, 63% of the 51,224 SFBF applications were accepted. 24% of applications were rejected, and 1% was either referred or deferred. The remainder 11% was still awaiting processing; this is an improvement on the previously published value of 20% awaiting processing.

Of the £104,125,362 paid to businesses under the SFBF scheme (not including the 'Hospitality, Retail and Leisure top-up funds') the breakdown of funding is as follows: Approximately 85% of funds were paid to businesses with rateable value less than £51,000, the remaining 15% being paid to larger businesses. Approximately 82% of funds were paid out under the temporary closure fund with the remaining 18% paid out under the business restrictions fund³

¹ This figure is an estimate based on the number of eligible drivers each Local Authority reported that they have in their area.

² This is using an 'indicative allocation' for the period 28th December 2020 to 25th January 2021 which would have been the amount that would have allocated the 4 week cycle of payments had been kept. This allows a comparator percentage of payments made to date in line with previous publications.

³ A full breakdown of funds by rateable value and closure/restriction funds was not available for all councils

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1. Introduction and background

All businesses in Scotland that are required by law to close or to significantly change their operations due to COVID-19 restrictions from 2 November 2020 are eligible to apply for grant funding available through the Scottish Government Strategic Framework Business Fund (SFBF). A business can apply for a:

- temporary closure grant of £2,000 or £3,000 (depending on rateable value for the premises from which businesses operate) if it is required to close by law; or,
- business restrictions grant of £1,400 or £2,100 (depending on rateable value for the premises from which businesses operate) if it can remain open but is specifically required to modify its operations by law, for example having to close earlier than normal. This does not include where a demand for products or services has been reduced because of the pandemic.

More information on the SFBF can be found here [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Strategic Framework Business Fund - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Coronavirus/COVID-19/StrategicFrameworkBusinessFund).

The support provided through the SFBF is separate from that made available to businesses through the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Restrictions Fund, which supported businesses impacted by local COVID-19 restrictions from 9 October until 1 November. Applications for that funding closed on 3 November 2020, and statistics are reported using a separate publication.

Hospitality , Retail and Leisure top up funds

The Scottish Government announced on 21st December 2020 (hospitality), 27th December 2020 (retail) and 11th January 2021 (leisure) a new package of support to help businesses in these sectors closed or impacted by protective measures.

For more detail see [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): strategic framework business fund - sector top-up funds for hospitality, retail and leisure - information for local authorities - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Coronavirus/COVID-19/StrategicFrameworkBusinessFund/SectorTopUpFunds)

Taxi and Private Hire Driver Support Fund

Licensed taxi or private hire driver experiencing financial challenge as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) may be eligible to receive a one-off grant of £1,500. This support is separate from and in addition to any other funding they may have received from the Scottish or UK Government, for example the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme and the COVID-19 Public Transport Mitigation Fund.

More details can be found here [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Taxi and Private Hire Driver Support Fund - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Topics/Coronavirus/COVID-19/TaxiAndPrivateHireDriverSupportFund)

2. Strategic Framework Business Fund applications

2.1 Application status

This section describes application status. Figures quoted in this section relate to applications rather than awards. Table 1 and 2 show information from the payment periods, from 2 November to 25 January.

As at 25th January 2021 there have been 51,224 applications for business support made to the SFBF.

Across Scotland, 32,450 of these applications to the SFBF had been accepted as at 25th January 2021. Each application can have multiple awards over time, where a business continues to be affected by the public health measures that entitle them to continued support. The applications accepted represent 63% of all applications received.

The number of applications awaiting processing as at 25th January was 5,830. This is equivalent to 11% of all applications to the SFBF since it was launched, an improvement from 20% recorded in the experimental statistics published on the 15th January 2021.

Table 1: Application status at the national level

Applications	Awaiting processing		Application Rejected		Application referred or deferred		Accepted Applications	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
51,224	5,830	11%	12,249	24%	695	1%	32,450	63%

At the national level, about 24% of applications were rejected, and 1% were either referred or deferred.

Applications may be rejected, referred or deferred for several reasons including multiple applications made by a single business, not meeting the eligibility criteria or requiring additional information to be provided. The most common reason was that the applicant was in an ineligible sector. An estimated 55% of applications rejected (as of 29th Jan) fell into this category.

Table 2 summarises the reasons for rejecting applications.

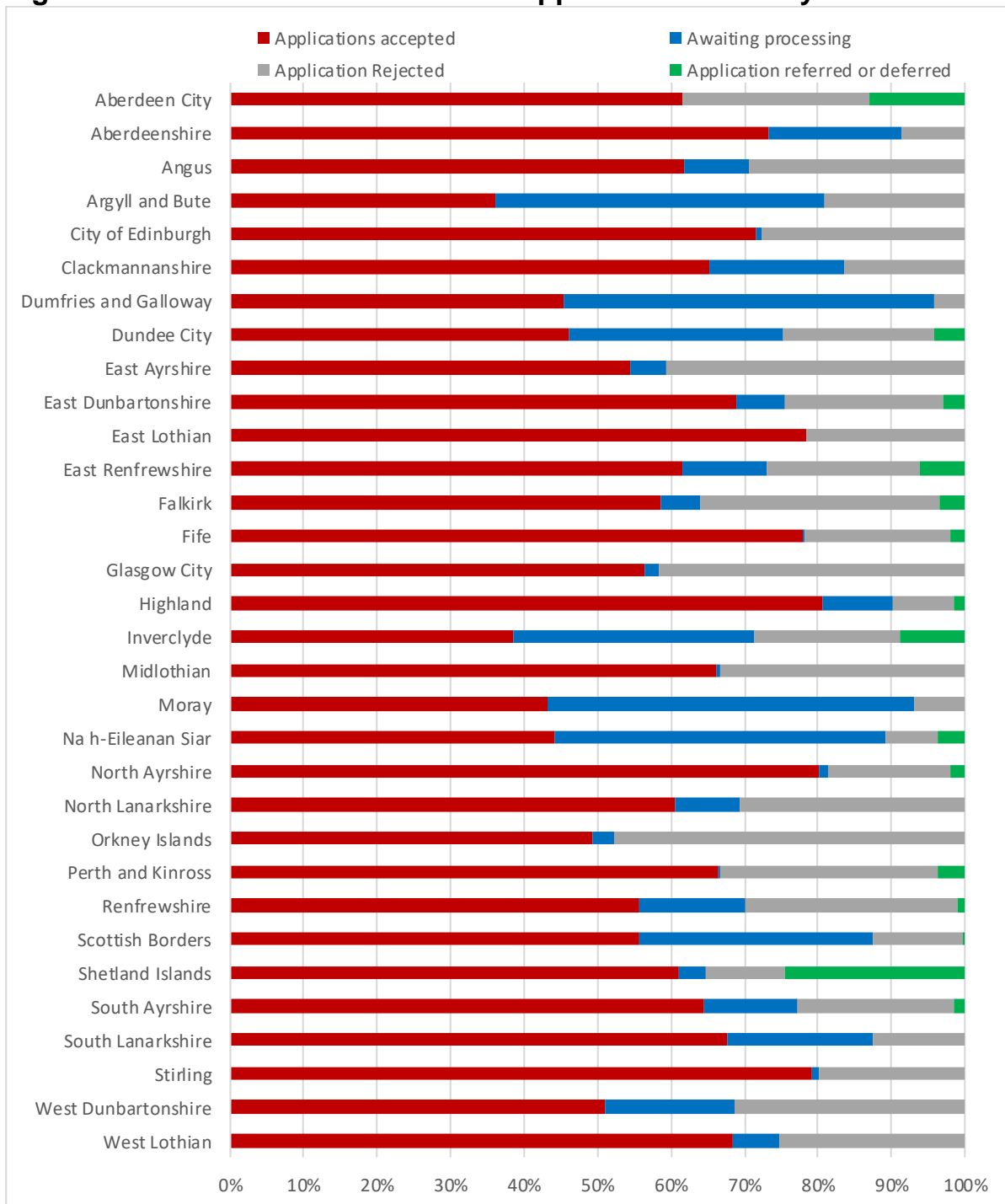
Table 2: Reasons recorded for rejecting applications

Reason	Rejections*	Percentage
Ineligible sector**	7179	55%
Not Enough Information Supplied	246	2%
Duplicate Application	1346	10%
HQ Outside Local Authority Area	120	1%
Not trading	239	2%
Other	1097	8%
Reason not recorded	2792	21%
Total rejections	13019	100%

*Rejection values are as of the 29th Jan

**Glasgow could not provide a full split but estimated that all their rejections were due to ineligible sector, accounting for 3369 rejections

The distribution of applications status varied considerably by Local Authority—see Figure 1.
Figure 1: Business Restriction Fund Application Status by Local Authority



3. Disbursement of support

This section relates to awards to business premises. Table 3 to table 6 show information from 2 November to 25 January.

The total amount budgeted for SFBF for the period from 2 November 2020 is £182,300,000. Of this amount, £104,125,362 (57%) of the budget has so far been disbursed to businesses. This was made against 32,450 accepted applications. This is a

further £72,721,661 since the previous reported figure of £31,403,701 for the SFBF which was up to 28 December 2020

Table 3: National level spend and budget completed (2 November to 25 January)

Funding allocated to LAs £	Spend £	% Budget allocated that has been spent
182,300,000	104,125,362	57%

3.1 Local Authority Level Spend

At the Local Authority level disbursement ranged from 13% to 77% The average total disbursement per Local Authority was £3,253,918 and the median was £ 2,390,891 .

Table 4: Grant spending and budget, by LA (2 November to 25 January)

Local Authority	Actual spend	Budget Allocated to LA	% Budget allocated that has been spent
Aberdeen City	1,959,000	7,050,000	28%
Aberdeenshire	2,288,682	6,020,000	38%
Angus	2,052,600	3,190,000	64%
Argyll and Bute	2,877,500	6,770,000	43%
Clackmannanshire	657,000	1,030,000	64%
Dumfries and Galloway	2,622,150	5,920,000	44%
Dundee City	1,297,700	4,620,000	28%
East Ayrshire	2,694,075	3,490,000	77%
East Dunbartonshire	1,548,750	2,600,000	60%
East Lothian	1,656,600	2,520,000	66%
East Renfrewshire	882,515	2,070,000	43%
City of Edinburgh	11,840,200	21,280,000	56%
Falkirk	2,023,825	3,150,000	64%
Fife	6,621,200	9,230,000	72%
Glasgow City	17,217,000	25,680,000	67%
Highland	8,322,250	13,370,000	62%

Local Authority	Actual spend	Budget Allocated to LA	% Budget allocated that has been spent
Inverclyde	702,500	1,720,000	41%
Midlothian	956,000	1,750,000	55%
Moray	1,039,800	2,750,000	38%
Na h-Eileanan Siar*	173,200	1,350,000	13%
North Ayrshire	2,493,100	3,970,000	63%
North Lanarkshire	4,600,700	7,810,000	59%
Orkney Islands	143,100	380,000	38%
Perth and Kinross	4,122,350	6,450,000	64%
Renfrewshire	3,785,125	5,780,000	65%
Scottish Borders	2,624,850	4,090,000	64%
Shetland Islands	143,600	330,000	44%
South Ayrshire	3,472,630	5,240,000	66%
South Lanarkshire	4,863,125	9,240,000	53%
Stirling	4,045,185	5,670,000	71%
West Dunbartonshire	1,423,200	2,860,000	50%
West Lothian	2,975,850	4,920,000	60%
Scotland	104,125,362	182,300,000	57%

* Na h-Eileanan Siar budget is indicative of levels 4 restrictions, and so may be a slight over-estimate.

3.1.1 LA level disbursements by support type

Some LAs were unable to give us breakdowns by support type.

For those 25 LAs who were able to provide the information, disbursements were made amounting to a total of £ 59,693,015 for the Temporary Closure Fund. The average spend across these LAs was £2,387,721.

For the Business Restrictions fund, a total of £ 13,527,642 was given in awards. The average spend across the 25 LAs was £541,106 for the Business Restrictions Fund.

From the data available its estimated that 82% of payments are for closures, with the remaining 18% being paid for restrictions.

Table 5: Awards, by Fund and LA (from 2 November to 25 January)

Local Authority	<i>Temporary Closure</i>	<i>Business Restrictions</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Value £</i>	<i>Value £</i>
Aberdeen City	-	-	1,959,000
Aberdeenshire	1,345,475	943,207	2,288,682
Angus	1,641,000	411,600	2,052,600
Argyll and Bute	1,684,000	1,193,500	2,877,500
Clackmannanshire	559,000	98,000	657,000
Dumfries and Galloway	-	-	2,622,150
Dundee City	1,101,000	196,700	1,297,700
East Ayrshire	2,107,850	586,225	2,694,075
East Dunbartonshire	1,410,500	138,250	1,548,750
East Lothian	1,187,000	469,600	1,656,600
East Renfrewshire	854,065	28,450	882,515
City of Edinburgh	9,703,600	2,136,600	11,840,200
Falkirk	1,731,500	292,325	2,023,825
Fife	-	-	6,621,200
Glasgow City	14,969,225	2,247,775	17,217,000
Highland	-	-	8,322,250
Inverclyde	544,150	158,350	702,500
Midlothian	632,000	324,000	956,000
Moray	586,000	453,800	1,039,800
Na h-Eileanan Siar	8,000	165,200	173,200
North Ayrshire	1,534,100	959,000	2,493,100
North Lanarkshire	4,108,725	491,975	4,600,700
Orkney Islands	8,000	135,100	143,100
Perth and Kinross	-	-	4,122,350

Local Authority	Temporary Closure	Business Restrictions	Total
	Value £	Value £	Value £
Renfrewshire	-	-	3,785,125
Scottish Borders	2,117,100	507,750	2,624,850
Shetland Islands	33,000	110,600	143,600
South Ayrshire	-	-	3,472,630
South Lanarkshire	4,835,500	27,625	4,863,125
Stirling	2,962,125	1,083,060	4,045,185
West Dunbartonshire	1,278,200	145,000	1,423,200
West Lothian	2,751,900	223,950	2,975,850
Scotland*	59,693,015	13,527,642	104,125,362

Footnote: Seven Local Authorities were unable to provide a break down by these two funds due to technical issues

*Totals for the restriction/closure categories will not add up to the grand total due to the missing data points

3.1.2 Local Authority Spend by Rateable Value

Not all LAs were able to provide data split by Rateable Value (RV).

For the 26 LAs who were able to give breakdowns by RV for smaller premises with a RV less than £51K, a total of 21,301 premise awards were made for a total of £64,846,347.

Again for the 26 LAs who were able to give breakdowns for larger business with RV greater than £51K, a total of 1,644 premise awards were made for a total of £11,846,940.

Table 6: Awards, by RV and LA (from 2 November to 25 January)

Local Authority	RV<51k – grants awarded		RV>51k - grants awarded		Total	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
Aberdeen City	790	-	126	-	916	1,959,000
Aberdeenshire	1,072	1,988,832	64	299,850	1,136	2,288,682
Angus	638	1,984,200	16	68,400	654	2,052,600
Argyll and Bute	720	2,583,200	29	294,300	749	2,877,500
Clackmannan-shire	208	613,200	8	43,800	216	657,000
Dumfries and Galloway	774	-	30	-	804	2,622,150

Local Authority	RV<51k – grants awarded		RV>51k - grants awarded		Total	
	Number	Value	Number	Value	Number	Value
Dundee City	622	1,182,200	46	115,500	668	1,297,700
East Ayrshire	614	2,467,225	23	226,850	637	2,694,075
East Dunbartonshire	452	1,467,750	18	81,000	470	1,548,750
East Lothian	525	1,397,400	35	259,200	560	1,656,600
East Renfrewshire	271	847,165	10	35,350	281	882,515
City of Edinburgh	3,379	7,117,000	395	4,723,200	3,774	11,840,200
Falkirk	615	1,742,000	44	281,825	659	2,023,825
Fife	-	-	-	-	2,334	6,621,200
Glasgow City	3,879	14,460,750	422	2,756,250	4,301	17,217,000
Highland	-	-	-	-	3,578	8,322,250
Inverclyde	168	642,500	11	60,000	179	702,500
Midlothian	286	860,000	21	96,000	307	956,000
Moray	354	900,400	25	139,400	379	1,039,800
Na h-Eileanan Siar	33	148,000	4	25,200	37	173,200
North Ayrshire	811	2,278,300	34	214,800	845	2,493,100
North Lanarkshire	1,034	4,167,100	64	433,600	1,098	4,600,700
Orkney Islands	32	132,600	2	10,500	34	143,100
Perth & Kinross	-	-	-	-	1,747	4,122,350
Renfrewshire	-	-	-	-	819	3,785,125
Scottish Borders	-	2,512,150	-	112,700	1,027	2,624,850
Shetland Islands	37	49,200	13	94,400	50	143,600
South Ayrshire	795	3,095,815	53	376,815	848	3,472,630
South Lanarkshire	1,193	4,468,750	59	394,375	1,252	4,863,125
Stirling	997	3,659,560	59	385,625	1,056	4,045,185
West Dunbartonshire	330	1,359,000	8	64,200	338	1,423,200
West Lothian	672	2,722,050	25	253,800	697	2,975,850
Scotland*	21,301	64,846,347	1644	11,846,940	32,450	104,125,362

Footnote: Six Local Authorities were unable to provide a split by rateable value for this data collection due to technical issues

*Totals for the rateable value (RV) categories will not add up to the grand total due to the missing data points

Additionally it should be noted that this table is reporting in terms of applications approved for payment, not individual count of grants paid to businesses which was used in the previous publication of this table

4. Hospitality, Retail and Leisure Top Up Funds

Under the 'Hospitality, Retail and Leisure Top Up Funds' scheme a total of £166,923,050 has been paid out to businesses. These funds have been paid to 23,851 businesses, which accounts for 87% of businesses that are estimated to be eligible for top ups.

Businesses in na H-Eileanan Siar, Orkney and Shetland were not eligible for this funding during the period as they were not subject to Level 4 restrictions. They are however now eligible to equivalent support under the Island Equivalent Payment fund.

Of the Local Authorities that have made payments 22 of 29 Local Authorities have reached 90% or more of eligible businesses.

Table 7: Hospitality, Retail and Leisure Top Up payments

Local Authority	Eligible premise	Eligible premise paid	% of eligible that have been paid	Rejections	Total paid (£)
Aberdeen	743	743	100%	0	5,894,000
Aberdeenshire	-	694	-	122	3,849,000
Angus	541	541	100%	0	3,506,400
Argyll & Bute	357	357	100%	-	2,571,000
Clackmannanshire	252	196	78%	0	1,226,000
Dumfries & Galloway	548	548	100%	0	3,666,000
Dundee	349	349	100%	0	2,153,900
East Ayrshire	530	526	99%	0	3,552,750
East Dunbartonshire	420	109	26%	0	828,000
East Lothian	470	470	100%	0	3,237,000
East Renfrewshire	387	210	54%	0	1,355,000
Edinburgh	3064	3064	100%	0	24,097,000
Falkirk	667	616	92%	0	4,209,000
Fife	1963	1963	100%	0	13,056,000
Glasgow	4031	3749	93%	103	27,074,000
Highland	3471	1293	37%	0	9,545,000
Inverclyde	266	266	100%	40	1,729,000
Midlothian	261	261	100%	0	1,796,000
Moray	242	242	100%	0	1,714,000
Na H-Eileanan Siar	56	0	0%	0	0

North Ayrshire	710	603	85%	434	4,092,000
North Lanarkshire	1095	1076	98%	0	7,286,000
Orkney	0	0	-	0	0
Perth & Kinross	1065	1029	97%	0	7,209,000
Renfrewshire	734	734	100%	0	5,122,000
Scottish Borders	672	672	100%	0	4,307,000
Shetland	100	0	0%	0	0
South Ayrshire	842	711	84%	473	4,922,000
South Lanarkshire	1137	1137	100%	0	7,473,000
Stirling	694	681	98%	0	4,786,000
West Dunbartonshire	357	357	100%	0	2,395,000
West Lothian	654	654	100%	0	4,272,000
Scotland	26,678	23,851	87%	1,172	166,923,050

Footnotes: Aberdeenshire was unable to provide a total for eligible premises
(Scotland's percentage of eligible premises is calculated excluding this Local Authority)

5. Taxi and private hire driver support fund

Under the 'taxi and private hire driver support fund' a total of £4,656,000 has been paid out to drivers. This money was paid to 3,108 drivers, which accounts for 10% of the 29,851⁴ eligible drivers. The Local Authorities have contacted the majority of eligible drivers, having reached 88% of drivers. So far only 37% of all eligible drivers have submitted an application for processing. A budget of £57,000,000 is available for this fund, payments so far use 8.2% of this budget.

15 of the 32 Local Authorities have not yet started payments to drivers under this scheme (as of 29th Jan). For those Local Authorities that have started making payments the highest payment rate is for Perth and Kinross who has paid 240 drivers, which is 47% of their 514 eligible drivers.

⁴ This figure is an estimate based on the number of eligible drivers each Local Authority reported that they have in their area.

Table 8: taxi and private hire driver support fund summary by Local Authority

Local Authority	Eligible drivers	Percentage of eligible drivers who have:			Total paid (£)
		been contacted	Returned application	Been paid	
Aberdeen	1247	100%	61%	18%	330,000
Aberdeenshire	1381	100%	6%	0%	0
Angus	254	100%	47%	0%	0
Argyll & Bute	410	100%	21%	0%	0
Clackmannanshire	119	100%	0%	0%	0
Dumfries & Galloway	350	100%	24%	17%	88,500
Dundee	1010	-	74%	8%	126,000
East Ayrshire	345	100%	51%	36%	181,500
East Dunbartonshire	597	-	39%	15%	135,000
East Lothian	309	92%	32%	23%	105,000
East Renfrewshire	543	100%	39%	0%	0
Edinburgh	6185	100%	44%	16%	1,488,000
Falkirk	533	93%	0%	0%	0
Fife	1441	100%	25%	19%	402,000
Glasgow	3338	7%	7%	7%	370,500
Highland	973	100%	34%	0%	0
Inverclyde	554	100%	41%	0%	0
Midlothian	295	100%	36%	8%	36,000
Moray	313	100%	16%	12%	54,000
Na H-Eileanan Siar	156	100%	0%	0%	0
North Ayrshire	483	81%	32%	1%	7,500
North Lanarkshire	2519	100%	41%	0%	0
Orkney	104	100%	31%	0%	0
Perth & Kinross	514	100%	50%	47%	360,000
Renfrewshire	1324	100%	70%	17%	331,500
Scottish Borders	289	100%	20%	8%	33,000
Shetland	311	100%	7%	0%	0
South Ayrshire	509	100%	59%	34%	261,000
South Lanarkshire	1956	100%	49%	0%	0
Stirling	308	100%	52%	0%	0
West Dunbartonshire	425	100%	68%	0%	0
West Lothian	756	-	36%	31%	346,500
Scotland	29,851	88%	37%	10%	4,656,000

Of the 11,107 applications received, only 2.5% (274 applications) were rejected. The reason for these rejections is summarized below, the majority (69%) of applications were rejected due to failure to provide supporting evidence

Table 9: Scotland level rejections and reasons from taxi and private hire driver support fund

Reason	Rejections	Percentage
Failure to supply supporting evidence	190	69%
Licensed by different LA	6	2%
Expired or Suspended License	8	3%
Duplicate application	53	19%
Other	17	6%
Total rejections	274	100%

6. Methodology

6.1 Data collection

Each Local Authority in Scotland has recorded information relating to applications received for the Strategic Framework Business Fund. Local Authorities in Scotland are the owners of these data.

Scottish Government asked all Local Authorities in Scotland to provide the following information, via a standardised excel template, for publication purposes;

- Number of applications received
- Number of applications awaiting processing
- Number of applications rejected
- Number of applications referred or deferred
- Number of applications accepted (and therefore a grant awarded)
- Value of grants awarded

Scottish Government asked that this information be provided for both grants and business sectors, and within each fund for the information to be further split by rateable value (less than/equal to £51k and over £51k)

Information for the 'Hospitality, Retail and Leisure top-up funds' and the 'Taxi and Private Hire Driver Support Fund' is as of the 29 of January. This information is returned weekly from each of the 32 local authorities, and then collated and quality assured. Information about estimated number of eligible premises for these funds also come from this data set.

6.2 Data reporting

The information received from each Local Authority was amalgamated into a single dataset. This dataset was drawn from the templates received and aimed to create national level figures. There are some caveats to this approach;

- In some returns the stated number of applications received was lower than the sum of the application status categories (awaiting processing, rejected, referred or deferred and awarded). In these cases, the total number of applications has been recalculated to equal this sum.
- In other returns, the total number of applications exceeded the sum of the application status categories (awaiting processing, rejected, referred or deferred and awarded). In these cases it has been assumed that the discrepancy is caused by additional applications 'awaiting processing' and that figure has therefore been updated accordingly.
- Due to the timing of this exercise a reasonably high proportion of applications were still awaiting processing.
- Some Local Authorities did not disaggregate the information by rateable value or by closure/restriction funds due to technical issues or time constraints. Disaggregated information has been calculated and provided wherever possible.

An experimental statistics publication for Scotland

These statistics are classed as experimental statistics. Experimental statistics are defined by the Code of Practice for Statistics as 'a subset of newly developed or innovative official statistics undergoing evaluation, that are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in the assessment of their suitability and quality at an early stage'. Official and National Statistics are produced to high professional standards as set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Both undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference.

More detail on designation of statistics can be found at:

<https://uksa.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/about-the-authority/what-we-do/uk-statistical-system/types-of-official-statistics/>

Correspondence and enquiries

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