

ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

1. Introduction and background

Any relevant business required to close by law or to significantly change its operations due to COVID-19 restrictions from 2 November 2020, is eligible to apply for grant funding through the Strategic Framework Business Fund

Businesses can apply for a:

- temporary closure grant - £2,000 or £3,000 (depending on rateable value) if the business is required to close by law
- business restrictions grant - £1,400 or £2,100 (depending on rateable value) if the business 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

Grants are paid every 4 weeks in arrears as long as restrictions last with the earliest claim date being 2 November 2020. This includes where the period for which restrictions are in place do not correspond to a four week period.

This is consistent with our commitment to sustainable and inclusive growth and the Coronavirus (COVID-19): fair work statement.

This support is separate from and in addition to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Restrictions Fund to support employees and businesses impacted by local COVID-19 restrictions, from 9 October until 1 November. Applications for that funding closed on 3 November.

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1. Summary

This report provides statistics on the Strategic Framework Business Support Schemes available from the 2 November 2020 reported on as of 2 December 2020. This includes the Business Restriction and Temporary Closure Schemes.

As of 2 December there have been 11,480 applications to the Strategic Business Support Schemes.

These figures are being reported early in the fund timeline so a large number of applications are still awaiting processing: 36% of all applications (4,086), broken down between 35% (3,470) for businesses with an RV less than £51k and 37% (616) for businesses with an RV greater than £51k.

Across Scotland 4,391 awards have been granted to businesses which is 38% of all applications. The awards are split between 89% (3,890) for businesses with a rateable value (RV) under £51k and 11% (501) for those with an RV over £51k.

The progress of LAs in processing applications and therefore the status of applications varied across Local Authorities (LA). The average number awards was 137 across LAs.

Some applications were still under process by 23 Local Authorities.

There were 1,924 rejections (17%) of all applications at a national level, with an average of 60 in each LA.

For the Temporary Closure Fund, in those businesses with an RV of less than 51k, 54% (1,630) of processed applications were accepted, whilst 46% (1,411) were rejected. For businesses with an RV of greater than £51k, 13% (67) of processed applications were accepted, whilst 87% (439) were rejected.

For the Business Restriction Fund, in those businesses with an RV of less than 51k, 71% (2,260) of processed applications were accepted, whilst 29% (910) were rejected. For businesses with an RV greater than £51k, 87% (434) of processed applications were accepted, whilst 13% (66) were rejected.

The total funding available across Scotland was initially £29,940,000, with the changes to levels across Scotland, the allocation was raised to £30,450,000. Of this, £6,414,800 has so far been allocated. Grants are paid every 4 weeks in arrears as long as restrictions last with the earliest claim date being 2 November 2020. The difference between the funds available and the amount allocated reflects the fact that statistics are being published at a very early stage for the funds when some businesses are not yet expected to have made an application, and as applications are still being received some applications are still being processed. Furthermore, funding was based on an estimated maximum uptake, which represented a conservative scenario.

The average fund spend per Local Authority was £200,462.50 while the median was £186,700.

2. Strategic Framework Business Fund applications

2.1 Application status

As of 2 December there have been 11,480 applications to the Strategic Business Support Schemes.

Across Scotland 4,391 awards have been granted to businesses under the Strategic Framework; split between 89% (3,890) for businesses with a ratable value (RV) under £51k and 11% (501) for those with an RV over £51k.

As the Local Authorities reported these figures fairly early in the fund timeline (as of 2 December), a large number of applications are still awaiting processing: 36% of all applications (4,086), broken down between 35% (3,470) for businesses with an RV less than £51k and 37% (616) for businesses with an RV greater than £51k.

The number of applications for businesses with an RV under £51k is over 5 times as high as for larger businesses reflecting the proportion of smaller businesses in the Scottish Business population.

Table 1: Application status at the national level, by fund type

Business size	Applications	Applications awaiting processing		Awards	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>%</i>
RV ≤ 51k	9,819	3,470	35.3	3,890	39.6
RV > 51k	1,661	616	37.1	501	30.2
Total	11,480	4,086	35.6	4,391	38.2

2.2 Application status by Local Authority

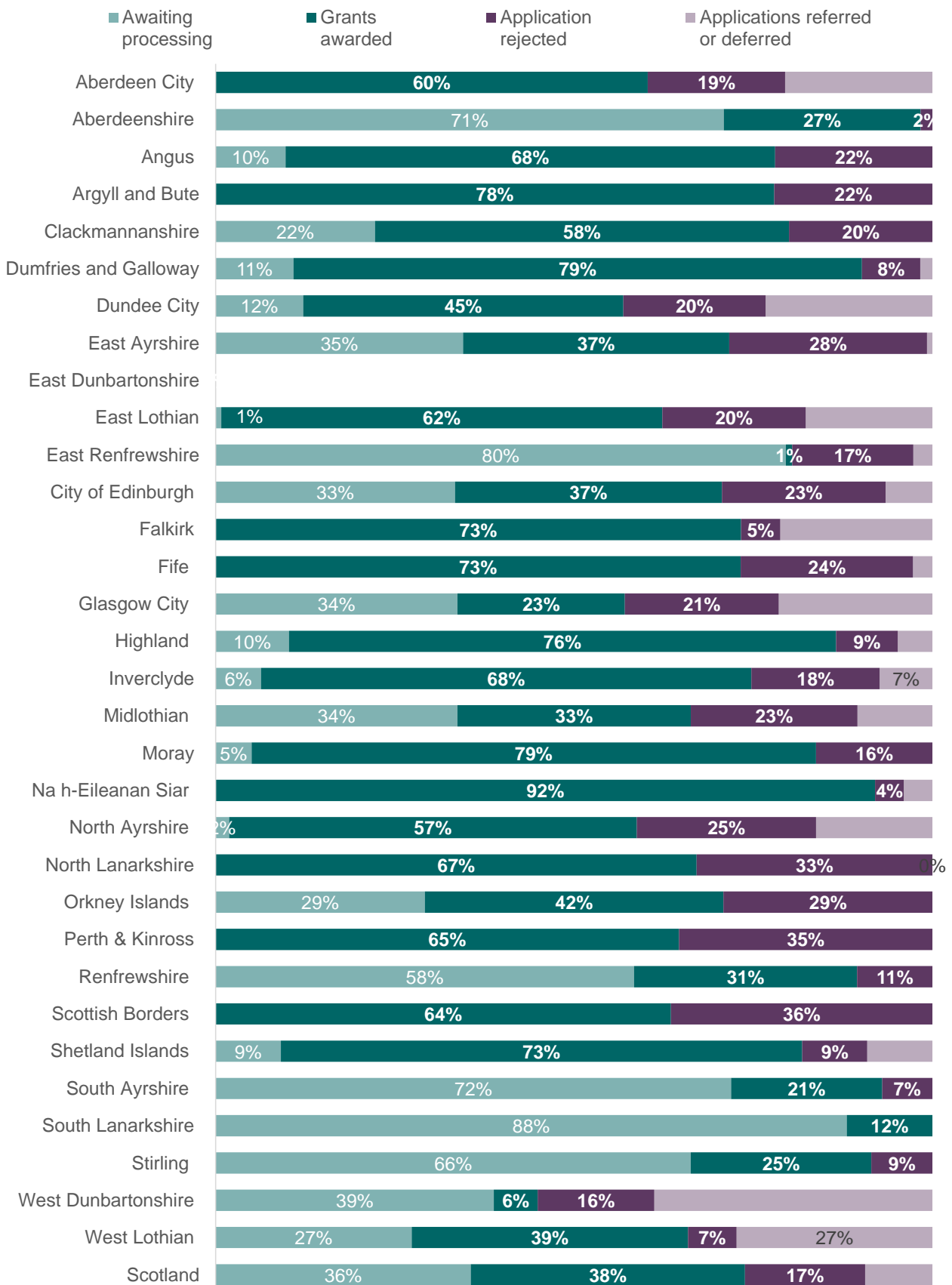
The percentage of applications awaiting processing, awarded, rejected and referred/deferred varied across Local Authorities (LA), see Figure 1. The overall percentage of awards was 38% at a national level, giving an average number of 137 awards per Local Authority.

The percentage of rejections was 17% at a national level, with an average of 60 in each LA. Finally, the percentage of referred or deferred applications across the nation was 9%, averaging 34 across LAs.

The 4,086 applications awaiting processing were shared across 23 Local Authorities.

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.

Figure 1 Business Restriction Fund Application Status by Local Authority



2.3 Application status by rateable value

Due to the reporting process, the number of applications awaiting processing cannot be disaggregated by the two funds.

For the Temporary Closure Fund, in those businesses with an RV less than 51k, 54% (1,630) of processed applications were accepted, whilst 46% (1,411) were rejected. For businesses with an RV greater than £51k, 13% (67) of processed applications were accepted, whilst 87% (439) were rejected.

For the Business Restriction Fund, in those businesses with an RV less than 51k, 71% (2,260) of processed applications were accepted, whilst 29% (910) were rejected. For businesses with an RV greater than £51k, 87% (434) of processed applications were accepted, whilst 13% (66) were rejected.

Table 2: Table of application status for processed applications, by fund and RV

	Temporary Closure Fund					Business Restriction Fund				
	Awarded		Rejected, referred or deferred		Total	Awarded		Rejected, referred or deferred		Total
	Number	%	Number	%		Number	%	Number	%	
<£51k	1,630	54	1,411	46	3,041	2,260	71%	910	29%	3,170
>£51k	67	13	439	87	506	434	87%	66	13%	500
Total	1,697	48	1,850	52	3,547	2,694	73%	976	27%	3,670

2.3.1 Application status, by Rateable Value and Local Authority

As is shown in table 3, for larger businesses with a rateable value over £51k, 30% of applications resulted in awards. Six LAs awarded 30% or less of processed applicants.

For smaller businesses with a rateable value under £51k, a larger proportion of applicants were awarded grants, with 40% of applications being accepted. Four LAs made awards to 80% of applicants or more resulting in 332 awards, while five LAs made awards to under 20% of applicants. The average number of awards to these small businesses across LAs was 122.

The highest level for applications at Local Authority Level from businesses with an RV less than £51k was 971, of which 11% (110) resulted in awards.

Table 3 Application status by Rateable Value and Local Authority

Local Authority	RV<£51k					RV>£51k				
	Applications	Awaiting processing		Awarded		Applications	Awaiting processing		Awarded	
		Number	%	Number	%		Number	%	Number	%
Aberdeen City	106	0	0	58	55	40	0	0	30	75
Aberdeenshire	157	113	72	41	26	25	16	64	9	36
Angus	195	20	10	130	67	10	0	0	10	100
Argyll and Bute	137	0	0	104	76	17	0	0	16	94
Clackmannan-shire	41	7	17	25	61	4	3	75	1	25
Dumfries and Galloway	270	32	12	216	80	25	0	0	18	72
Dundee City	232	27	12	103	44	30	5	17	14	47
East Ayrshire	634	216	34	236	37	15	8	53	5	33
East Dunbartonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Lothian	114	1	1	71	62	16	0	0	9	56
East Renfrewshire	218	174	80	2	1	7	5	71	0	0
City of Edinburgh	617	213	35	220	36	132	37	28	59	45
Falkirk	92	0	0	92	100	54	0	0	15	28
Fife	487	0	0	349	72	29	0	0	29	100
Glasgow City	801	130	16	321	40	919	450	49	81	9
Highland	144	13	9	107	74	42	6	14	35	83
Inverclyde	89	6	7	59	66	6	0	0	6	100
Midlothian	82	28	34	26	32	4	1	25	2	50
Moray	65	4	6	48	74	15	0	0	15	100
Na h-Eileanan Siar	21	0	0	19	90	4	0	0	4	100
North Ayrshire	149	3	2	82	55	11	0	0	9	82
North Lanarkshire	584	0	0	391	67	24	0	0	17	71
Orkney Islands	23	7	30	9	39	1	0	0	1	100

Local Authority	RV<£51k					RV>£51k				
	Applications	Awaiting processing		Awarded		Applications	Awaiting processing		Awarded	
		Number	%	Number	%		Number	%	Number	%
Perth & Kinross	359	0	0	222	62	34	0	0	32	94
Renfrewshire	627	366	58	195	31	0	0	0	0	0
Scottish Borders	128	0	0	81	63	9	0	0	6	67
Shetland Islands	5	0	0	5	100	17	2	12	11	65
South Ayrshire	505	376	74	95	19	36	13	36	19	53
South Lanarkshire	971	861	89	110	11	58	45	78	13	22
Stirling	667	455	68	154	23	36	11	31	23	64
West Dunbartonshire	560	217	39	34	6	12	5	42	1	8
West Lothian	739	201	27	285	39	29	9	31	11	38
Total	9,819	3,470	35	3,890	40	1,661	616	37	501	30

3. Uptake and spend against budget

The total funding available across Scotland was £29,940,000. Of this, £6,414,800 has so far been awarded to businesses. The difference between available funding and awarded funding reflects the fact statistics are being reported at early stages of the schemes as many businesses are not yet expected to have made an application, and some applications are still being processed. Furthermore, funding was based on an estimated maximum uptake, which represented a conservative scenario.

Table 4: National level spend and budget completed

Funding £	Spend £	% Budget allocated that has been spent
30,450,000	6,414,800	21

3.1 Local Authority Level Spend

At the Local Authority level uptake of funding ranged between 88% (£35,000) and 0% (£0) with a median of 26%. The average fund spent per Local Authority was £200,462 while the median was £186,700.

Table 5: Grant spending and budget, by LA

Local Authority	Actual spend	Budget Allocated to LA	% Budget allocated that has been spent
Aberdeen City	£165,800	£1,220,000	14
Aberdeenshire	£85,300	£790,000	11
Angus	£217,900	£530,000	41
Argyll and Bute	£190,300	£730,000	26
Clackmannan-shire	£47,900	£180,000	27
Dumfries and Galloway	£369,600	£720,000	51
Dundee City	£208,300	£820,000	25
East Ayrshire	£255,025	£740,000	34
East Dunbartonshire	£0	£510,000	0
East Lothian	£126,100	£430,000	29
East Renfrewshire	£4,000	£410,000	1
City of Edinburgh	£478,100	£3,710,000	13
Falkirk	£183,100	£510,000	36
Fife	£598,600	£1,430,000	42
Glasgow City	£528,075	£5,330,000	10
Highland	£223,900	£830,000	27
Inverclyde	£105,700	£310,000	34
Midlothian	£46,600	£290,000	16

Local Authority	Actual spend	Budget Allocated to LA	% Budget allocated that has been spent
Moray	£101,400	£240,000	42
Na h-Eileanan Siar	£35,000	£40,000	88
North Ayrshire	£148,700	£650,000	23
North Lanarkshire	£439,100	£1,580,000	28
Orkney Islands	£14,700	£90,000	16
Perth & Kinross	£406,200	£900,000	45
Renfrewshire	£258,300	£1,190,000	22
Scottish Borders	£146,400	£570,000	26
Shetland Islands	£25,900	£90,000	29
South Ayrshire	£205,150	£1,050,000	20
South Lanarkshire	£220,750	£1,870,000	12
Stirling	£218,775	£1,130,000	19
West Dunbartonshire	£61,325	£580,000	11
West Lothian	£298,800	£980,000	30
Total	£6,414,800	£30,450,000	21

3.1.1 LA level spend by fund

For the Temporary Closure fund, 1,697 awards were made giving a total of £2,486,400 in awards. This is an average of £1,465 per award. The average spend across LAs was £77,700 for the Temporary Closure Fund.

For the Business Restrictions fund, a total of 2,694 awards were made giving a total of £3,928,400 in awards. This is an average of £1,458 per award. The average spend across LAs was £122,762 for the Business Restrictions Fund.

Table 5: Awards, by Fund and LA

Local Authority	Temporary Closure - funds awarded		Business Restrictions – funds awarded	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
Aberdeen City	31	£72,000	57	£93,800
Aberdeenshire	15	£30,000	35	£55,300
Angus	48	£94,000	92	£123,900
Argyll and Bute	22	£44,000	98	£146,300
Clackmannan-shire	18	£36,000	8	£11,900
Dumfries and Galloway	49	£98,000	185	£271,600
Dundee City	47	£96,400	70	£111,900
East Ayrshire	166	£138,000	75	£117,025

Local Authority	Temporary Closure - funds awarded		Business Restrictions – funds awarded	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
East Dunbartonshire	-	-	-	-
East Lothian	13	£26,000	67	£100,100
East Renfrewshire	2	£4,000	-	-
City of Edinburgh	73	£154,000	206	£324,100
Falkirk	37	£76,000	70	£107,100
Fife	120	£243,000	258	£355,600
Glasgow City	133	£211,500	269	£316,575
Highland	1	£2,000	141	£221,900
Inverclyde	17	£35,000	48	£70,700
Midlothian	10	£20,000	18	£26,600
Moray	3	£9,000	60	£92,400
Na h-Eileanan Siar	-	-	23	£35,000
North Ayrshire	25	£50,000	66	£98,700
North Lanarkshire	283	£300,500	125	£138,600
Orkney Islands	-	-	10	£14,700
Perth & Kinross	46	£94,000	208	£312,200
Renfrewshire	119	£178,500	76	£79,800
Scottish Borders	34	£68,000	53	£78,400
Shetland Islands	-	-	16	£25,900
South Ayrshire	29	£61,000	85	£144,150
South Lanarkshire	44	£89,000	79	£131,750
Stirling	75	£47,500	102	£171,275
West Dunbartonshire	14	£28,000	21	£33,325
West Lothian	223	£181,000	73	£117,800
Total	1,697	£2,486,400	2,694	£3,928,400

3.1.2 Local Authority Spend by Rateable Value

For smaller business with a rateable value of <51K , a total of 3,890 awards were made for a total of £5,362,900 in awards. This gives an average of £1,379 per award. The average spend for smaller business with a rateable value of <51K s across LAs was £167,591.

For larger business with a rateable value of >51K, a total of 501 awards were made for a total of £1,051,900 in awards,. This gives an average of £2,100 per award. The average spends for larger business with a rateable value of >51K, across LAs was £32,872.

Table 6: Awards, by RV and LA

Local Authority	RV<51k – grants awarded		RV>51k - grants awarded	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
Aberdeen City	58	£93,800	30	£72,000
Aberdeenshire	41	£66,400	9	£18,900
Angus	130	£198,100	10	£19,800
Argyll and Bute	104	£158,800	16	£31,500
Clackmannan-shire	25	£45,800	1	£2,100
Dumfries and Galloway	216	£331,800	18	£37,800
Dundee City	103	£178,000	14	£30,300
East Ayrshire	236	£245,200	5	£9,825
East Dunbartonshire	-	-	-	-
East Lothian	71	£107,200	9	£18,900
East Renfrewshire	2	£4,000	0	£0
City of Edinburgh	220	£347,000	59	£131,100
Falkirk	92	£149,800	15	£33,300
Fife	349	£535,000	29	£63,600
Glasgow City	321	£389,700	81	£138,375
Highland	107	£150,400	35	£73,500
Inverclyde	59	£92,200	6	£13,500
Midlothian	26	£42,400	2	£4,200
Moray	48	£67,200	15	£34,200
Na h-Eileanan Siar	19	£26,600	4	£8,400
North Ayrshire	82	£129,800	9	£18,900
North Lanarkshire	391	£397,550	17	£41,550
Orkney Islands	9	£12,600	1	£2,100
Perth & Kinross	222	£337,200	32	£69,000
Renfrewshire	195	£258,300	-	-
Scottish Borders	81	£133,800	6	£12,600
Shetland Islands	5	£10,500	11	£15,400
South Ayrshire	95	£158,950	19	£46,200
South Lanarkshire	110	£189,850	13	£30,900
Stirling	154	£167,100	23	£51,675
West Dunbartonshire	34	£59,000	1	£2,325
West Lothian	285	£278,850	11	£19,950
Total	3,890	£5,362,900	501	£1,051,900

4. Methodology

4.1 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)

The requested information was to cover the period 9 October to 2 November.

4.2 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. Disaggregated information has been calculated and provided wherever possible.

An experimental statistics publication for Scotland

This is the first publication of these statistics and therefore they are labelled 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/>

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