

Clarifications for the Fáilte Ireland Adaptation Fund for the Re-opening of Tourism & Hospitality Businesses in 2020.

7 October 2020

Business eligibility for the Adaptation Fund

B&Bs

- **B&Bs on Fáilte Ireland's National Quality Assurance Framework** are eligible to apply for up to €500 to contribute towards the costs of capital adaptations to their businesses through Fáilte Ireland's COVID-19 Adaptation Fund. This includes B&Bs approved through B&B Ireland. B&Bs are not eligible to apply for any consumables expenditure they may have incurred. The closing date for this Fund is noon on 31 October 2020.
- **B&Bs on Fáilte Ireland's National Quality Assurance Framework** are also eligible to apply for €4,000 through the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation's Restart Plus Scheme, which is administered by Fáilte Ireland. This includes B&Bs approved through B&B Ireland. The closing date for this Scheme is 28 October 2020.
- **B&Bs which are not on Fáilte Ireland's National Quality Assurance Framework** will also be eligible to apply for €4,000 through the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation's Restart Plus Scheme, which is administered by Fáilte Ireland. Details of this Scheme will be announced shortly.

Coach Tourism

Through the July Jobs Stimulus Package, €10m has been allocated to the development of a Business Continuity Scheme to support the coach tourism sector. This is a separate scheme being developed by Fáilte Ireland and will launch later in the autumn of 2020.

Clarifications regarding applications to the Adaptation Fund

- **Safety Charter:** Fáilte Ireland wishes to encourage as many businesses as possible to avail of the funding from the COVID-19 Adaptation Fund for the Re-opening of Tourism & Hospitality Businesses in a timely manner. In order to encourage this, applicants under this Scheme can apply for the Adaptation Fund if they have signed up to and are in the process of obtaining the Safety Charter.

Grantees will be required to complete the Safety Charter within 3 months of receiving a grant from the Adaptation Fund. Grantees who do not complete the Charter within this timeframe will be required to pay back any funding received.

- **Status at time of application:** The Guidelines state that businesses must be open at the time of application to be eligible for this Fund, in line with the Government's *Roadmap for Re-opening Society and Business*. For clarification, there are 2 exceptions:
 1. Where a business was open and has been obliged to close again due to an increase in the restriction level under the Government's *Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with Covid-19*. In this case, the business may apply for the Adaptation Fund.
 2. Where a business has already met the minimum opening requirement of 70 days (see Point 8, under Q15 Qualifying Criteria in the Guidelines). Due to the extended deadline of 31 October 2020, if a business has been open for 70 days since 29 June 2020 and has since closed, it may apply for the Adaptation Fund.
- **Evidence of work completed:** As part of the application, applicants must provide Fáilte Ireland with evidence of work completed in respect of eligible costs under the Fund before funding can be granted. Typically, this is photographic evidence of the completed work. For clarification, Fáilte Ireland will also accept evidence that the costs have been incurred, even though the work may not yet have been completed. The evidence must be in the form of a binding commitment to undertake the work, e.g. sales order, proforma invoice, contractual commitment, proof of deposit payment etc. A quotation is not sufficient evidence.
- **Medium-sized and large-sized businesses providing evidence that they were not undertakings in difficulty:** Initially, businesses which were a medium-sized or large-sized business over 3 years in business were required to provide evidence that they were not an 'undertaking in difficulty' as defined by the EU. To facilitate this, such businesses were required to upload an independent accountant's certificate stating that this was the case. This has now been changed so that either of the following is acceptable:
 - An independent accountant's certificate/letter/report stating that this is the case based on the 2019 financial accounts received from the business OR
 - An audit report (dated 2019 or 2020), signed by the business' accountant for the most recently prepared year-end financial statements. The report should state that these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, and they agree with this basis of preparation.