

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Can I submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to both grant schemes?**

No. You can only apply for one grant scheme.

### **Can I submit my EOI by email?**

No all EOIs must be submitted via the portal. We would strongly suggest that you do not leave it until the last minute to submit as the portal will cut off at 5.00 pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2026 and no EOIs will be accepted after this time.

### **Will we need to submit quotes when completing an EOI?**

No, quotes are only required at application stage.

### **Is there a save button on the EOI?**

No, if you are not able to submit the EOI form on the first attempt, we would recommend creating a draft document first then copy the information across to the EOI form when ready to submit.

### **Are we able to submit an EOI with attachments?**

The only attachments you should upload are the ones we request, as stated in the EOI.

### **What is Minimal Financial Assistance?**

Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) is a type of subsidy which is defined in the UK Subsidy Control Act 2022. The MFA provisions in the Act allow small amounts of funding, up to a financial threshold of £315,000, to be awarded to an Enterprise within an applicable period of up to 3 financial years. This means that no Enterprise can receive more than this amount in the applicable period.

The Act defines a financial year as a period of 12 months ending on 31 March. The applicable 3-year period is the elapsed part of the current financial year (i.e. from 1 April), and the previous two financial years immediately preceding the current financial year.

### **If a company exceeds the £315,000 subsidy control threshold, will they be rejected?**

Yes, if your business has exceeded the £315,000 subsidy control threshold we are unable to accept your EOI.

### **If a company has a global or group set up, can they still apply?**

An assessment would be made to check that the company still fell within the scope of an SME.

### **Is software classed as capital expenditure?**

Software development is treated as capital expenditure for costs associated with creating a new asset or a major enhancement that provides future economic benefits. Capitalising software costs involves treating the expenditure as an asset on the capital register.

Minor improvements and maintenance will not be eligible for a grant.

### **Is IP capital expenditure?**

Yes, as it is an intangible asset, and it has economic value. This also includes patents, trademarks and copyright.

### **Can the grant be used for website development.**

Yes, website development can be capitalised expenditure as it is an intangible asset.

In general, website development costs can be capitalised if the following conditions are met:

1. The costs are directly related to the creation or acquisition of a website or web application that will be used in the business's operations.
2. The website or web application is expected to provide economic benefits to the business over a period of time and not simply for promotion and advertising purposes.
3. The costs can be reliably measured.

If these conditions are met, the cost of developing the website can be recorded as an asset and written off gradually over its useful life.

Advertising, promotion, maintenance and minor updates **would not** be eligible.

### **Can a charity apply even if the grant would contribute to a project that would not generate any revenue?**

Yes, charities and social enterprises are welcome to apply. Where an organisation does not generate revenue themselves, they would need to be able to demonstrate an indirect economic benefit. Also consider that creation of jobs would qualify under growth.

### **Can a business apply more than once?**

No. Only one application to one of the grant schemes is allowed per organisation applying.

### **Can multiple businesses owned by the same person each apply.**

No. We are unable to accept more than one application from linked companies in this funding round. Linked companies are businesses that are connected – for example, if one company owns or controls another, or if they share the same owners or directors.

### **What is match funding?**

Match funding is a requirement of the grant, where applicants must contribute a portion of the project's total cost from other sources. The grant will cover up to 50% of the total project cost and you will need to "match " the rest. This matching amount can come from your own funds. For example, if a project costs £10,000 and the grant covers £5,000, you would need to secure the remaining £5,000 through match funding.

**Is the maximum grant £25,000 or is the total project value £25,000?**

The maximum grant available is £25,000. On the basis of 50% match funding requirement from businesses, projects seeking the full amount would be expected to have a total value of at least £50,000.

**Are associated labour/expense costs for planning, set up, training, travel etc. in scope?**

No, this is a capital scheme and because it is relatively small grant, capitalisation of these costs would not be eligible.

**Is the grant only for the part of the CAPEX that is depreciated over the duration of the funding (from start, until 31/12/2027)?**

The project the grant is contributing to must be completed by December 2027 which includes all defrayal of funds. It would be expected that capital items purchased may have a lifespan for depreciation which ran beyond December 2027.

**Are we able to use hire purchase/asset finance?**

We will only be able to pay against the deposit paid e.g. if you pay £10,000 as a deposit you will receive a £5,000 grant.

**If my application is rejected, can I appeal?**

No, the Grant Panel's decision is final. You will be given the reason why your application has not been successful.