

State Aid FAQ's

Q. What is State Aid?

A. State Aid is any advantage granted by public authorities through state resources. This can take many different forms, including direct financial support in the form of grants or non-financial support in the form of business support.

Q. How will I know if the support my business receives is State Aid?

A. If your business signs up for a programme of State Aid this should be clear, as it is on the programme sign up forms for eScalate and ISfB. You should also be notified of the value of the aid received.

Q. Which OxLEP support constitutes State Aid?

A. The eScalate and ISfB programmes provide State Aid under the De Minimis regulation 1407/2013 of 18.12.2014 OJ L351/1 of 24.12.2013.

The Enhanced Growth Hub, Peer to Peer programme or the Business Investment Fund provide a subsidy (a subsidy is the UK's equivalent to State Aid now that we have left the EU, see below) under Special Drawing Rights (SDR) part of the UK's approach to meeting its Subsidy Control requirements.

Q. How do I find out how much State Aid my business has received from OxLEP?

A. Upon signing up to eScalate or ISfB you will be provided with an estimate of the maximum aid you could receive. At the end of each financial year, you will receive a letter detailing how much aid you have actually received. If at any point you want to know, please just contact the team who can provide you with this information.

Remember that the value of aid to be declared upon request is the estimate of the maximum aid you could receive until your involvement in a project ends, at which point the value becomes that which you have actually received.

Q. I've received a State Aid letter from OxLEP but I didn't sign up to any of the programmes you run, why have I received a letter?

A. OxLEP is legally obliged to provide every business which accesses our support with a State Aid letter. If, for example, you attended a webinar but didn't sign up to the programme you still received State Aid in the form of business support and we still need to notify you of the value of this.

Q. Has OxLEP used the attendance of my business at a workshop to claim funding?

A. No. The business support OxLEP provides is fully funded and your attendance at a workshop is not directly linked to the funding that we draw down. In accessing this support, you have received State Aid and therefore OxLEP needs to notify you of this.

Q. How much support can I receive as State Aid?

A. Under the De Minimis scheme you can receive up to 200,000 euros of aid over a three fiscal year rolling period.

Q. What's the difference between De Minimis and Special Drawing Rights?

A. De Minimis is an EU State Aid scheme, other than EU funded programmes such as ERDF and ESF or contracts entered into while the UK was a member of the EU and which are not subsequently varied, De Minimis ceased to apply from the point of the UK's departure from the EU. Special Drawing Rights (SDR) is, in effect, the replacement. SDR allows 325,000 euros of aid (currently) to be received over the same three fiscal year rolling period. Funders should clearly notify you whether you are receiving a De Minimis aid or an SDR subsidy. In either case, the two allowances cumulate. This means that the total value of both De Minimis and SDR needs to be declared when assessing your eligibility to receive new De Minimis or SDR aid.

Q. What does a three fiscal year rolling period mean?

A. This follows the fiscal year 6th April – 5th April, with aid no longer counting towards your allowance on 5th April of the third year.

Q. How do I know if my business has received a State Aid in the past?

A. If you are not sure whether you've received any de minimis aid or SDR subsidy or need any more information on some which you have received, you should check your previous award letters or with the organisations who provided you with the publicly funded support, who will be able to confirm.

Q. I have been asked to report how much aid I have received in Euros, what exchange rate should I use?

A. The letter you received on signing up to ISfB and eScalate or on awarding of a grant will have included the exchange rate or the Euro equivalent of the aid. The Euro value will also be in the letter you receive at the end of each fiscal year. If you have questions regarding this, please contact the team who will be able to confirm.