

Update on Implementation of Enhanced Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme

Thursday 14th September 2023

Transitional Arrangements

(for applications made under the Previous Scheme)

- At the commencement of the Enhanced Grant Scheme in July 2023, Donegal County Council had 1296 Transitional Applications.
- All Transitional Applicants were contacted by the Council in late July / early August 2023, outlining:
 - Their current position.
 - The next steps for their application.
 - Priority Order.



Transitional Arrangements – Priority Order

(for applications made under the Previous Scheme)

- **CATEGORY 1a** - Applications that had received Stage 2 Approval - Grant Amount and where Remediation Works had been completed – **40 Applications**
- **CATEGORY 1b** - Applications that had received Stage 2 Approval – Grant Amount and where Remediation Works had commenced but not yet completed – **39 Applications**
- **CATEGORY 2** - Applications that had received Stage 2 Approval – Grant Amount but had not yet commenced Remediation Works – **19 Applications**
- **CATEGORY 3** - Applications that had received Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Approval and had submitted their Stage 2 for calculation of Grant Amount but had not received a Stage 2 Grant Approval Amount under the Previous Scheme – **64 Applications**
- **CATEGORY 4** - Applications that had received Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility Approval but had not submitted their Stage 2 Grant Approval application documents – **687 Applications**
- **CATEGORY 5** – Remaining applications at Validation Stage – **124 Applications.**
- Referred to the Housing Agency for Damage Threshold Determination - **323 Applications**

Transitional Application Status as at 12th September 2023

<u>Category</u>	<u>Communication Issued from Council</u>	<u>Information received from Applicants</u>	<u>Calculation Completed under the Enhanced Grant Scheme</u>
1a	40	12	9
1b	39	22	19
2	19	6	2
3	64	44	10
4	687	* See note below	

- Council are in the process of issuing a communication to all applicants in Category 4, advising on information required for Grant Calculation.
- The Online Portal will be open to receive the requested information.

Referral to Housing Agency for Determination of Damage Threshold

Referrals to Housing Agency – Update 12 th September 2023	
Applications Referred to Housing Agency to date	323
Damage Threshold Determination decided by Housing Agency	231

- In accordance with Section 15(5) of the Remediation of Dwellings Damaged by the Use of Defective Concrete Blocks Act 2022, the DCB Grant Office is currently issuing the notifications to applicants.

Calculation and Payments

The **Actual Grant Amount Payable** will be the lesser of the following:

- The expenditure incurred (invoiced) to fully complete the Remediation Option in compliance with the Remedial Works Plan

or

- The calculated Remediation Option Grant under the terms of the Enhanced Grant Scheme

Payments issued to date

Total Payments issued by Donegal County Council
from November 2020 to date **€15,689,845**

This includes the following amounts in Q3 / 2023:

July 2023 **€586,164**

August 2023 **€697,993**

New Applications under Enhanced Grant Scheme

- Total Received to Date – 50 Applications
 - Principal Private Residence- 47 Applications
 - Residential Tenancy- 3 Applications
- Validated Applications and ready for referral to Housing Agency for Damage Threshold Determination – 8
- Incomplete Applications - 42

Validation requirements under Enhanced Grant Scheme

RELEVANT DWELLING		
	Eligibility Criteria	Proof
1.	The dwelling must be located in the administrative area of a designated local authority	address including Eircode and MPRN (Meter Point Reference Number)
2.	The dwelling is compliant with planning regulations and is not an unauthorised structure	copy of Planning Permission and a Certificate of Compliance with Planning Permission prepared by a competent building professional
3.	The construction of the dwelling must have been completed prior to 31/01/2020	a title deed or similar legal instrument
4.	The dwelling must have been constructed using defective concrete blocks and have been damaged due to the use of the defective concrete blocks	Building Condition Assessment (BCA) report
APPLICANT DETAILS		
1.	Proof of Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a copy of applicant's valid passport or - a copy of applicant's valid driving license or - a copy of applicant's Public Services Card issued by the Department of Social Protection

Validation requirements under Enhanced Grant Scheme contd.

OWNERSHIP OF RELEVANT DWELLING		
	Eligibility Criteria	Proof
1.	The applicant is the owner of the relevant dwelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a copy of the title deed for the relevant dwelling or - a registration of title or - other legal documents proving proof of ownership.
2.	Where the applicant is a joint owner of the relevant dwelling, consent by joint owners (other than the applicant), of the relevant dwelling for the inclusion of the relevant dwelling in the scheme, making of an application under Stages 1, 2 and 3 and, for payment of grant in respect of the dwelling	- Consent form to be completed with print name, signature and date required to be completed by joint owner(s)
PRINCIPAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE		
1.	The relevant dwelling the subject of the application is the applicant's principal private residence	At least two of the following dated within the last 6 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - details on Register of Electors - bank statement - a current car or home insurance policy (that shows the applicant's address) - a document issued by a Government Department (that shows the applicant's address) - a copy of Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) - a statement of liability (previously P21 – Balancing Statement) from Revenue - a social insurance document (that shows the applicant's address)
RESIDENTIAL TENANCY		
1.	The applicant is a landlord of a relevant dwelling which stood registered in the Residential Tenancies Board Register <u>on or before 1 November 2021</u>	- certificate of registration in the Residential Tenancies Register (including details of registered landlord number and registered tenancy number)

Summary of Progress to date

- Enhanced Grant Scheme has been in place 9 weeks.
- Progress to date:
 - Transitional applications already approved under old scheme:
 - 849 previously approved & all contacted by the Council.
 - Floor Area Declarations being received from homeowners / competent building professionals.
 - 84 received to date – Calculations being finalised.
 - Applicants will receive notifications on Grant Calculations next week & following week.
 - Applications under Previous Scheme referred to Housing Agency.
 - 323 applications referred to date.
 - Damage Threshold determined by the Housing Agency on 231 applications.
 - Council awaiting the Determination on the next batch of applications.
 - Council has commenced issuing Housing Agency determination to applicants.
- Payments Issued.
 - €1.28 million in July and August 2023.

- Thank you