

Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

Monthly Report to Elected Members

Date: 5th October 2023

Background:

The Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage announced the commencement of the Enhanced Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme on the 3rd July 2023.

At the commencement date, Donegal County Council had 1296 applications received under the Previous Scheme which required transitioning to the Enhanced Scheme.

The details of these 1296 applications are outlined in Table 1.

Under the provisions of the Enhanced Scheme, the Local Authority has an administrative role. The technical assessment is the remit of the Housing Agency. The initial step for an application, following referral to the Housing Agency, is the Housing Agency's Determination of Damage Threshold. Details on this cohort of applications is contained with Table 2.

Table 3 provides a further breakdown on the status of the 122 applications from the Previous Scheme which remained to be Validated at 3rd July 2023. These applications are processed under the terms of the Enhanced Scheme.

Table 4 provides an overview of Payments made to applicants since the introduction of the Enhanced Grant Scheme in July 2023.

Table 5 provides an overview on the Enhanced Scheme including applications from the Previous Scheme which are subject to transitional arrangements.

The DCB Office are actively engaging with applicants in respect of incomplete applications. The telephone clinics continue to operate every Tuesday and Thursday (9am – 12.30pm) to assist applicant with any queries.

The Facilitators also continue to actively engage in their respective areas providing assistance and support to applicants. The DCB Office meet with the Facilitators on a monthly basis to discuss emerging issues.

Elected Members will be provided with a Monthly Report on the implementation of the Enhanced Grant Scheme.

Table 1: Statistics on Transitional Arrangements
Application Status as at 5th October 2023

Categorisation and Priority	No. of Applicants per category at 3 rd July 2023	Information Received for Grant Calculations from applicants		Grant Amount Calculated under Enhanced Scheme and notified to applicant	Value of Grant Amounts	Reviewed by Donegal Co Co and currently with applicant for response
		by 12 th Sept 2023	by 29 th Sept 2023			
1A	40	12	23	9	€2,766,062	8
1B	39	22	28	20	€7,225,100	4
2	9	6	7	3	€993,506	2
3	58	44	47	21	€7,440,886	11
4	668	0	79			
Change of Remedial Option	35					
Totals	849	84	184	53	€18,425,554	25
Referrals to Housing Agency	323					
Applications Withdrawn	2					
Applications from Previous Scheme to be Validated at 3 rd July 2023. For processing under the Enhanced Scheme	122					
Totals	1296	84	184	53	€18,425,554	25

Explanation of Categories:

Category 1A - Remediation Works fully completed

Category 1B - Remediation Works commenced

Category 2 - Grant Amount notified to applicant but works had not commenced

Category 3 - Stage 2 documentation submitted, but Grant Amount had not been calculated

Category 4 – Applicant notified of Stage 1 Confirmation of Eligibility & Remedial Option

Table 2: Referral of Applications to the Housing Agency as at 5th Oct 2023

Referrals to the Housing Agency for Determination on Damage Threshold	352
Determination on Damage Threshold received from the Housing Agency and communicated to applicant by Donegal County Council	321
Met the Damage Threshold	316
Did not meet the Damage Threshold	5
Awaiting Determination from the Housing Agency	31

Table 3: Validation Status - Applications from Previous Scheme

Remaining to be validated at the commencement of the Enhanced Scheme	122
Transferred to Housing Agency on 29 th Sept 2023	29
Applications Withdrawn by Applicant	3
Applications deemed complete and ready for transfer to Housing Agency	21
Applications deemed incomplete and currently with applicant	30
Applications currently being reviewed by Donegal County Council	39

Table 4: Payments issued since the introduction of the Enhanced Scheme

July 2023	€586,164
August 2023	€697,993
September 2023	€828,753

Table 5: Overview of Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme as at 5th Oct 2023

No. of Confirmation of Grant Amounts from the Previous Scheme as calculated under the Enhanced Scheme by Donegal County Council	53
Value of Grant Amounts from the Previous Scheme as calculated under the Enhanced Scheme by Donegal County Council	€18,425,554
Number of Confirmation of Grant Amounts received from the Housing Agency	0
Value of Grant Amounts decided by the Housing Agency	N/A
No. of new applications received under the Enhanced Scheme	72
No. of Principal Private Residence (PPR)	68
No. of Residential Tenancies Board dwellings (RTB)	4
No. deemed complete and transferred to the Housing Agency	5
No. of new applications deemed complete and ready for transfer to Housing Agency	20
No. of new applications deemed incomplete and currently with applicant	23
No. of new applications currently being reviewed by Donegal County Council	24