

## Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

### Monthly Activity Report

#### as at 31st March 2026

### Background

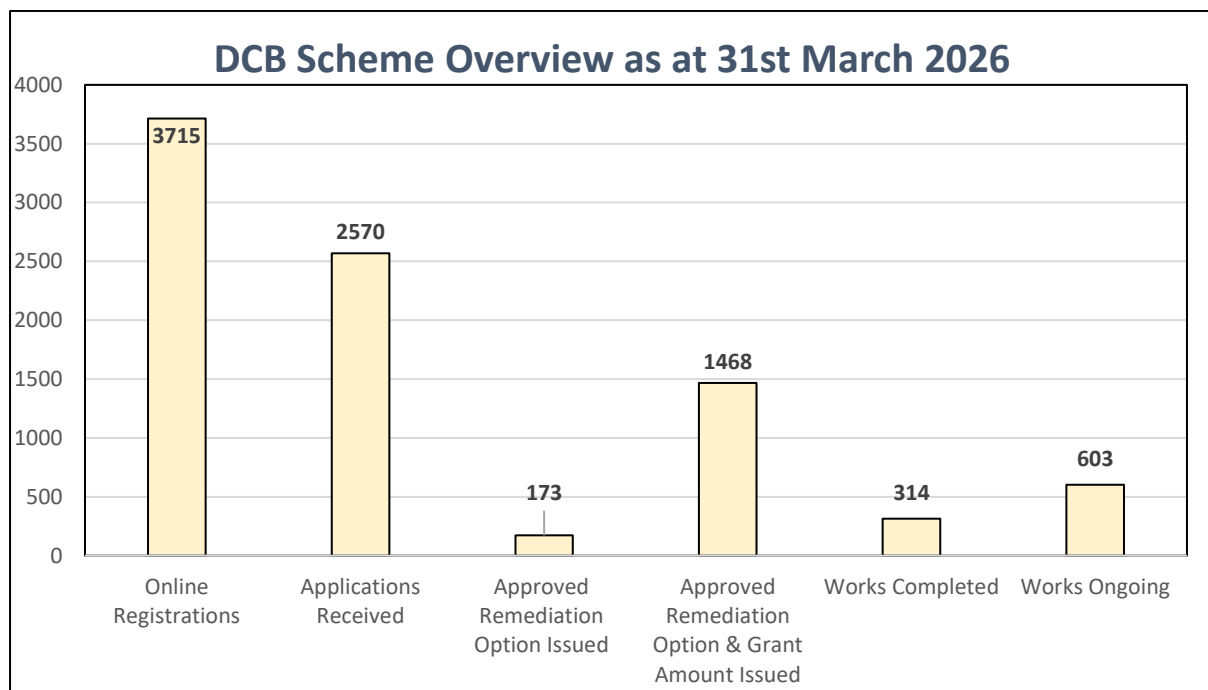
Donegal County Council, as a Designated Local Authority, are tasked with the Administration of the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

The Enhanced Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme offers financial assistance to support affected homeowners in designated local authority areas to remediate their dwelling, where their dwelling had been damaged by the use of defective concrete blocks in its construction.

The Enhanced Scheme has been in operation since 3rd July 2023.

The primary legislation which underpins the Enhanced Scheme is the Remediation of Dwellings Damaged by the Use of Defective Concrete Blocks Act 2022.

This report provides an update on the implementation of the Enhanced Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme and covers the period up to and including 31st March 2026.



## **DCB Amendment Act and (Increased Grant) Regulations**

Donegal County Council acknowledges the enactment of the DCB Amendment Act and the Dwellings Damaged by Use of Defective Concrete Blocks (Increased Grant) Regulations 2026.

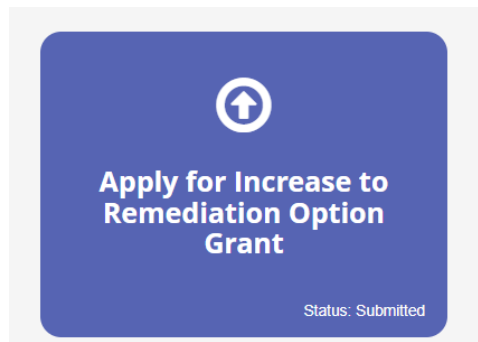
The (Increased Grant) Regulations bring into operation two key amendments to the existing legislation:

1. to provide for an application for an increase in the amount of a grant for remediation of certain dwellings damaged by the use of defective concrete blocks;
2. to amend the time limit for the payment of a grant for remediation.

Applicants are respectfully requested to initially review all relevant information on the Council's website and the Online Portal and to reach out to the Community Facilitators, if required.

All procedures used for the application of Retrospective Rates & Payments are set out in Legislation. The Council is required to adhere to the legislative provisions but will endeavour to streamline this process as much as practical for applicants.

### **Step 1: Apply for an Increase to Remediation Option Grant**



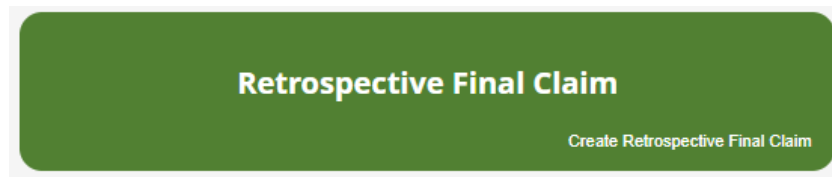
The Apply for Increase to Remediation Option Grant Tile is now available on the Online Portal for applicants who have completed Remediation Works and previously received their Final Payment.

To date, the Council has received over 140 applications for Increase to Remediation Option Grant.

### **Step 2: Assessment**

The DCB Office has assessed a significant number of the applications for Increase to Remediation Option Grant and commenced notifying applicants of their Increased Grant Amount.

**Step 3: Applicant submits a Retrospective Claim**



A dedicated Payment Claim Tile is available for eligible applicants, once they are notified of their Increased Remediation Option Grant.

The Council has already received Retrospective Claims from applicants for Qualifying Costs incurred.

The Council has issued payments for a number of Retrospective Claims and continue to work through Retrospective Claims in parallel with Stage Claims and Final Claims.

**Section 1 - Transitional Applications**

At the commencement of the Enhanced Scheme, Donegal County Council had 1,296 applications received under the Previous Scheme which required transitioning to the Enhanced Scheme. These applications are referred to as “Transitional Applications”. Donegal County Council had issued approval to 849 applications prior to the commencement of the Enhanced Scheme.

**1.1: Status of Transitional Applications as at 31st March 2026**

Transitional Applications at 3rd July 2023	<b>849</b>
Declaration of Floor Area (DOFA) received from Applicants for Grant Calculations to date under the Enhanced Scheme	<b>682</b>
Grant Amount Calculated under Enhanced Scheme and notified to applicant	<b>676</b>

Remediation Option Grant Amounts from Previous Scheme – Calculated / Recalculated by Donegal County Council	676
Option 1	498
Option 2	22
Option 3	1
Option 4	7
Option 5	0
Blended Option or Combination	148
Value of Grant Amounts decided by the Housing Agency	€234,583,943

## **Section 2 - Referral of Applications to the Housing Agency**

Under the provisions of the Enhanced Scheme, the technical assessment of validated applications is the remit of the Housing Agency. The initial step for an application, following validation and referral to the Housing Agency, is the Housing Agency's Determination of Damage Threshold of the relevant dwelling.

The average timescale for Determination of Damage Threshold by the Housing Agency is 60 days.

For applications that meet the Damage Threshold, the Housing Agency provides an indicative timeline for determination of the Remediation Option & Grant Amount. The Determination of Damage Threshold and the Remediation Option Grant as decided by the Housing Agency is communicated to the applicant by the Council's DCB Grant Office.

Where it is deemed by the Housing Agency that an application has not met the Damage Threshold or where an applicant is not satisfied with the Approved Remediation Option, the applicant may submit an Appeal to the Independent Appeals Panel.

## **Overview of Referral of Applications to the Housing Agency**

### **2.1 Determination of Damage Threshold as at 31st March 2026**

Applications Validated by Donegal County Council & Referred to the Housing Agency for Determination on Damage Threshold	1572
Application for Revised Approval under Section 23 Received & Referred to the Housing Agency	8
Determination on Damage Threshold received from the Housing Agency and communicated to applicant by Donegal County Council	1447
Determination by Housing Agency – Dwelling Meets the Damage Threshold	1425
Determination by Housing Agency – Dwelling did not meet the Damage Threshold	22

## **2.2 Remediation Option & Grant Amount as at 31st March 2026**

To date, the Housing Agency has decided the Remediation Option Grant on **55%** of the applications which have been determined to have met the Damage Threshold under the provisions of the Enhanced Scheme.

These Remediation Option Grants are summarised below.

The Housing Agency has advised the Council of **15** Appeal Determination Remediation Option Grants and this information is also included below.

Remediation Option Grant Determined by the Housing Agency	777
Option 1	610
Option 2	87
Option 3	45
Option 4	13
Option 5	0
Blended Option or Combination	22
Remediation Option Grant Refusal by the Housing Agency	7
Value of Grant Amounts decided by the Housing Agency	€275,976,358

### **Section 3 - Payments to Applicants**

Donegal County Council fully recognises the importance of timely processing of valid Payment Claims under the Defective Concrete Blocks Enhanced Scheme, to ensure cash flow for all parties involved.

To date, Donegal County Council has processed valid Payment Claims and issued payments to applicant homeowners to a value of over €216m.

The Council is committed to issuing reimbursements, under the Enhanced Scheme, to applicant homeowners as soon as practical.

The continued support of Elected Members and Oireachtas Members is fully acknowledged.

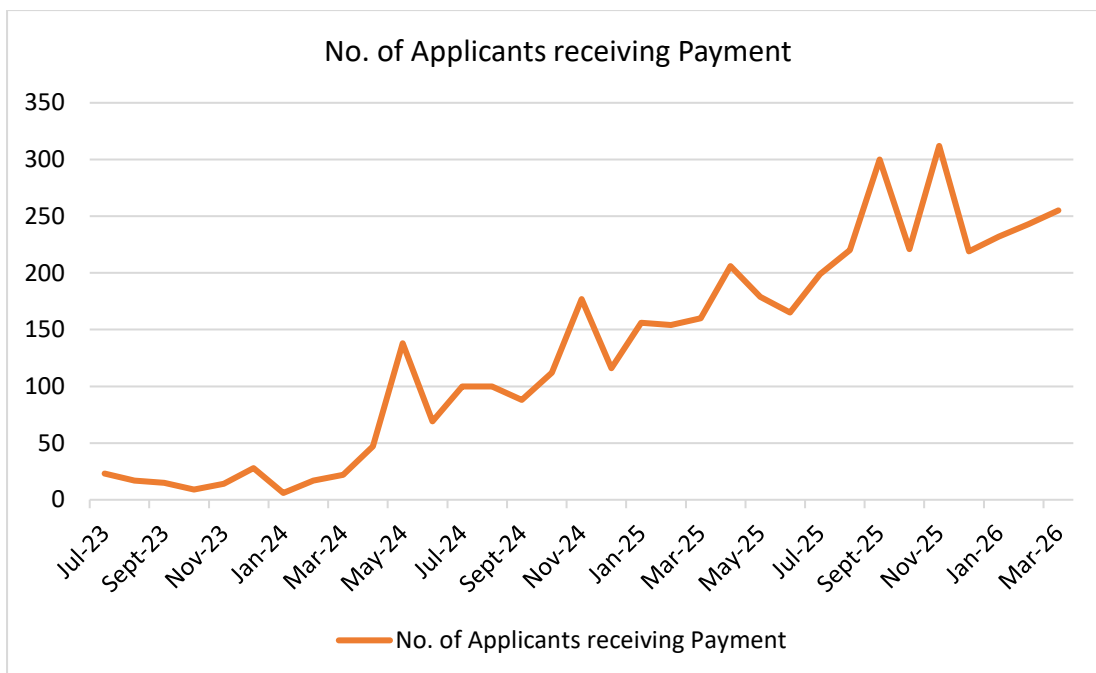
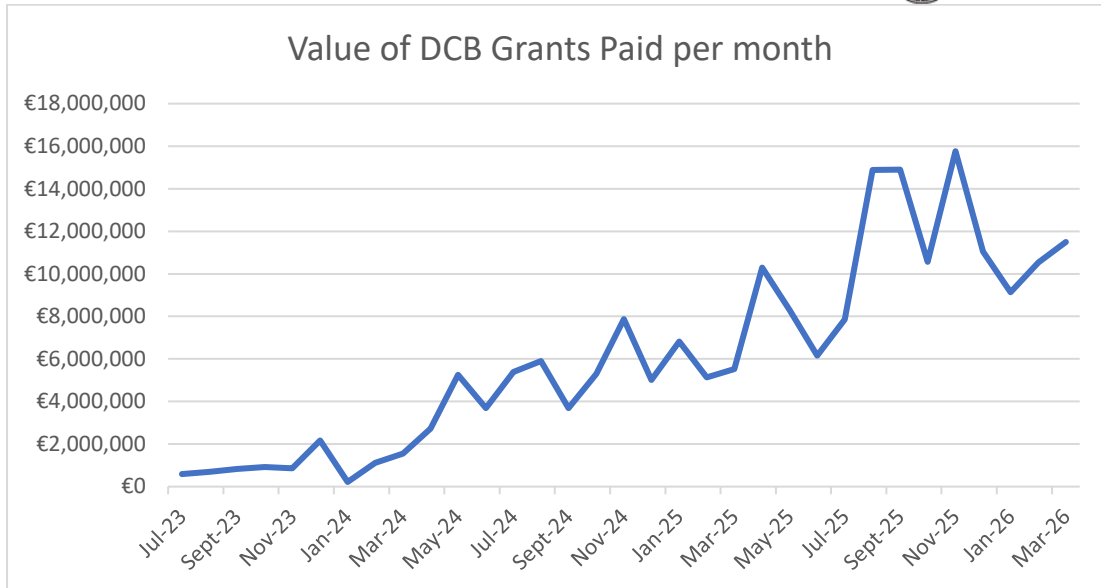
#### **3.1: Payments Issued by Period**

Section 3.1 provides an overview of Payments issued to applicants by period.

<b>Period</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>No. of Applicants receiving Payment</b>
2020	€172,174.38	42
2021	€3,034,228	332
2022	€5,609,009	372
2023	€11,112,469	470
2024	€47,705,154	510
January 2025	€6,812,419	156
February 2025	€5,138,771	154
March 2025	€5,519,920	160
April 2025	€10,291,768	206
May 2025	€8,294,005	179
June 2025	€6,163,234	165
July 2025	€7,857,094	199
August 2025	€14,879,335	220
September 2025	€14,891,940	300
October 2025	€10,560,845	221
November 2025	€15,764,707	312
December 2025	€11,049,138	219
January 2026	€9,139,710	232
February 2026	€10,541,827	243
March 2026	€11,493,200	255
<b>Total</b>	<b>€216,030,952</b>	

#### **3.2: Payments Issued by Category**

Remediation Works	€195,749,382
Ancillary Grant	€6,099,424
Competent Building Professional / Engineer Report Fees	€7,729,267
Professional Fees (Remedial Works Plan, Health & Safety)	€6,452,879
<b>Total Value of Grants Paid to Date (Previous Scheme and Enhanced Scheme)</b>	<b>€216,030,952</b>

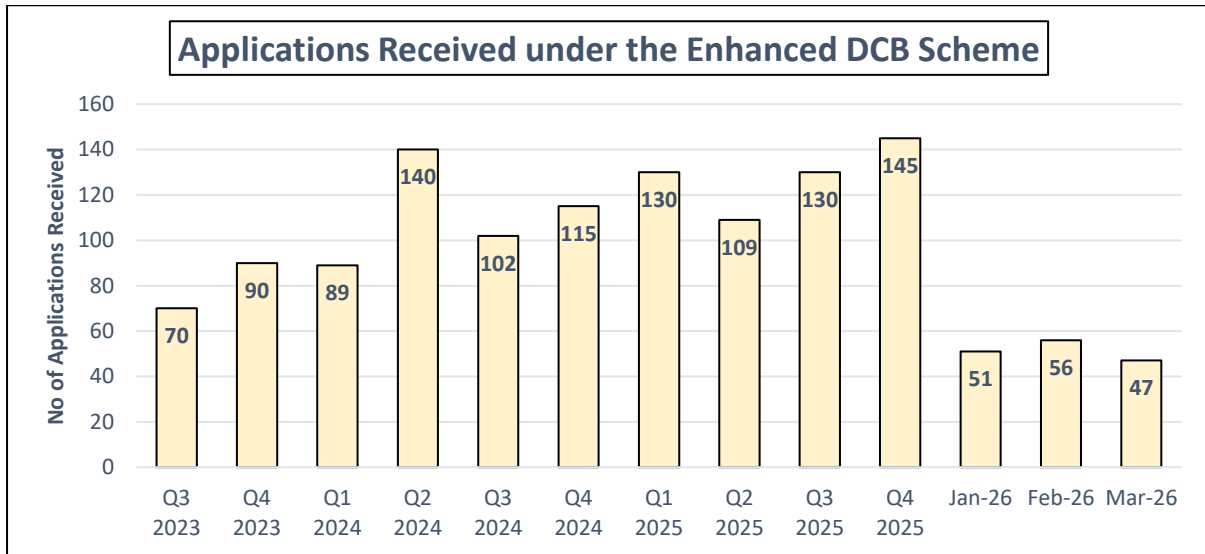


### **3.3: Payment Claims Submitted – 4 Week Rolling Period**

No. of Claims Paid	230
Average No. of days from Claim Submitted to Claim Paid (this includes time for submission of Further Information <b>where the initial Payment Claim submitted was incomplete</b> )	21.9
Average No. of Days from a <b>Valid</b> Claim Approved to Claim Paid	7.5

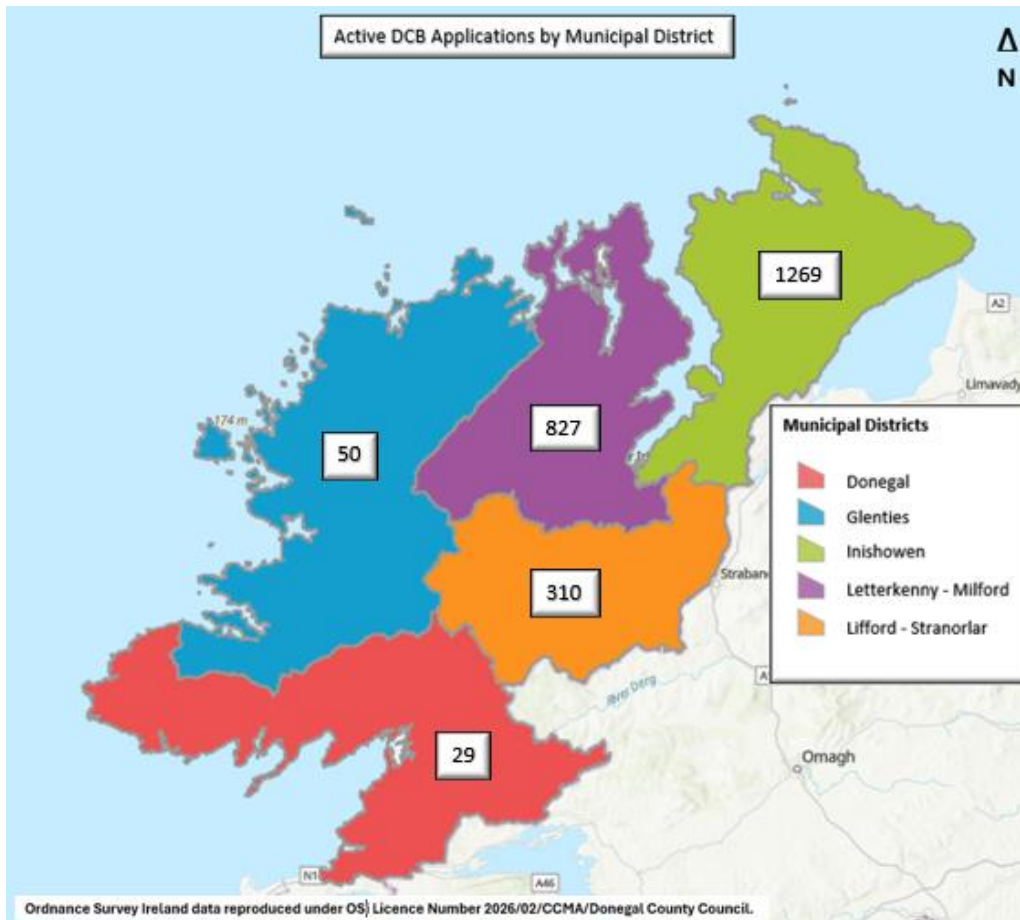
## Section 4 - Overview of Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme

### 4.1: Overview of Applications received under the Enhanced DCB Scheme



<b>Application Overview</b>	<b>No.</b>
<b>Applications Received under the Provisions of the Enhanced Scheme</b>	<b>1274</b>
Principal Private Residence (PPR)	1176
Residential Tenancy Board (RTB)	98
Applications Deemed Ineligible	19
Applications Withdrawn by Applicant	64

#### 4.2: Active DCB Applications by Municipal District



#### 4.3 Remediation Option & Grant Amount as at 31st March 2026

Total No. of Grant Amounts decided and notified to applicants (Previous Scheme & Enhanced Scheme)	1453
Total Value of Grant Amounts decided to date (Previous Scheme & Enhanced Scheme)	€510,560,301
No. of Confirmation of Grant Amounts from the Previous Scheme as calculated / recalculated under the Enhanced Scheme by <b>Donegal County Council</b> (Transitional Applications)	676
Value of Grant Amounts from the Previous Scheme as calculated / recalculated under the Enhanced Scheme by <b>Donegal County Council</b>	€234,583,943
Number of Confirmation of Grant Amounts received from the <b>Housing Agency</b> under the terms of the Enhanced Scheme	777
Value of Grant Amounts decided by the <b>Housing Agency</b>	€275,976,358

#### **4.4 Commencements & Completions**

No. of Commencements notified by Applicants to the DCB Grant Office	917
No. of Dwellings currently undertaking Remediation Works	603
No. of Dwellings Fully Remediated	314
Letter of Assurance Issued	112

#### **Assistance to Applicants**

The DCB Grant Office continues to actively engage with applicants across the full scope of the Scheme. This includes Validation of Enhanced Scheme Applications, Ancillary Grant Applications, Notification of Decisions, Validation of Payment Claims, Processing Payments, Change of Competent Building Professional and all other general queries.

The DCB Section of Donegal County Council's Website is updated regularly and contains all the information and links that an applicant may require at various stages of the application process.

The telephone clinics are available every Tuesday and Thursday (9am – 12.30pm) to assist applicant with any queries. The DCB Grant Office Team follow up on applicants' queries outside of the specific telephone clinics.

Applicants can also submit queries via email to [dcb@donegalcoco.ie](mailto:dcb@donegalcoco.ie) and a member of the team will be in contact with the applicant.

The Community Facilitators play a vital role in supporting and guiding homeowners and families who are most vulnerable and / or applicants who may not have the necessary facilities to submit an online application. There are currently four Community Facilitators available to assist applicants throughout the county.

***Report prepared on: 10th April 2026***

***DCB Grant Office***