



Circular L1/20

4th June 2020

**To each Director of Service (Water Services)
To each Rural Water Liaison Officer**

Revised grant scheme paid by housing authorities towards remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, a domestic waste water treatment system under the EPA's National Inspection Plan

I refer to this Department's letter of 19 July 2013 regarding the "*Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 and associated Regulations*".

That letter outlined how the *Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2013 (S. I. No. 222 of 2013)* brought into operation a grants scheme to assist with the cost of remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, domestic waste water treatment systems (DWWTS) which are deemed, following inspection under the EPA's National Inspection Plan and the subsequent issue of an Advisory Notice under Section 70(H) of the Water Services Act 2007, as amended, by a housing authority, to require such works.

You are advised that S.I. No. 222 of 2013 has now been revised with the publication of the **Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 184 of 2020)**. A copy of the revised Regulations, which include details of the eligibility criteria and the level of grants available, and the relevant supporting documentation, are issued with this circular letter.

The revised Regulations provide that, subject to all eligibility criteria being met, a housing authority may pay a grant to a person for the carrying out of remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of a DWWTS that is deemed, following an inspection, to require such works.

The new terms and conditions include:

1. The requirement to comply with the prescribed registration date as stated in the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Registration) Regulations 2012



(S.I.220/2012), as amended by the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Registration)(Amendment) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 180/2013);

2. The removal of the means test requirement; and,
3. The introduction of a uniform grant rate of 85% of the eligible costs of remediation, repair or upgrading works, or replacement of any such system or €5,000, whichever is the lower.

When a housing authority pays a grant under the scheme:

- The Department will reimburse 100% of the amount paid by the housing authority.
- All requests for refunds of grants paid should be submitted to the Department's Rural Water Unit, Government Offices, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F12 E8N6, rural.water@housing.gov.ie.

The documents (Form DWWTS 1 and DWWTS 1 Schedule) which are to be used by housing authorities when requesting refunds of grants from the Department's Rural Water Unit are attached. Also included with this letter is the Terms and Conditions note for the scheme, which includes the payment claim form (Form DWWTS 1a).

Transition between existing and new arrangements

In cases where an Advisory Notice has issued and where work has already started, the process should be concluded under the arrangements of the previous circular.

In cases where an Advisory Notice has issued but where work has not yet started, the Department has no objection to a claim being submitted under the new arrangements, provided that all eligibility criteria are met.

Monitoring and oversight

The Department will monitor the expenditure under the scheme on an ongoing basis, to ensure alignment with the scheme allocation.

- The housing authority will ensure that its systems are set up in a format that facilitates the extraction of information on claims at all stages e.g. new claims, approved claims, payment pending, etc.
- The housing authority will provide any information, reports, etc. relating to expenditure in a timely manner, including material for inclusion in Ministerial briefings or Parliamentary Questions.
- All payments will be subject to audit by the Department, and it is envisaged that a maximum of 10% of payments would be audited in any one calendar year. Full and accurate documentation to support all expenditure should be maintained, and accessible for audit purposes at all times, and for a period of four years from the end of the MARWP 2019-2021 cycle.

The Department may from time to time issue guidelines to housing authorities in relation to the operation of the grant scheme.



The Department will arrange a workshop for housing authorities on the revised scheme in the near future, this is likely to be a web-based event given the current restrictions due to the global crisis. The Department will undertake a review of the grant scheme after one year of operation to ensure its alignment with policy objectives.

Any queries on this circular should be sent to rural.water@housing.gov.ie.

Yours sincerely

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Application to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for refund of grants paid by housing authorities towards remediation, repair or upgrading works to, or replacement of, a domestic waste water treatment system under the EPA's National Inspection Plan

Housing authority:

1. I hereby certify that the grant payments set out in the attached schedule have been made by this housing authority to persons in respect of the DWWTSs listed in the schedule and that such payments are in compliance with the *Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020 (S. I. No. 184 of 2020)* and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's Circular L1/20 dated 4th June 2020.
2. I hereby claim recoupment of € , being the total of the grant payments made by the above named housing authority to persons in respect of the DWWTSs listed in the attached schedule.
3. I hereby certify that none of the grant payments as set out in the attached schedule have previously been claimed from the Department.

Prepared by: _____ (Signature)
_____ (Name in BLOCK)

Date: _____

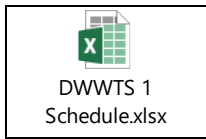
Certified by*: _____ (Signature)
_____ (Name in BLOCK)

Date: _____

* *Director of Services or equivalent*

DWWTS 1 Schedule

The schedule can be found in the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, attached below.



This completed schedule must be completed by the housing authorities and submitted with a Form DWWTS 1 to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.