



# **Explanatory Memorandum**

## **Grant for the provision or necessary improvement of an individual water supply to a house**

**Water Services Section  
Laois County Council  
Áras an Chontae  
Portlaoise  
Co. Laois**

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## **General**

- 1.1 The objective of the grant scheme is to assist households dependent on private individual water supplies who are incurring capital expenditure to -
- provide a piped supply of water for domestic purposes, or
  - remedy serious deficiencies in an existing supply of water for domestic purposes.

The scheme does not apply to houses to which a public or group scheme water supply has already been provided or can reasonably be provided.

- 1.2 **Works carried out before a prior inspection by the local authority do not qualify under the scheme.**

## **Eligibility**

- 2.1 A person is eligible for a grant if he or she is -
- (a) providing a piped supply of water to an existing house for the first time,
  - or
  - (b) carrying out improvements to a seriously deficient existing piped supply of water to a house,

where the supply of water concerned is a supply other than a public or group scheme supply. For the purposes of this memorandum, a group water scheme is a scheme providing a private supply of water by means of a common or shared source of supply and distribution system.

- 2.2 A person is not eligible for a grant if, in the opinion of the local authority, -
- (a) the house concerned is not occupied by the applicant as his or her normal place of residence (e.g. a holiday home),
  - (b) the house concerned is at present connected to a public or group scheme water supply,
  - (c) the area in which the house is located is or is about to be served by a public water supply or a group scheme water supply,
  - (d) the house concerned is under construction or has been constructed within the previous 7 years,

- (e) a grant for -
  - the provision of the house concerned, or
  - the provision or improvement of a water supply to that house, has been paid within the previous 7 years.

### **Qualifying works.**

- 3.1 Works qualify under the scheme where they are undertaken to provide or improve a supply of water for domestic purposes in a house and they consist of one or more of the following -
- drilling or commissioning a new well,
  - rehabilitating an existing well, including deepening or relining an existing bore or the removal of silt,
  - providing or upgrading a supply of water from a surface water source,
  - the construction or improvement of a pumphouse, piping or other facilities in connection with the supply of water,
  - the provision or improvement of mechanical or electrical equipment or facilities in connection with the supply of water, or
  - the provision or improvement of facilities or equipment for the treatment of water.
- 3.2 Works do not qualify where, in the opinion of the local authority -
- (a) they have an approved cost of less than €634.87
  - (b) the proposed works exceed what would be required to secure an adequate supply of water for domestic purposes,
  - (c) they relate to the installation or improvement of plumbing inside a house,
  - (d) they relate to the provision or up-grading of a supply of water for non-domestic purposes,
  - (e) they are carried out before the local authority's prior inspection takes place.

### **Prior Inspection.**

- 4.1 The local authority will carry out a prior inspection to -
- determine eligibility and whether the proposed works qualify, and
  - in the case of an application relating to the improvement of an existing supply, determine whether such supply is seriously deficient.
- 4.2 Where the applicant is not, at the time of application, able to provide full details of the proposed works (for example, in the case of a new well), the local authority will only confirm whether or not the applicant is eligible for a grant. The authority will consider whether the relevant works qualify, and determine an approved cost and amount of grant, when full details of such works are provided. The applicant may provide such details after the works have been completed provided a prior inspection has taken place.

### **Approved Cost**

- 5.1 The approved cost, the amount on the basis of which the amount of grant is calculated, is determined by the local authority. It is an estimate of the reasonable cost of qualifying works.

### **Amount of grant**

- 6.1 The amount of a grant will be -
- (a) 75% of the approved cost (or, where appropriate, the revised approved cost (paragraphs 10.2 and 10.3 refer),
- or
- (b) €2,031.58
- whichever is the lesser.

### **Certificate of Provisional Approval**

- 7.1 Where the local authority has -
- carried out a prior inspection to its satisfaction, and
  - determined that the applicant is eligible, the proposed works qualify, and all other terms and conditions of the scheme are complied with, and

- determined the approved cost and the amount of grant, it will issue a Certificate of Provisional Approval to the applicant.

### **Carrying out of works**

- 8.1 After receipt of a Certificate of Provisional Approval, the works concerned may commence. The works must be carried out by a contractor registered for VAT who holds a current Form C2 or tax clearance certificate from the Revenue Commissioners.

### **Claiming payment**

- 9.1 On completion of the works, payment of grant may be claimed by the applicant by signing the declaration incorporated in the Certificate of Provisional Approval, and returning it together with receipts in respect of qualifying works to the local authority.

### **Payment of grant**

- 10.1 Following receipt of a claim for payment, the local authority will carry out an inspection of the works to establish that -
- (a) the works proposed in the application have been satisfactorily undertaken and completed, and
  - (b) a water supply which is satisfactory in both quality and quantity has been provided.

Once this is established, the grant will be paid.

- 10.2 Where the local authority is of the opinion that the works have not been undertaken in accordance with the application, or have not been satisfactorily completed, the authority may
- (a) determine a revised approved cost,
  - (b) withhold payment of the grant until the applicant carries out such alterations to the existing works or such additional works as may be notified by the authority.
- 10.3 Where the local authority is of the opinion that the actual cost of the qualifying works is less than the approved cost, a revised approved cost will be determined.

## **Administration and commencement**

- 11.1 The scheme is being administered by each county council. All issues relating to the day-to-day operation of the scheme, including dealing with enquiries, applications and payments, are a matter for the relevant county council (referred to in this memorandum as the “local authority”).

## **Applications**

- 12.1 An application for a grant under this scheme must be made to a local authority on Form WG1 and should be accompanied by a site location map of the house concerned. Where the exact nature and extent of the proposed works are known at the time of making an application, a detailed specification and estimate of cost of the proposed works should also be provided.