



**Rialtas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland

# **Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Grant Schemes**

**Frequently asked questions  
Effective from 1 January 2024**

Prepared by the Department of  
Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
[gov.ie](http://gov.ie)

NOTE: These FAQs should be read in conjunction with the Terms and Conditions for the Domestic Waste Water Treatment systems grants, Circular L2/23 and Statutory Instruments SI. 562/23 (NIP), SI.563/23 (PAA) and SI. 564/23 (HSOCA), which can be accessed [here](#).

## **Brief Overview**

The Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS) grant under the National Inspection plan has been in existence since 2016 with two additional grants under the River Basin Management brought into in operation from June 2020.

The purpose of these grants is to assist householders with the costs of works for the remediation, repair, upgrade, or replacement of a domestic waste water treatment system (DWWTS) serving a house.

All works must be carried out in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.

Works carried out for the routine maintenance, servicing or de-sludging of a DWWTS do not qualify for a grant.

**The DWWTS grants are administered by local authorities on behalf of the Department. Any enquiries regarding application for these grants should be addressed to your relevant local authority.**

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **Eligibility Criteria**

### **Q1. What are the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Grants?**

The three grants are available to assist householders with the cost of works for the remediation, repair, upgrade or replacement of a DWWTS serving a house, where either:

1. An Advisory Notice has been received by the householder, following a failed local authority inspection carried out under the National Inspection Plan;
2. The house is situated in a Prioritised Area for Action, as detailed under the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021; or
3. The house is situated in a High Status Objective Catchment Area, as under the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021.

### **Q2. Who is eligible to apply?**

Once an applicant fulfils the criteria for one of the three grant schemes, as listed in Question 1 above, and meets all the eligibility requirements, as outlined in the terms and conditions of the relevant scheme, they are eligible to apply.

### **Q3. What scope of works are eligible for the grant?**

The grant will provide assistance towards the cost of remediation, repair, upgrade or replacement of an existing DWWTS:

- in accordance with an Advisory Notice issued under the National Inspection Plan, or
- a proposal of works prepared by competent person for the two grants under the River Basin Management Plan in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice 2021.
- Works excluded are those carried out for the routine maintenance, servicing or de-sludging of a DWWTS, which do not qualify for a grant.

**Q4. What are the DWWTS Grant Eligibility Requirements?**

The house served by the DWWTS must, in the opinion of the local authority:

- a. be occupied by the applicant as their primary place of residence (e.g. not a holiday home or rental),
- b. not be connected to a public sewerage scheme,
- c. not be currently under construction or constructed within the last 7 years, and
- d. not have been paid a grant for the DWWTS within the last 7 years

**Q5. What is the level of the grants available?**

The level of grant available is 85% of the approved cost of the works, subject to a maximum of €12,000.

The minimum expenditure on eligible works required to process applications under the PAA and HSOCA grants is €750. There is no minimum expenditure requirement for the NIP grant.

**Q6. What is the approved cost of works?**

Approved cost means the lesser of either:

- The actual cost of the works for the remediation, repair, upgrade, or replacement of a DWWTS (including site assessment if required), or
- The works assessed by the LA to be the reasonable costs of carrying out the works.

**Q7. Does my DWWTS need to be registered with Protect Our Water?**

The obligations of a homeowner in relation to the registration of DWWTS remain unchanged, which are provided for under Part 4A of the Water Services Act 2007, as amended.

In order to be eligible for one of the three DWWTS grants, the previous requirement, contained in the terms and conditions, for an owner to have registered their DWWTS with their local authority prior to 1 February 2013 has been removed.

**Eligible Properties**

**Q8. What properties are eligible for the grant?**

The property served by the DWWTS must be occupied by the applicant as their primary place of residence. This may include private, long-term rental properties.

**Q9. I live in rented accommodation, am I entitled to apply for this grant?**

Once the criteria for the grant is met, you may be eligible to apply if you reside in a private, long-term rental property. If the applicant does reside in a private, long-term rental property, then the permission of the owner must be obtained.

**Q10. What properties are ineligible for the grant?**

Properties operated as holiday lettings and those operated on a commercial basis are excluded (e.g. short-term holiday lettings, self-catering properties, caravans/mobile homes, caravan/mobile home sites etc.).

Properties owned by local authorities, housing associations, Health Services Executive etc. are also excluded.

**Q11. If the applicant intends to occupy a vacant or derelict property as their primary place of residence after the refurbishment works are completed, are they eligible to apply for the grant?**

In this case, the local authority will process the application for a grant claim and carry out the necessary inspections.

If all other eligibility criteria are fulfilled, the grant may be paid to the applicant when the local authority is satisfied that the property is occupied by the applicant as their primary place of residence.

**Q12. Can I get financial assistance to connect to the public Uisce Éireann network?**

The local authority will determine the reasonable cost of connection to the public network against the cost of remediation, repair, upgrade or replacement of a DWWTS, and establish if a grant can be given for connection to the public network.

**Application Process**

**Q13. What is the application process?**

The local authority will assist potential applicants in the process required and provide the relevant forms to apply for a grant.

The Terms and Conditions of the grants contains details of the eligibility criteria and application process, which include the following initial key steps for each grant:

- Application to be made on Claim Payment Form DWWTS NIP (a) when the works have been completed in accordance with the Advisory Notice received under the National Inspection Plan.
- If LAWPRO catchment scientists identify that there is a water quality issue in a nearby river and believe defective DWWTS may cause or add to the

problem, a letter may be provided to potential applicants in order to apply for a PAA grant.

- A potential applicant with a defective DWWTS can check whether the property is situated in a High Status Objective Catchment Area. The relevant local authority will confirm their eligibility to apply for a HSOCA grant.

**Q14. Can I apply if I have completed the relevant works prior to 1 January 2024?**

Where a grant application has been received by the local authority and a grant has been processed but not paid to the householder prior to 1 January 2024, the grant process can be completed under the terms and conditions of the revised schemes, which are effective from 1 January 2024.

**Q15. Are the revised grant amounts payable retrospectively to applicants who received grants paid under the previous schemes?**

No. Only applicants who have not received a grant for the relevant DWWTS in the previous seven years will be eligible to apply for a grant.

**Q16.**

**On the application form there is space for the details of two contractors. What details should be input for the second contractor details?**

The applicant enters the details of their preferred contractor only. It is possible that, depending on the specifics of the work being undertaken, more than one contractor is required to complete the works. The second box provides for this situation. Details of quotations should be attached to the application.

**Q17. Is cost the sole criterion used for the selection of a contractor?**

The applicant can select their preferred contractor (it may not necessarily be the lowest quote) provided that all other criteria have been met e.g. up to date tax clearance status. The maximum grant levels will apply in all cases.

**Q18. What happens in cases where a house does not have an Eircode?**

The provision of an Eircode is required in order to process an application under the grant schemes. It enables the local authority to check on previous grant status and assist the local authority in confirming grant eligibility. It is also required to locate the property.

Eircodes can be checked by inserting the address into the Eircode Finder <https://finder.eircode.ie/#/>. In the unlikely event that a house was not allocated an Eircode, this is a matter for the occupier of the property to resolve <https://www.eircode.ie/contact>

**Q19. At what stage of the application process is the tax clearance status verified?**

The tax clearance status must be verified by the local authority during the application approval process, and should be checked again when the grant payment claim is being processed.

**Q20. Does the contractor(s) engaged to carry out the works need to be registered for VAT?**

Yes. All approved works must be carried out by a contractor(s) who is registered for VAT, and meets all tax clearance certification requirements.



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