



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# **Terms and Conditions**

## **Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme**

### **from 1 December 2022**

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

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## **Grants payable under the Housing (Domestic Lead Remediation Grant) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 519 of 2022)**

- Please read the following information notes before completing the application form.
- All questions on the form must be answered and, where specified, supporting documents must be provided. Incomplete forms or those which are not accompanied by the appropriate documents will not be processed by the local authority.
- Before work commences, you must ensure that you have fulfilled all the Terms and Conditions of the Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme, as outlined in this document. Incomplete applications will not be considered and payment may be refused by the local authority.
- If you are an Irish Water Customer, please ensure you have contacted Irish Water in relation to their “Customer Opt-in Lead Pipe Replacement Scheme”, (Further information can be found here: <https://www.water.ie/projects/strategic-plans/lead-mitigation-plan/>).
- The grant scheme is administered by local authorities. All matters relating to the day-to-day operation of the grant scheme, including applications and payments, are a matter for the local authority responsible for your area.
- Any enquiries about the Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme should be addressed to the relevant local authority.

## 1. Purpose of Grant

In order to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, and in line with the Government national strategy to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water, the Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme was introduced. The scheme was introduced to assist households with the costs of replacing lead piping or related fittings located within the internal distribution system connected to a domestic water supply that serves a house.

Section 2 of the Water Services Act 2007, as amended, provides that “internal distribution system” means that part of a distribution system, within the curtilage of a premises, which is used for the provision of water for human consumption or food or drinks production.

The scope of the grant and relevant definitions are as detailed in the Housing (Domestic Lead Remediation Grant) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 519 of 2022), which shall come into operation on **1<sup>st</sup> December 2022**.

## 2. Eligibility

An individual may be eligible to apply for a grant to their local authority, if they meet the criteria set out in these Terms and Conditions.

In order to qualify for the grant, the house concerned must be occupied by the applicant as their normal place of residence. If you are a long-term tenant of the property you must have the permission of the owner to carry out the works.

For the purposes of this grant scheme the property must be a domestic residence and private holiday homes and properties 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 not eligible.

In advance of applying for a grant, an individual must ensure that they have evidence of a requirement to replace lead pipes and related fittings to include with the application to their relevant local authority. This evidence must be in the form of a:

- a) notification from a water supplier advising that there is likely to be lead pipes and related fittings within the internal distribution system of the house concerned,

**OR**

- b) certificate issued within the six months immediately prior to the date of application by a laboratory accredited by the Irish National Accreditation Board, confirming a parametric value for lead in the drinking water supply to the house concerned, which exceeds the statutory limit, currently 10µg/l (10 micrograms per litre),

**OR**

- c) notification from a registered building professional advising that there are lead pipes and related fittings located within the internal distribution system of the house concerned.

### **3. Level of Grant**

The level of the grant shall be based on the approved costs in relation to the replacement of lead pipes and related fittings. The means test is no longer required. The approved cost shall not exceed the following limits:

- The level of grant aid available is determined on the basis of 100% of the approved cost of the works, subject to a maximum of €5,000.
- The minimum expenditure, on eligible works, required to process the application is €750.

### **4. Approved Cost**

For the purposes of this scheme, in relation to the replacement of lead pipes or related fittings, the approved cost means the cost estimated by the local authority to be the reasonable cost of carrying out the replacement works or the actual cost of carrying out the works, whichever is the lesser.

The cost associated with the actual provision of either a certificate outlined at 2(b) or a notification at 2(c), under “Eligibility” above, are eligible costs for the purposes of the grant, to a maximum amount of €200. This cost is to be included in the calculation of the maximum eligible cost total of €5,000. Note any indirect costs incurred by the applicant themselves are not eligible costs.

### **5. Receipts and Certification**

Each claim for a grant **must** be accompanied by an original receipt for the total amount paid from each contractor engaged for the purpose of the remediation works. The receipt provided must include an itemised list of the works carried out and the associated costs for each item.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to satisfy themselves that any contractor engaged is competent to carry out the works required and that suitable materials are used. Each claim must also include certification from the contractor engaged to carry out the works that any materials used, including pipes and fittings, are of appropriate quality and that a proper standard of workmanship has been applied in the course of the works.

## **6. Tax Clearance Requirements**

In order for eligible receipts to be reimbursed to the applicant by the local authority, the tax clearance status of the contractor must be up to date. In the case of each contractor engaged to carry out a site assessment (if required), repairs, upgrading or replacement, the applicant should furnish, to the housing authority with their application form, an up to date Revenue On-Line Service (ROS) printout of an eTax Clearance certificate provided by the contractor or both the Tax Clearance Access Number (TCAN) and Tax Reference Number issued to the contractor by the Revenue Commissioners.

Where the tax clearance status of the contractor cannot be established, which confirms that the tax affairs of the contractor are fully up to date at the time the grant application is being assessed, then the local authority should refuse the application for grant assistance.

## **7. Processing of Claims for Grant**

The scheme will continue to be administered by the local authorities on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The following procedure shall apply to the processing of all grants under the Housing (Domestic Lead Remediation Grant) Regulations 2022.

- Claims for payment should be submitted to the local authority in whose functional area the house, the subject of the application, is located.
- Claims must be submitted on the DLRG 1a form available from the appropriate local authority.
- If assistance with completing the form is required, please contact the relevant local authority.
- The relevant local authority will subsequently advise the applicant in writing (or via email) if the application is deemed eligible (subject to terms and conditions) or ineligible.
- Once all required documentation, as detailed in these Terms and Conditions, have been received and verified, the local authority will endeavour to process the claim as quickly as possible.
- The local authority reserves the right to make any enquiries it considers necessary, to verify information or supporting documents provided as part of a claim for grant aid, and may exclude from consideration for grant aid any applicant who supplies false or misleading information or documents.

## 8. Appeals Process

In processing applications under this grant scheme, it is recognised that some applicants may be dissatisfied with the decision of the local authority. Every applicant will have a right to an appeals process.

The following procedure shall apply to each appeal:

- a) Applicants are invited to submit a **written appeal** (this may be via email) on any decision notified to them by the local authority on their application, **within three weeks** of the date of the decision.
- b) The appeal must state the reasons for the appeal and the grounds for same.
- c) Appeals will be considered and adjudicated on by a local authority official who was not involved with the original decision, as designated by the Director of Services of the relevant Section. This process will be completed **within four weeks** of receipt.
- d) The outcome of the appeal will be notified in writing to the appellant within two weeks of the decision being made.

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