

BHIS 2025 – Changes to the scheme

	Previous Scheme	Revised Scheme	DIFFERENCES
Announcement of Scheme	Oct/Nov	July	<i>Advertised earlier in year to facilitate earlier announcement of funding. Advertisement period no longer includes Christmas period for applicants.</i>
Deadline for applications to reach LA	End of Jan	27 Sept	<i>New universal date reduces confusion for both applicants and contractors between different Local Authorities.</i>
Deadline of Schedule of Projects to Dept.	Mid Feb	6 Dec	<i>Time for LAs to assess projects rises from 3 weeks in 2024 scheme to 10 weeks for 2025 scheme.</i>
Announcements of Successful Projects	Mid-March	Early Jan	<i>Made at start of January to maximise the time applicants have to complete works within the calendar year.</i>
Progress Reports	End of June and Mid-Sept	End of May and Mid-Sept	<i>First progress report moved to reflect changes to timeline; Second report retained to assist LAs in recoupment process.</i>
Recoupment	Nov	Nov	<i>No change as this is limited by Public Sector financial procedures.</i>

Aside from revised dates, the other main change is the incorporation of the HSF Stream 1 projects into the BHIS, with resulting increases to the upper limit of funding per project to €50,000, the upper limit on percentage of State support to 80%.

A summary of the key changes is as follows:

- Grants under the 2025 BHIS may now be awarded at a level of up to €50,000.
- Matched funding requirements for 2025 BHIS have been increased to a maximum of 80% grant support per project.
- Historic Shopfronts, in the manner previously funded under HSF Stream 1, have been included as qualifying works under the revised BHIS, with a max. grant of €50,000.
- Vernacular Buildings, in the manner previously funded under HSF Stream 1, have been included as qualifying works under the revised BHIS, with a max. grant of €30,000.
- Announcement of opening of scheme in July 2025. Advertising the scheme much earlier than usual will allow confirmation of funding to be made at the start of January rather than the previous end of March, thereby giving applicants additional time to arrange and complete the works prior to the recoupment of the funds at the end of the year.
- Closing date for applications to reach all Local Authorities by Friday 27th September 2024.
- In conjunction with the changes to the advertisement date for the scheme, the period of assessment for LAs has increased from the 3 weeks allowed under the 2024 scheme, to 10 weeks for the 2025 scheme. It is hoped that this extended period will give more scope to engage with applicants where required.

- The deadline date for applications to reach Local Authorities has been standardised as a national deadline date in order to remove confusion for applicants.
- Initial indication of total funding allocation will be communicated to each Local Authority within 1 week of Budget Day (c. mid-October), with confirmation of allocation upon publication of Revised Estimates in December, prior to the awarding of grants.
- Deadline for submission of Schedule of Projects to Department by 6th December 2024.
- Announcement of Approval of Projects for 2025 will be made by the Minister the week beginning 6th or 13th January 2025.
- Progress Reports on projects due by 30th May 2025 & 12th September 2025 (previously June & September, moving first report one month earlier as funding being awarded two months earlier).
- Progress reports for all projects, regardless of level of funding, for the revised BHIS, will be reported to the Department through the existing Form B spreadsheet, rather than requiring individual reports to be submitted for each projects above €15,000 as is currently the case.
- Recoupment documentation to reach Department by 7th November 2025.
- Separate correspondence will issue concerning grant support for thatched buildings later this summer.

The HSF will be advertised later this year, on the traditional timeframe. However, this will be altered so it just reflects projects that would previously have been eligible for Stream 2 funding (i.e. between €50,000 and €200,000).