



An Roinn Iompair  
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Department of Transport,  
Tourism and Sport

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26<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Circular RW 1/2016

### **2016 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations**

Dear Director of Service

1. I am directed by the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport to enclose details of the 2016 grant allocations to your authority in respect of the maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads. The total grant allocation in 2016 under this Circular is €298.1 million. The amounts available nationally under the various grant headings are set out in Appendix 1 and individual local authority allocations and scheme details are set out in Appendix 3.
2. The conditions applying to the payment of allocations under the various grant categories are set out in the **Memorandum on Grants for Regional and Local Roads subject to any revisions that may be notified to local authorities.**
3. **Local authorities must ensure that all works undertaken on foot of State grants are completed in accordance with the applicable conditions by the various intermediate and completion dates set out in Appendix 2.**

In addition, local authorities should vigorously pursue outstanding invoices from contractors during the year to ensure the timely claiming of grants in 2016. Local authorities should claim eligible payments as soon as possible and shouldn't wait until the end of the year to do so.

Progress on all grant-aided works will be reviewed regularly and grants will be re-allocated where a shortfall in expenditure is expected. Such adjustments may entail the distribution of the sum involved to another local authority.

#### 4. **MapRoad**

Full records of all projects **must** be maintained on **MapRoad (GIS)**. All projects for RI, RM and DG will continue to be submitted and managed through MapRoad.

Section 10 (5) of the Roads Act 1993 requires that each Road Authority maintain a schedule and map of all public roads for which it has responsibility. Each Local Authority is required to keep this schedule up to date on MapRoad and in accordance with Circular RW12/2013. The payment of grants is linked to this requirement.

#### 5. **Restoration Improvement Programme**

The Restoration Improvement (RI) Programme continues to be the main focus of the regional and local roads programme. An overall amount of €148 million will be provided under the 2016 Restoration Improvement Grant. The block grant allocation for Galway City and Cork City is being discontinued and the RI programme now includes an allocation under this grant category for these two cities.

Circular RW 20/2015 requested Councils to submit a multi-year RI programme for 2016, 2017 and 2018 based on a budget estimate of 100% of your Council's initial 2015 RI grant allocation. The Circular specified that the programme should be submitted on MapRoad PMS by 26<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in two parts – a separate programme for 2016 and a combined programme for 2017 & 2018. Expenditure in 2016 is to be based on this multi-year programme. In 2016, flexibility will continue to be given in respect of re-prioritising RI schemes.

#### 6. **Flexibility**

County Councils will continue to be given the flexibility in 2016 to transfer up to 25% of their Restoration Improvement Grant to their Discretionary Grant on request to [roadsdivision@dttas.ie](mailto:roadsdivision@dttas.ie).

#### 7. **Discretionary Grant**

**Discretionary grants** totalling **€63.8 million** will be available to meet the cost of maintenance and improvement works selected by local authorities pursuant to

relevant Departmental Circulars. Cork City and Galway City will receive a grant allocation under this category in 2016 as part of a streamlining of grant programmes.

The cost of salt used by local authorities in the period October 2014-March 2015 has been deducted from each authority's Discretionary Grant.

Local authorities can use Discretionary grant monies towards staff or plant costs associated with salting or for the purchase of salt, either through the central salt procurement system or through the Council's own procurement system. In line with established practice, a contingency provision should be reserved from the overall resources available to each authority for regional and local roads so as to deal with damage caused by severe weather conditions, including flooding.

**8. Local Improvements Scheme (LIS)**

The Local Improvement Scheme remains in place for 2016 however there is no separate allocation available towards this grant category. Instead local authorities may use up to 15% of their initial Discretionary Grant (as allocated under this Circular) towards local improvement schemes should they wish to do so. The local contribution for these schemes remains at 20% of the total cost of the project. The same eligibility rules apply for these schemes.

**9. Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)**

The Community Involvement Scheme remains in place for 2016 on the same basis as 2015 i.e. local authorities may set aside 7.5% of their RI and RM grants for CIS schemes if they so wish. The provisions relating to the scheme remain as set out in Circular 3/2015.

While it is not necessary for Local Authorities to seek approval to assign funding to CIS, where it is proposed to do so the Department should be notified of the amounts involved.

**10. Safety Improvement Scheme**

The Safety Improvement Scheme remains in place for 2016 and allocations are based on the approved schemes set out in Appendix 3. While it is not necessary for Local Authorities to seek approval to transfer funding among the approved schemes, the Department should be notified of such transfers. Where local authorities wish to introduce a new scheme, for example if implementation of an approved scheme is delayed, then approval should be sought from the Department.

The Department will seek outputs in January 2017 in respect of 2016.

**11. Bridge Rehabilitation**

Grant allocations will continue to be provided in 2016 to fund bridge rehabilitation works. While it is not necessary for Local Authorities to seek approval to transfer funding among the approved schemes listed in Appendix 3, the Department should be notified of such transfers. Where local authorities wish to introduce a new scheme, for example if implementation of an approved scheme is delayed, then approval should be sought from the Department.

The Department will seek outputs in January 2017 in respect of 2016.

**12. Road Safety in Housing Areas**

Local authorities were requested to submit details of proposed expenditure on signage/engineering measures in line with the actions proposed in Circular RSD 01/2014 of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Grant allocations are being made in respect of implementing the 30km/h speed limit signage programme in housing areas. These allocations will be made under the speed limit grant category.

In addition it is proposed to initiate pilot schemes in three local authorities on engineering measures to promote road safety in housing areas with a view to assessing the costs and effectiveness of such measures.

**13. Own Resources Expenditure**

The commitment of local authorities to contribute significantly from their own resources towards the cost of improving and maintaining the regional and local roads network is essential. In particular it is vital that local authorities at least maintain and increase, where possible, monies available for the maintenance and strengthening of road pavements. It may be necessary for local authorities to postpone major widening and realignment schemes to achieve this objective but the first priority must be the satisfactory protection of the existing road network.

It is vital that full consideration is given to utilising the Local Property Tax to boost own resources expenditure on regional and local road maintenance and renewal.

**14. Contingency Provision – Storm Damage**

In view of the severity of recent storms and the initial estimates of the costs of the damage to regional and local roads in the affected areas, a contingency provision is being set aside at this point to help address the impact. It will not be possible to assess the full extent of the damage until after the flood waters subside.

**15. Invasive Alien Plant Species**

In 2016, the Department will be participating in a joint initiative with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to map and treat Japanese Knotweed. The focus for this year will be on the national road network including intersections with the regional road network. A rolling annual programme is proposed and further information will be issued by TII once the format of the programme is finalised.

An interagency flier addressing hedge cutting is available on TII's Road defects Map Portal - <https://web.nra.ie/maps/> and this flier should accompany all future notifications regarding hedge cutting. A copy is attached for your convenience

**16. Claims for payment of Grants**

Local authorities should note that claims should continue to be made through Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII) project reporting system (PRS). These claims will be processed by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Local

authorities should continue to attach general ledger expenditure reports making up the claim on the PRS.

**17. Audit Requirements**

The accuracy of all figures submitted by local authorities e.g. grant claims, output data, details of own resources expenditure etc., is of the utmost importance. These figures are used in providing progress reports for Ministers and others. As part of our on-going review of the regional and local roads grant system, it may be necessary from time to time to introduce new requirements to further enhance the control systems in operation between local authorities and this Department. You are reminded that this Department can at any time carry out a full spot check on regional and local roads expenditure. It should also be noted that EU auditors can at any time carry out a comprehensive audit on previously funding EU projects under regional and local roads expenditure (2000 – 2006 structural funds).

**18. Weather Warning Arrangements**

As part of the 2015 allocations Local authorities are again reminded of the need to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place with Met Eireann to receive weather warnings. **In addition, in times of above average rainfall, local authorities should ensure that gullies and drains in high risk areas are kept clear, to reduce the risk of flooding.**

Yours sincerely,



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Mary McCullagh  
Assistant Principal Officer  
Roads Division

*To: Each Chief Executive & each Director of Service for Roads*

## APPENDIX 1

### Grants available in 2016 under main grant headings

Grants being allocated to local authorities under this Circular comprise the following:

| <b>Category</b>                                       | <b>2016</b> |
|---|-------------|
|   |             |
|   | <b>€ m</b>  |
| Restoration Improvement (RI)                          | 148.0       |
| Restoration Maintenance (RM)                          | 41.0        |
| Discretionary Grant (DG)                              | 63.8        |
| Bridge Rehabilitation                                 | 7.8         |
| Specific Grants                                       | 5.8         |
| Grants for Strategic Projects                         | 4.3         |
| Training  | 1.7         |
| Safety Improvement Scheme                             | 5.85        |
| Speed Limit Signage in Housing Areas                  | 1.7         |
| Miscellaneous (incl. MapRoad, Salt, Contingency etc.) | 18.1        |

## Appendix 2

### Intermediate and Final Completion Dates for Regional and Local Road Works

#### County Councils

| <i>Operation</i>  | <i>Intermediate Completion Dates</i>   | <i>Final Completion Date</i> |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| Surface Dressing (SD)   | 1/3 by end June 2016<br>2/3 by end July 2016<br>3/3 by end August 2016       | 31 August 2016               |
| Road Reconstruction (RR) and Surface Restoration (SR)   | 1/3 by end May 2016<br>2/3 by end July 2016<br>3/3 by end September 2016     | 30 September 2016            |
| All works other than SD, RR and SR (except schemes which of their nature must continue into 2010) | 1/3 by end June 2016<br>2/3 by end August 2016<br>3/3 by end of October 2016 | 31 October 2016              |

**Notes:**

1. Road Reconstruction involves the regulation or reconstruction of the existing road pavement and overlaying with bound or unbound materials with or without surface dressing and the provision of drainage, where necessary.
2. Where work is completed by the various dates, the cost incurred should be reflected in the following months expenditure return.

#### Work within Urban Authority areas

| <i>Operation</i> | <i>Completion Date</i> |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Pavement works   | 30 September 2016      |
| All other works  | 31 October 2016        |



## Appendix 3

### Grant Allocations

| <b>Monaghan County Council</b>  |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Restoration Improvement</b>  | €3,879,025        |
| <b>Restoration Maintenance</b>  | €1,091,862        |
| <b>Discretionary Grant</b>      | €1,692,045        |
| <b>Bridge Rehabilitation</b>    | €236,000          |
| <b>Safety Improvement Works</b> | €175,000          |
| <b>Speed Limits</b>             | €49,500           |
| <b>Training Grant</b>           | €40,000           |
| <b>Total Allocation</b>         | <b>€7,163,432</b> |

| <b>2016 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads</b> |             |               |                 |
|---|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Local Authority   | Road Number | Location      | LA Allocation   |
| Monaghan County Council   | R162        | Lacken Bridge | €200,000        |
| Monaghan County Council   | R181        | B59           | €36,000         |
| <b>Monaghan County Council Total</b>                                |             |               | <b>€236,000</b> |

| <b>2016 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads</b> |                    |                                     |                 |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Local Authority  | Road Number        | Location                            | LA Allocation   |
| Monaghan County Council  | R181/R183 junction | Main Street in Castleblayney        | €80,000         |
| Monaghan County Council  | R937               | Near Cathedral on Dublin Road       | €20,000         |
| Monaghan County Council  | R189               | Stranoodan Crossroads               | €15,000         |
| Monaghan County Council  | R162               | Glen Road                           | €10,000         |
| Monaghan County Council  | R188               | Rockcorry Village                   | €20,000         |
| Monaghan County Council  | R 179              | Cullaville Road -Pedestian Crossing | €15,000         |
| Monaghan County Council  | R179               | Cullaville Road                     | €15,000         |
| <b>Monaghan County Council Total</b>                             |                    |                                     | <b>€175,000</b> |