



21 January 2020

Circular RW 1/2020

2020 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 2020 grant allocations to your authority in respect of the maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads. The total grant allocation in 2020 under this Circular is €525.2 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 issued on 29th November 2018 (RW14/2018) subject to any revisions that may be notified to local authorities.
3. In the context of the substantial Exchequer grant support being provided to local authorities, the Minister again wishes to emphasise to Councils the importance of road maintenance and improvement works which promote the safety of all road users, including cyclists and pedestrians. Measures, including appropriate road pavement edge treatment, maintenance of verges, embankments and cuttings, roadside drains together with repairs of road pavement, footways, cycle tracks and cycleways, can all contribute to road safety and are eligible for grant assistance.
4. 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.
5. Output returns for individual grant programmes will be required after the final grant payments for the year are made.
6. In addition, local authorities should vigorously pursue outstanding invoices from contractors during the year to ensure the timely claiming of grants in 2020. Local authorities should claim eligible payments as soon as possible and should not wait until the end of the year to do so.



7. The Department's Engineering Inspectors will be discussing with local authorities what measures might be taken to ensure that work programmes are advanced as early in the year as possible.
8. 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.

MapRoad

9. Full records of all pavement projects **must** be maintained on **MapRoad (GIS)**. All projects for RI and RM will continue to be submitted and managed through MapRoad.
10. 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.

Restoration Improvement Programme

11. The Restoration Improvement (RI) Programme continues to be the main focus of the regional and local roads programme. An overall amount of €245 million will be provided under the 2020 Restoration Improvement Grant.
12. Circular RW 8/2018 requested Councils to submit a multi-year RI programme for 2019, 2020 and 2021 based on a budget estimate of 100% of your Council's initial 2018 RI grant allocation. The Circular specified that the programme should be submitted on MapRoad PMS. Based on the allocation under this Circular, Councils should now submit an updated RI programme for 2020 by 28th February 2020 on MapRoad PMS.
13. As indicated previously MapRoad has been amended so that when a local authority presses the submit button in respect of its RI programme an email with an excel attachment of the RI programme will be submitted to RLR@dtas.gov.ie . This will be deemed to be the Council's RI programme. Should the Council wish to change its RI programme during the year it should advise the relevant Department Inspector by email and copy the email to RLR@dtas.gov.ie . A list of inspectors as currently assigned to different councils is given in Appendix 4. When all works are completed by the end of November 2020 a further copy of the completed programme should be sent to the Department by completing the "after" section of Form B in MapRoad and pressing the submit button thereby generating a further email and excel attachment.
14. As notified in last year's Circular the flexibility to transfer from the Restoration Improvement Grant to the Discretionary Grant is no longer available.



Restoration Maintenance Programme

15. The Restoration Maintenance (RM) Programme continues to be an important programme aimed at protecting road surfaces.
16. Given continuing constraints in relation to current funding for the RM programme, the provision of a Supplementary Restoration Maintenance (SRM) Grant using capital funding is being continued in 2020. An overall amount of €68 million will be provided under the RM and SRM programmes in 2020.
17. Both the RM and SRM Grants **may only be used for Surface Dressing works**. If sealing works other than surface dressing are required then they should be included under the RI or Discretionary Grant programmes. This means that works such as slurry sealing, clause 942 material, wearing course macadam and HRA which are often used in urban areas may now be only carried out under the RI or Discretionary Grant programmes.
18. Councils should record both their 2020 RM and SRM works under the Restoration Maintenance programme on MapRoad PMS by 28th February 2020. The protocol set out in paragraph 13 above regarding the submission of the RI programme also applies to the RM programme.
19. **Councils should plan their programmes to ensure that all their RM grant funding is drawn down first before claiming against the SRM grant.**

Discretionary Grant

20. Discretionary Grants (DG) amounting to €84.6 million will be available to meet the cost of road maintenance and improvement works selected by local authorities pursuant to relevant Departmental Circulars.
21. The cost of salt used by local authorities in the winter period of 2018/2019 has been deducted from each authority's Discretionary Grant. Local authorities can use Discretionary grant monies towards staff or plant costs associated with salting operations or for the purchase of salt.
22. Councils are required to submit details of their proposed 2020 DG Programme on the excel sheet attached in Appendix 5. This return should be submitted to the Department at RLR@dttas.gov.ie by 28th February 2020.

Local Improvements Scheme (LIS)

23. In recent years there has been no ring-fenced allocation available from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for LIS. Instead local authorities were permitted to use a proportion of their initial Discretionary Grant towards local improvement schemes should they wish to do so.



24. The Department for Rural and Community Development (DRCD) introduced ring-fenced funding for LIS in 2017 and proposes to continue to operate this scheme in 2020. **The option of allocating funding to LIS from the Discretionary Grant will not, therefore, apply in 2020.**

Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)

25. Ring-fenced funding for the Community Involvement Scheme was introduced in 2018. Following the application process it was decided to provide funding over the two years, 2018 and 2019, so as to allow a greater number of projects to go ahead and to give local authorities more flexibility in delivering this programme.
26. Following the application process held in 2019 the same approach is being taken for the next tranche of CIS funding. It is intended that €15.6 million will be allocated to the programme in each of the years 2020 and 2021. The allocation for your local authority for 2020 is set out in Appendix 3. Local authorities can expect the same allocation in 2021. Where the overall amount sought by a local authority exceeds the 2020/2021 allocation, the local authority will have to prioritise the projects to be funded.
27. Only Department grants allocated for the CIS can be used to fund projects under the scheme – no grants allocated under other Departmental grant programmes can be used.

Drainage Grant

28. Grant funding of €20 million is being provided in 2020 for drainage measures. The allocation for your local authority is set out in Appendix 3. The funding may be used for the alleviation of road drainage problems either through new works or remedial works.
29. The works which will be undertaken should be set out in the form – Drainage 2020- attached in Appendix 6 and the completed form should be returned to the Department at RLR@dtas.gov.ie by the 28th February 2020. Any queries should be directed to Roads division at this email address.
30. Councils should refer to the Guidelines for Road Drainage which outlines best practice in relation to road drainage.

Bridge Rehabilitation

31. Grant allocations will continue to be provided in 2020 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.



Safety Improvement Scheme

32. The Safety Improvement Scheme remains in place for 2020 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.

Former National Road Rehabilitation Grant

33. In light of the 2018 regional road pavement condition survey findings, the Department introduced a grant last year to assist local authorities with the rehabilitation of sections of former national roads with a poor condition rating and this grant is being continued this year. Local authorities are required to prioritise sections of road for funding under this grant based on the findings of the pavement condition survey and obtain the approval of their Engineering Inspector for the roads selected before proceeding with works.

Road Safety in Housing Areas

34. Local authorities were requested to submit details of proposed expenditure in 2020 on signage related to implementing the 30km/h speed limit signage programme in housing areas. Where applicable, grant allocations under the 30 km/h speed limit grant programme are set out in Appendix 3.

PSCI Surveys

35. A grant is being made available this year to assist local authorities in meeting the network survey requirements set out in Circular RW3/2018 and the Pavement Survey Standard.
36. The mechanism for the drawdown of the grant will be agreed with the RMO and notified to local authorities.

Cycle “Safe Passing” Signs

37. Following the inclusion in the updated Traffic Signs Manual of a new cycle warning sign which advises motorists of the need to leave adequate space when overtaking cyclists, Circular RST 04/2019 issued to all local authorities on the 19th December 2019. This Circular included an Advice Note to assist local authorities in determining where the provision of such signs would be most effective and asked local authorities to submit a return outlining anticipated deployment of the new sign. Once all the returns from local authorities are received and reviewed, the Department will be in contact regarding allocations for individual local authorities.

Own Resources

38. The commitment 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.

39. 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.

Contingency Provision

40. Local authorities are advised that the Department is not setting aside contingency monies to address possible severe weather events and that 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.

Claims for payment of Grants

41. 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.
42. As part of the claim approval process each local authority has to nominate an official to verify that a claim is in accordance with the requirements for chargeability of expenditure and that all amounts have been checked in full and are in order for payment. The Department would like to emphasise that it considers that this verification is a key part of the financial control system and expects this role to be executed with due diligence and care.
43. **The Department also wants to emphasise that local authorities are required to submit claims on PRS before 12.30pm on the relevant Friday identified in the pay run schedule and if the claim is not submitted by that time, the Department will not be in a position to process the claim until the following month. Grant allocations only apply for the year in which they are allocated and cannot be carried forward. Any element of a grant allocation which is not claimed and approved for payment under the final pay run of the year is, therefore, lost.**

Audit Requirements

44. 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.



45. You are reminded that this Department can at any time carry out a full spot check on regional and local roads expenditure.

Weather Warnings

46. As part of the 2020 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,

Mary McCullagh
Assistant Principal Officer
Roads Division

c.c. Each Chief Executive



APPENDIX 1

Grants available in 2020 under main grant headings

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

Category	Amount
	€ m
Restoration Improvement (RI)	245
Restoration Maintenance (RM)	42
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance (SRM)	26
Discretionary Grant (DG)	84.6
Drainage Grant	20
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)	15.6
Bridge Rehabilitation	13.5
Specific Grants	17.8
Grants for Strategic Projects	29.8
Training	2.2
Safety Improvement Scheme	9.9
Rehabilitation of Former National Roads	7
Speed Limit Signage in Housing Areas	0.7
PSCI Survey Support	0.8
Miscellaneous (incl. MapRoad, salt reserve & severe weather repairs)	10.3



Appendix 2

Intermediate and Final Completion Dates for Regional and Local Road Works

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

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.



Appendix 3

Grant Allocations

Monaghan County Council	
Restoration Improvement	€6,315,500
Restoration Maintenance	€1,121,500
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€694,000
Discretionary Grant	€2,079,500
Bridge Rehabilitation	€832,800
Safety Improvement Works	€266,000
Specific Improvement	€1,020,000
Speed Limits	€12,000
Training Grant	€53,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€544,000
PSCI: Survey Support	€18,000
CBGM Pilot	€500,000
Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot	€500,000
Drainage Works	€524,880
Total Allocation	€14,481,180

2020 Specific Improvement Grant	
Scheme Name	LA Allocation
Brackly Bridge Replacement	€650,000
R181 Drumillard to Crossduff	€370,000
Monaghan County Council Total	€1,020,000



2020 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads			
Local Authority	Road Number	Location	LA Allocation
Monaghan County Council	R162	Feragh Br. MN-R162-B-040	€52,500
Monaghan County Council	L5451	Corcaskea Br. MN-L5451-B-000	€60,100
Monaghan County Council	L7520	Doosky Br. MN-L7520-B-000	€48,600
Monaghan County Council	R184	Kilcrow Br. MN-R184-B-000	€58,600
Monaghan County Council	R181	Lisnadarragh Br. MN-R181-B-020	€42,500
Monaghan County Council	L4921	Tullynaskeagh East Br. MN-L4921-B-000	€40,500
Monaghan County Council	R179	Drummond Br. MN-R179-B-010	€39,500
Monaghan County Council	L4920	Drumgoan Br. MN-L4920-B-000	€38,500
Monaghan County Council	L3120	Creeve Br. MN-L3120-B-000	€36,500
Monaghan County Council	L1133	Knocknagrave Br. MN-L1133-B-010	€38,500
Monaghan County Council	R162	Tanderageebrack Br. MN-R162-B-030	€39,500
Monaghan County Council	R181	Lisrriil Br. MN-R181-B-010	€38,500
Monaghan County Council	R193	Clossagh Beg Br. MN-R193-B-000	€36,000
Monaghan County Council	L22632	Killynenagh Br. MN-L22632-B-000	€34,000
Monaghan County Council	L3700	Drumleek South Br. MN-L3700-B-000	€32,500
Monaghan County Council	L1133	Derrykinnigh Br. MN-L1133-B-000	€28,500
Monaghan County Council	L4803	Ballyhoe Br. MN-L4803-B-000	€31,500
Monaghan County Council	R179	Corcullioncrew Br. MN-R179-B-000	€34,500
Monaghan County Council	L1160	Davagh Oтра Br. MN-L1160-B-010	€27,500
Monaghan County Council	L12204	Drumgarn Br. MN-L12204-B-000	€28,500
Monaghan County Council	R179	Longfield Oтра Br. MN-R179-007.00	€29,000
Monaghan County Council	L4400	Clarebane Br. MN-L4400-B-000	€17,000
Monaghan County Council Total			€832,800



2020 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads			
Local Authority	Road Number	Location	LA Allocation
Monaghan County Council	L2331/L23313	Coolkill, Cornawall, Rockcorry	€30,000
Monaghan County Council	LP1400	LP1420 junction with LP1400 (Paddy Sweeneys Junction)	€20,000
Monaghan County Council	R938	Dublin Rd Castleblayney	€50,000
Monaghan County Council	R162/R184	Regional road junction known locally as Hanrattys cross	€10,000
Monaghan County Council	R162	R162 at Drumacrutin National School	€45,000
Monaghan County Council	R927	Pedestrian Crossing Main St/Monaghan St Carrickmacross	€25,000
Monaghan County Council	LP39002/R190	Balladian, Ballybay	€20,000
Monaghan County Council	LS 5111/LS5112	Edenmore Crossroads (JJ Peter Johnnys cross)	€36,000
Monaghan County Council	R183/L6290	Guardhill, Kileevan, Newbliss	€30,000
Monaghan County Council Total			€266,000



Appendix 4

Dominic Mullaney Principal Adviser	David O'Grady Engineering Inspector	James McCrum Engineering Inspector
Donegal Leitrim Sligo	Carlow Clare Kildare Kerry Kilkenny Laois Limerick Tipperary <i>South Dublin</i> Waterford Wexford Wicklow	Cork County Cork City <i>Dun Laoghaire</i> Galway County Galway City Mayo Offaly Roscommon Westmeath Cavan <i>Dublin City</i> <i>Fingal</i> Longford Louth Meath Monaghan

Note 1: Italics indicate counties which are self-funding in terms of the main regional and local road programmes