



2024 REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROAD GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Dear Director of Service,

I am directed by the Minister for Transport to enclose details of the 2024 grant allocations to your authority in respect of the maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads. The total grant allocation in 2024 under this Circular is **€658 million**. This Circular contains the following Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Amounts available nationally under the various grant headings;
- Appendix 2: Individual local authority allocations and scheme details;
- Appendix 3: Completion dates for works;
- Appendix 4: Assignment of Inspectors to each Council;
- Appendix 5: 2024 Discretionary Grant Programme (see attached excel sheet); and
- Appendix 6: 2024 Drainage Grant Programme (see attached excel sheet).

The *Memorandum on Grants for Regional and Local Roads* defines the conditions governing the allocation and payment of monies to local authorities under the various grant categories, as well as conditions on the chargeability of expenditure incurred. Local authorities in receipt of Regional and Local Road Grants must adhere to the conditions contained within the *Memorandum*.

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 (RW01/2024).

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



and associated footways and cycleways, can all contribute to road safety and are eligible for grant assistance.

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 3**.

In addition, local authorities should vigorously pursue outstanding invoices from contractors during the year to ensure the timely claiming of grants in 2024. Local authorities should claim eligible payments as soon as possible and should not 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.

Output returns for individual grant programmes will be required after the final grant payments for the year are made.

## **1. Grant Allocation Programmes:**

### **1.1 Restoration Improvement Programme**

The Restoration Improvement (RI) Programme continues to be a priority of the regional and local roads programme. An overall amount of €303 million will be provided under the 2024 RI Grant.

Circular RW 11/2021 requested Councils to submit a multi-year RI programme for 2022, 2023 and 2024 based on a budget estimate of 100% of your Council's initial 2021 RI grant allocation. The Circular specified that the programme should be submitted on AMS. Based on the allocation under this Circular, Councils should now submit an updated RI programme for 2024 by the **14<sup>th</sup> March 2024** on AMS.

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@transport.gov.ie](mailto:RLR@transport.gov.ie).

### **1.2 Restoration Maintenance Programme**

The Restoration Maintenance (RM) Programme continues to be an important programme aimed at protecting road surfaces. 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 2024. An overall grant amount of €75 million will be provided for the surface dressing programme in 2024.

The Department wishes to emphasise that RM and SRM is to be treated by the Council as one Restoration Maintenance Surface Dressing programme with claims made against the RM grant until that grant is fully expended. Only then should Councils draw down funding from the SRM grant. In order to ensure compliance with this requirement SRM grant allocations will not be put on PRS initially.

RM and SRM grant funding **may only be used for Surface Dressing works**. If sealing works are required, other than surface dressing, then they should be included under the RI or Discretionary Grant programmes or funded through LA own resources.

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.

Councils should record their 2024 surface dressing works under the RM programme on MapRoad – Asset Management System (AMS) by the **14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

### **1.3 Discretionary Grant Programme**

Discretionary Grants (DG) amounting to c.€83 million will be available to meet the cost of road maintenance and improvement works selected by local authorities pursuant to relevant Departmental Circulars.

The cost of salt used by local authorities in the winter period of 2022/2023 has been deducted from each authority's DG. Local authorities can use DG monies towards staff or plant costs associated with salting operations or for the purchase of salt. In certain cases, a contribution for the conversion to brine plants may be chargeable to DG but this should be discussed and agreed with the Department inspector in advance.

The increased frequency of storm damage in recent years has highlighted the need for local authorities to set aside a contingency amount from the overall resource available to deal with severe weather events and damage to the network as they arise. A minimum amount of 10% of DG is recommended as part of this contingency to help supplement Local Authorities Own Resources.



Councils are required to submit details of their proposed 2024 DG Programme on the excel sheet attached in **Appendix 5**. This return should be submitted to the Department at [RLR@transport.gov.ie](mailto:RLR@transport.gov.ie) by the **14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

#### **1.4 Community Involvement Scheme**

Ring-fenced funding for the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) was introduced in 2018. Since then, funding has been allocated for 2-year periods with a view to giving local authorities more flexibility in delivering this programme.

Following a further application process in 2023 the same approach is being taken for the current tranche of CIS funding with funding allocated for a two-year period covering 2024 and 2025. The allocation for your local authority for 2024 is set out in **Appendix 2**. Where the overall amount sought by a local authority exceeds the allocation, the local authority will have to prioritise the projects to be funded. The final programme should then be submitted on MapRoad.

It is important to note that grants allocated under other Departmental grant programmes cannot be used for the community contribution element within the CIS.

#### **1.5 Drainage Grant**

Grant funding of €18 million is being provided in 2024 under the drainage grant (DR) for drainage measures. The allocation for your local authority is set out in **Appendix 2**. The funding may be used for the alleviation of road drainage problems either through new works or remedial works.

The works which will be undertaken should be set out in the form - Drainage 2024 - attached in **Appendix 6** and the completed form should be returned to the Department at [RLR@transport.gov.ie](mailto:RLR@transport.gov.ie) by **14<sup>th</sup> March 2024**.

The Guidelines for Road Drainage, which outline best practice in relation to road drainage, were revised and new Guidelines issued in 2022. Local authorities should refer to these Guidelines when planning and implementing drainage works. The Guidelines are available on [www.rmo.ie](http://www.rmo.ie)

#### **1.6 Lower Cost Bridge Rehabilitation**

Lower Cost Bridge Rehabilitation (BR) grant allocations will continue to be provided in 2024 to fund bridge rehabilitation works and your authority's allocation is included in **Appendix 2**. 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.

### **1.7 Lower Cost Safety Scheme**

The Lower Cost Safety (LCS) scheme remains in place for 2024 and your authority's allocation is set out in **Appendix 2**. 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.

### **1.8 Former National Road Rehabilitation Grant**

In light of the 2018 regional road pavement condition survey findings, the Department introduced a Former National Road Rehabilitation Grant (FN) grant in 2019 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.

Following consideration of applications received from local authorities, grants allocations under this heading are included in **Appendix 2**.

### **1.9 Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience**

As the impact of climate change on the road network is becoming more apparent, the Department introduced a Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience (CCAR) Grant. Allocations under this heading in 2024 are in **Appendix 2**.

Where any changes are proposed to the approved CCAR projects, local authorities are required to liaise with the relevant Department Inspector.

### **1.10 Rural Limit Speed Sign**

With a view to supporting the roll out of the Rural Speed Limit sign as provided for in the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits, local authorities were able to apply for funding this year for the deployment of the sign and supplementary plate.

*Note: Local authorities are encouraged to complete implementation of these signs this year as this dedicated funding programme will be closing.*

Where applicable, grant allocations under this grant programme are set out in **Appendix 2**.



### 1.11 Speed Limit Signage in Housing Areas

Local authorities were requested to submit details of proposed expenditure in 2024 on signage related to implementing 30km/h speed limit/slow zone signage programme in housing areas. Where applicable, grant allocations under this grant programme are set out in **Appendix 2**.

*Note: Local authorities are encouraged to complete implementation of these signs in accordance with their approved speed limit bye laws as soon as possible.*

### 1.12 Cycle “Safe Passing” Signs

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 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

This Circular included an Advice Note to assist local authorities in determining where the provision of such signs would be most effective. Where applicable, grant allocations for these cycle signs are set out in **Appendix 2**.

### 1.13 PSCI Surveys

A grant to assist local authorities in meeting the network survey requirements set out in Circular RW3/2018 and the Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Survey Grant is again being made available this year. Drawdown of this grant is subject to the receipt of a RMO certificate regarding the amount of the required 2024 PSCI survey completed. For this reason, the PSCI allocation included in **Appendix 2** will not be put up on the PRS until later in the year.

### 1.14 Local Improvement Scheme

In the period 2013 to 2018 local authorities were permitted to use a proportion of their initial DG towards local improvement schemes (LIS) should they wish to do so.

The Department for Rural and Community Development (DRCD) introduced ring-fenced funding for LIS in 2017 and is continuing to operate this scheme. **The option of allocating funding to LIS from the DG will not, therefore, apply in 2024.**

## 2. MapRoad – Asset Management System (AMS)

All Local Authorities are reminded that they must upload and maintain full records of all pavement projects on the AMS. All projects for RI and RM/SRM will continue to be submitted and managed through AMS. Any pavement interventions across other grant categories



(including those funded by any Government Department or Agency) or using own resources must also be uploaded to the AMS.

As you are aware, the Department has now moved from a paper/email-based Form A / Form B return to an online system through the AMS. It is, therefore, essential that each LA maintains records of **all pavement works** on the AMS system.

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 AMS. The payment of grants is linked to this requirement.

### **3. Inflation/Supply Chain Delay Co-operation Framework**

Circular RW13/2022 and updated by circular RW 14/2023 refers to the circumstances pertaining to the charging of Ex-gratia payments relating to pavement works funded under the RI or FN programmes. Any outstanding payment requests should be discussed directly with your Department Inspector.

Local Authorities should note that the Supply Chain Delay Framework Agreement was published by the Office of Government on 17 July 2023 for use with form of Public Works contracts PW-CF1 to PW-CF5 and replaces the Inflation/Supply Chain Delay Co-operation Framework.

### **4. Own Resources**

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. 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.

### **5. Contingency Provision & Severe Weather**

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 to deal with damage caused by severe weather conditions, including flooding.



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

As part of the claim approval process each local authority must 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.**

The Department also wants to emphasise that local authorities are required to **submit claims on PRS before 12.30pm on the relevant date** identified in the pay run schedule and if the claim is not submitted by that time, the Department will not 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.

## 7. Expenditure Review Requirements

The accuracy of all figures submitted by local authorities, for example, grant claims, output data, details of own resources expenditure etc, is of the utmost importance. These figures are used to inform outputs and value for money, required future funding and inform the democratic process. 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 conduct, at any time, either a full onsite or a desk-check review on regional and local roads expenditure claimed on PRS.

## 8. Sign Clutter

The Department wishes to draw local authorities' attention to the requirements of the Traffic Signs Manual in respect of regulatory signs. While these requirements reflect the necessity to inform motorists that particular restrictions or prohibitions exist, local authorities should ensure that signage is installed without creating a hazard and that reasonable safe access and accessibility is provided for all. In this regard section 1.3 of Chapter 1 of the Traffic Signs





Manual ([www.trafficsigns.ie](http://www.trafficsigns.ie)) provides extensive detail on the 'Siting' and 'Placement' of signs and, in particular, 1.3.43 sets out measures which should be considered to avoid street clutter.

## 9. Weather Warnings

As part of the 2024 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,

Faye Carroll

Regional & Local Roads Division

15 February 2024

*c.c. Each Chief Executive, Director of Services Roads and Transportation, Senior Engineer Roads*



### Grants available in 2024 under Main Grant Headings

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

Category	Amount € m
Restoration Improvement (RI)	303
Restoration Maintenance (RM)	40
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance (SRM)	35
Discretionary Grant (DG)	83
Drainage Grant	18
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)	12.9
Lower Cost Bridge Rehabilitation	15.9
Specific Grants	20
Grants for Strategic Projects	50
Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience	16
Training	2.5
Lower Cost Safety Scheme	10.5
Rehabilitation of Former National Roads	11.8
RLR Signage	1
PSCI Survey Support	0.75
Miscellaneous (incl. MapRoad, salt reserve)	13.0



## Grant Allocations

Monaghan County Council	
Restoration Improvement	€7,810,500
Restoration Maintenance	€1,068,000
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€934,500
Discretionary Grant	€2,071,500
Bridge Rehabilitation	€719,275
Specific Imp. Grant	€1,500,000
Safety Improvement Works	€259,380
PSCI: Survey Support	€18,000
Training Grant	€53,000
Drainage Works	€472,500
Former National Roads	€600,000
Cycle Signs	€1,320
Speed Limits (Housing Area Signage)	€10,170
Speed Limits (Rural Speed Limit Signage)	€4,800
Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works	€380,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€354,150
Reclaimed Asphalt Pilot	€800,000
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>€17,057,095</b>



Monaghan County Council			
<b>2024 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works</b>			
Project Code	Road Number	Scheme Title	LA Allocation
MN/CCAR/24/001	L1413-0	Plantation Road Culvert	€100,000
MN/CCAR/24/014	LP3720	Annadrummon Castleblayney	€100,000
MN/CCAR/24/016	R182	Castleblayney	€80,000
MN/CCAR/24/017	LS8660	LS8660 Drainage Scheme	€100,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>€380,000</b>
<b>2024 Specific Improvement Grants</b>			
Scheme Name			LA Allocation
L63101 Drumary Bridge Replacement			€500,000
R181 Drumillard to Crossduff (Phase 2)			€50,000
R162 Glen Road Culvert			€900,000
Link Road Design Development (Old Cross Sq./Sli Ogie Ui Dhufaigh Junction to N2 to N12)			€50,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>€1,500,000</b>
<b>2024 Bridge Rehabilitation Works on Regional and Local Roads</b>			
Project Code	Road Number	Location	LA Allocation
MN/BR/24/001	L-6142	MN-L6141-B-000 Roosky	€100,000
MN/BR/24/002	L-3002	MN-L3002-B-000 Derrygoony	€110,000
MN/BR/24/003	R-178	MN-R178-B-030 Cornagarvoge	€113,500
MN/BR/24/004	L-1113	MN-L1113-B-010 Derrygorry	€92,150
MN/BR/24/005	L-3430	MN-L3430-B-010 Tonyscallan	€90,000
MN/BR/24/006	-	MN-Knocknamaddy Bridge (BBay GAA)	€61,750
MN/BR/24/007	L-8011	MN-L8011-B-000 Sreenty	€84,450
MN/BR/24/008	L-5431	MN-L5431-B-000 Tiravray	€67,425
<b>Total</b>			<b>€719,275</b>
<b>2024 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads</b>			
Project Code	Road Number	Location	LA Allocation
MN/BS/24/002	LP1620	Crosses	€97,400
MN/BS/24/003	LT45101	Donaghmoynne Village (Play Park)	€10,000
MN/BS/24/004	R193/R188	Rockcorry	€20,780
MN/BS/24/005	LP3131/LP4210/LS8200 /LP3134	St Oliver Plunkett National School - Tossey Cross	€25,000
MN/BS/24/006	LP4933	Riverside Road, Carrickmacross	€20,000
MN/BS/24/008	LP-11131	Clara School	€18,000
MN/BS/24/010	LP4801	Drumconrath Road (Rock Chapel)	€7,500
MN/BS/24/011	I2040	Scotstown Village	€20,900
MN/BS/24/012	R189/LT22803	Markeys	€25,800
MN/BS/24/013	I76003	Oram	€14,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>€259,380</b>
<b>2024 Former National Road Rehabilitation Works</b>			
Project Code	Road Number	Former National Road Number	LA Allocation
MN/FN/24/002	R937	N2	€290,000
MN/FN/24/003	R938-0	N2	€310,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>€600,000</b>



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

<b>Operation</b>	<b>Intermediate Completion Dates</b>	<b>Final Completion Date</b>
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.



### Assignment of Inspectors

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