



An Roinn Iompair
Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Department of Transport,
Tourism and Sport

Príomh Oifig
44 Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire.

Head Office
44 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Lo-Call 0761-001 601 +353-1-670 7444
www.dttas.ie

3rd February 2015

Circular RW 2/2015

2015 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 2015 grant allocations to your authority in respect of the maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads. The total grant allocation in 2015 under this Circular is €294,083,000 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 2015. 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)** and be made available for inspection, if required. 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. This grant allocation will be based on the 4 year programmes submitted by local authorities to the NRA in 2012. In 2015, flexibility will continue to be given in respect of re-prioritising RI schemes. An overall amount of €145 million will be provided under the 2015 Restoration Improvement Grant.

6. **Flexibility**

County Councils will continue to be given the flexibility in 2015 to transfer up to 25% of their Restoration Improvement Grant to their Discretionary Grant on request to roadsdivision@dtas.ie .

7. **Discretionary Grant**

Discretionary grants totalling **€62.5 million** will be available to meet the cost of maintenance and improvement works selected by local authorities pursuant to relevant Departmental Circulars.

As the Discretionary Grant and the Winter Maintenance Grant have been merged, the cost of salt used by local authorities in the period October 2012-March 2013 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 2015 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 pilot community involvement scheme has been completed and it has been decided that there will be no separate allocation under this grant category in 2015. Instead the scheme will revert back to allowing local authorities to set aside 7.5% of their RI and RM grants for CIS schemes if they so wish. The terms of the scheme have also been reviewed and following the pilot scheme a separate Circular will issue to local authorities shortly.

10. Low Cost Safety Scheme

The Low Cost Safety Scheme remains in place for 2015 and allocations are based on the approved schemes set out in Appendix 3. It is not necessary for Local Authorities to seek approval to transfer funding among the approved schemes; however, the Department will seek outputs in January 2016 in respect of 2015.

11. Bridge Rehabilitation

As notified to Local Authorities in Circular RW18/2014, grant allocations are being provided in 2015 to fund bridge rehabilitation works arising out of the current Principal Inspections framework. It is not necessary for Local Authorities to seek

approval to transfer funding among the approved bridges (set out in Appendix 3); however, the Department will seek outputs in January 2016 in respect of 2015.

12. Road Safety in Housing Areas

Funding of €2 million has been set aside to support a signage programme/engineering measures in line with the actions proposed in Circular RSD 01/2014 of 15th October 2014. The intention is to allocate this funding as local authorities come forward with their proposals in respect of implementing 30km/h speed limits in housing areas.

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.

13. Claims for payment of Grants

Local authorities should note that claims should continue to be made through the National Roads Authority's (NRA) 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.

14. 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).

15. **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,



Mary McCullagh
Assistant Principal Officer
Roads Division

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

APPENDIX 1

Grants available in 2015 under main grant headings

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

Category	2015
	€ m
Restoration Improvement (RI)	145.6
Restoration Maintenance (RM)	41.0
Discretionary Grant (DG)	62.5
Bridge Rehabilitation	7.7
Specific Grants	7.2
Grants for Strategic Projects	9.3
Training	1.7
Low Cost Safety Measures	5.8
Urban Block Grant	4.2
Miscellaneous (incl. MapRoad, Salt etc.)	7
Road Safety Measures in Housing Areas (for allocation)	2

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 2015 2/3 by end July 2015 3/3 by end August 2015	31 August 2015
Road Reconstruction (RR) and Surface Restoration (SR)	1/3 by end May 2015 2/3 by end July 2015 3/3 by end September 2015	30 September 2015
All works other than SD, RR and SR (except schemes which of their nature must continue into 2010)	1/3 by end June 2015 2/3 by end August 2015 3/3 by end of October 2015	31 October 2015

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 2015
All other works	31 October 2015