

24th January 2014

Circular RW 3/2014

2014 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations

Dear Director of Service/Town Clerk

1. I am directed by the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport to enclose details of the 2014 grant allocations to your authority in respect of the maintenance and improvement of regional and local roads. The total grant allocation in 2014 under this Circular is €331,916,000 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. An unallocated reserve has been included in the grants to cover land purchase costs where the Department has approved the issue of notices to treat but the timing of the land settlements is uncertain. In addition, this reserve will be used should it be decided to commit further monies, over and above the amount already committed, to the Community Involvement Scheme following completion of the review of the 2013 pilot.
3. 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**.
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.**

In addition, local authorities should vigorously pursue outstanding invoices from contractors during the year to ensure the timely claiming of grants in 2014. 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.

5. **MapRoad**

Full records of all projects **must** be maintained on **MapRoad (GIS)** and be made available for inspection, if required. In addition, from 2014 all projects for RI, RM and DG will be submitted and managed through MapRoad. Further details on this will be issued in a subsequent circular.

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.

In 2012, Local Authorities were requested to supply accurate road length data. This data is now being used to decide funding levels under a number of grant categories and the Department will be seeking to validate this data. As a result, all Local Authorities are now required to ensure that **accurate road schedules are maintained in MapRoad**. The payment of grants will be linked to this requirement.

6. **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 2014, flexibility will continue to be given in respect of re-prioritising RI schemes. An overall amount of €145 million will be provided under the 2014 Restoration Improvement Grant.

7. **Flexibility**

County Councils are being given the flexibility in 2014 to transfer up to 25% of their Restoration Improvement Grant to their Discretionary Grant on request to roadsdivision@dtas.ie.

8. Discretionary Grant merged with Winter Maintenance Grant

Discretionary grants totalling **€92.5 million** will be available to meet the cost of maintenance and improvement works selected by local authorities pursuant to relevant Departmental Circulars.

County Councils	Discretionary Grant	€70 m
Urban Authorities	Block Grant	€22.5 m

As part of the 2014 allocations, the Discretionary Grant and the Winter Maintenance Grant are being merged. This means that the cost of salt used by local authorities in the period October 2012-March 2013 will be deducted from each authority's Discretionary Grant.

Local authorities may now 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.

9. Local Improvements Scheme (LIS)

The Local Improvement Scheme remains in place for 2014 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 in January 2014) 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.

10. Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)

For 2014 it is proposed to give the previously committed CIS amounts for 2014 to a number of local authorities. Following a review of the pilot CIS programme, consideration will be given as to whether further CIS grants are allocated in 2014.

11. Low Cost Safety Scheme

The Low Cost Safety Scheme remains in place for 2014 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 2015 in respect of 2014.

12. Bridge Rehabilitation

As notified to Local Authorities in Circular RLR 3/2013, grant allocations are being provided in 2014 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 2015 in respect of 2014.

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.

14. 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).

15. 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).

16. Weather Warning Arrangements

As part of the 2014 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.**

17. Damage to RLR roads during recent storms

The Government recently considered a preliminary report on the damage caused to all public infrastructure, including roads and rail with an initial estimate of the cost of the damage. Local authorities have now been asked to prepare a full assessment of the work that needs to be done together with detailed cost estimates. **This will be co-ordinated by the Department of the Environment.** The detailed assessment and the action required will then be considered by Government. In the meantime local authorities are permitted to prioritise the repair of these roads from their 2014 RLR grant allocation.

Yours sincerely,



Mary McCullagh
Assistant Principal Officer
Roads Division

To: Each County and City Manager & each Director of Service for Roads and Town Clerk

Grants available in 2014 under various grant headings

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

- **Restoration Improvement Grant**, totalling **€145 million** will be paid to County Councils.
- **Restoration Maintenance Grant** totalling **€40 million** will be paid to County Councils for surface dressing.
- **Discretionary Grants** totalling **€92.5million** will be available broken down as follows:

County Councils	Discretionary Grant	€70 m
Urban Authorities	Block Grant	€22.5 m

- **Specific and Strategic Improvement Grants** for road improvement projects. These grants will total **€23.1 million**.
- **€6.1 million** has been allocated for **Low Cost Safety Improvement** works.
- **Miscellaneous** grants in the amount of **€12.5 million** are also being provided (including bridge inspection, CIS, speed limit initiatives, training, salt)
- **€7.5 million** has been allocated for **Bridge Rehabilitation**
- **€5.2 million** will be held in **Reserve**

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 2014 2/3 by end July 2014 3/3 by end August 2014	31 August 2014
Road Reconstruction (RR) and Surface Restoration (SR)	1/3 by end May 2014 2/3 by end July 2014 3/3 by end September 2014	30 September 2014
All works other than SD, RR and SR (except schemes which of their nature must continue into 2010)	1/3 by end June 2014 2/3 by end August 2014 3/3 by end of October 2014	31 October 2014

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 2014
All other works	31 October 2014

Individual Grant Allocations and Scheme Details for 2014

Local Authority	Grant Type	Scheme Location (and summary of Proposed RTM Works)	Length (m)	2014 Grant	Total
Kilkenny Co Council	DM: Discretionary Maintenance Grant		0	€2,282,000	€0
	RM: Restoration Maintenance Grant		0	€1,289,000	€0
	RI: Restoration Improvement Grant		0	€4,674,000	€0
	BS: Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants		0	€174,000	€0
	SG: Specific Improvement Grants	SG: R697 Kells Road, Kilkenny City	1000	€583,000	€0
		SG: Bridge Rehabilitation: Tullavoulty, Glory Cottage, Tinvacoush	0	€200,000	€783,000
	TR: Regional and Local Roads Training Programme Grants		0	€36,000	€0
	Total 2014 Regional and Local Roads Grant Allocation		0	€0	€9,238,000
Kilkenny Borough Council	BG: Block Grant		0	€339,200	€0
	TR: Regional and Local Roads Training Programme Grants		0	€10,000	€0
		Total 2014 Regional and Local Roads Grant Allocation	0	€0	€349,200

Low Cost Safety Approved Schemes for 2014

Local Authority	Grant Type	Scheme Location	Length (m)	2014 Grant	Total
Kilkenny Co Council	BS: Low Cost Safety Improvement Grants	BS: College Road Kilkenny [R 909]	50 m	€25,000	€0
		BS: Coon Village [LP 1838]	100 m	€25,000	€0
		BS: Graigue Cross R695/LS5031 [R 695]	50 m	€10,000	€0
		BS: Hebron Road Kilkenny [LP 2627]	50 m	€25,000	€0
		BS: Killarney Bridge Thomastown [R 700]	300 m	€12,000	€0
		BS: Legan Lane Thomastown [R 700]	200 m	€10,000	€0
		BS: Listerlin [R 704]	100 m	€40,000	€0
		BS: R712 Flagmount [R 712]	200 m	€12,000	€0
		BS: Russellstown [R 432]	150 m	€15,000	€174,000