

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh,
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Meath County Council

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E-mail: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Web: www.meath.ie

Registration No.: 00172770

Data Protection Privacy Statement for HS016 - Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Who we are and why do we require your information?

Meath County Council seeks to promote the economic, social and cultural development of County Meath and in doing so contribute significantly to improving the quality of life of the people of County Meath. The delivery of high quality services, tailored to meet the needs of all our customers, remains one of Meath County Council's core objectives and is included in our Corporate Plan. This quality service includes not only the level and quality of service given to our customers, but also the quality of our decision-making processes, the efficiency and effectiveness of our corporate operations, standard of our facilities and our ability to adapt in an ever-changing environment. In order to provide the most effective and targeted range of services to meet the needs of the citizens, communities and businesses of County Meath, we will be required to collect, process and use certain types of information about people and organisations. Depending on the service being offered, the information sought may include 'personal data' as defined by the Data Protection Acts and by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and may relate to current, past and future service users; past; current and prospective employees; suppliers; and members of the public who may engage in communications with our staff. In addition, staff may be required, from time to time, to collect, process and use certain types of personal data to comply with regulatory or legislative requirements.

Why do we have a privacy statement?

Meath County Council has created this privacy statement in order to demonstrate our firm commitment to privacy and to assure you that in all your dealings with Meath County Council, we will ensure the security of the data you provide to us. Meath County Council creates, collects and processes a significant amount of personal data in various multiple formats on a daily basis. Meath County Council's commitment is that the personal data you may be required to supply to us is;

- Obtained lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Obtained for only specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for purpose for which it was obtained
- Recorded, stored accurately and securely and where necessary kept up to date
- Kept only for as long as is necessary for the purposes for which it was obtained.
- Kept in a form which permits identification of the data subject
- Processed only in a manner that ensures the appropriate security of the personal data including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing.

Data Protection Policy

Meath County Council has a detailed Data Protection Policy which outlines how we as a public body are committed to ensuring the security of any personal data you provide to us.

What is the activity referred to in this Privacy Statement?

The aim of the Rental Accommodation Scheme is to provide good quality rented accommodation for people receiving rent supplement and to help provide long-term housing for people who need it.

What is the basis for making the processing of personal data in this activity lawful?

Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in Meath County Council [Article 6(1)(e) of the General Data Protection Regulations, 2016].

We require your contact details

In order to communicate with you, you will be asked for contact details. You do not have to provide all contact details but providing more, such as email, phone, address, makes it easier to communicate. Please note that to help protect your privacy, we take steps to verify your identity before granting access to personal data. These contact details may also be used to verify your identity.

What items of personal data do we need to undertake this activity?

Name and Address (of applicant, landlord, agent), telephone number, email address, PPSN No, bank details and personal tax details (of applicant, landlord, agent), date of birth, PPSN, occupation and income details (of all household members) and income tax reference number and tax clearance access PIN (of landlord, agent) and BER, ETCI \Gas certs and various invoices/quotations in relation to the Property.

There is also sensitive data potentially collected in relation criminal investigations and/or convictions, mental & physical health

Some personal data may also be collected from Infosys. This information is not publicly available. It is sourced under agreement from the Department of Social Welfare. It is used to verify and update information from Social Welfare in order to confirm income details.

This personal data will be used for the following purpose(s):

- (a) Name and Address (of applicant, landlord, agent) and contact details are required for correspondence
- (b) PPSN No of applicant and household members are required to check Infosys (Department of Social Protection system)
- (c) bank details and personal tax details (landlord, agent) are required to set up EFT bank transfer
- (d) date of birth, PPSN, occupation and income details (of all household members) are required to assess if applicant is eligible and calculate their rent
- (e) income tax reference number and tax clearance access Pin (of landlord, agent) are required to ensure tax compliance and prompt payment
- (f) BER Certificate, ETCI\GAS certs and plumbers invoices if applicable, to ensure that accommodation meets the required standards.

Is the personal data submitted as part of this activity shared with other organisations?

Meath County Council may, to fulfil statutory or regulatory obligations or in the public interest, from time to time, have to share personal data with other organisations or entities (in Ireland or abroad). Where this is required Meath County Council shall have regard to the security and integrity of the data and will minimise the data shared. In this activity, the data will be shared with the following recipients:

- (a) As part of this process, the contact details, will be shared with the landlord and tenant
- (b) The address, size of house are shared with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for recoupment purposes
- (c) Name, Address, PPSN and Date of Birth are shared with An Garda Siochana for the purpose of Garda Clearance
- (d) RAS tenancy agreements will include name, address and PPSN.

Rent account details are shared with the Bank or Building Society for the purposes of setting up Direct Debit and Standing Order. Rent Account details, PPSN and details of social welfare payment are shared with An Post for the purposes of setting up Household Budget deduction.

In this activity, if the personal data is to be transferred to a different country, it will be transferred to the following countries (if there are no countries listed, it is not intended to transfer the personal data abroad):

It is not intended to transfer personal data outside of the Republic of Ireland, however if the landlord lives abroad the contract would be posted to the landlord wherever he or she lives. The contract would include name, address, property size and description, PPS number of tenants, amount of rent paid to the Landlord. A R185 form is also posted to the landlord each month in relation to their monthly rent payment.

How long is this personal data held by Meath County Council?

Meath County Council has a detailed record retention policy which goes in to more detail of the time period for which your personal data will be retained by Meath County Council and what will happen to it after the required retention period has expired.

The data processed as part of this activity will be retained for the following period(s):

- (a) Successful applications will remain as live files and be stored in the office and offsite storage
- (b) Unsuccessful RAS Assessments which did not lead to a RAS Tenancy will be held for 2 years and then destroyed
- (c) terminated RAS Contracts will be held for 1 yr after termination and then destroyed
- (d) only files where there are rent arrears or cases of ASB will remain undestroyed and stored in the office or offsite storage

What will happen if the requested personal data is not provided?

If the applicant does not meet the criteria or if the landlord does not submit all the required information, then the RAS Application may not be processed at the current property, however the applicant could be considered for future RAS Properties.

Your Rights

You have the right to request access to personal data held about you, obtain confirmation as to whether data concerning you exists, be informed of the content and source of data and check its accuracy. In addition, if the data held by us is found to be inaccurate you have the right to change, remove, block, or object to the use of, personal data held by Meath County Council. You also have the right to data portability. In certain circumstances blocking access to data may delay or remove access to a service where the data is required by law or for essential purposes related to delivery of a service to you. To exercise these rights, you should contact Meath County Council (Data Controller) at the following address:

email: dataprotection@meathcoco.ie

Data Protection Officer,
Meath County Council,
Buvinda House,
Dublin Road,
Navan,
Co. Meath

Right of Complaint to the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the response you received from Meath County Council in relation to your request, then you are entitled to make a complaint to the Data Protection Commissioner who may investigate the matter for you.

The Data Protection Commissioner's website is www.dataprotection.ie or you can contact their office at:

Lo Call Number: 1890 252 231

E-mail: info@dataprotection.ie

Postal Address:
Data Protection Commissioner
Canal House
Station Road
Portarlinton, Co. Laois. R32 AP23.

