

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh,
Contae na Mí, C15 Y291

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Meath County Council

Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan,
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Tel: 046 – 9097000/Fax: 046 – 9097001

E-mail: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Web: www.meath.ie

Registration No.: 00172770

Data Protection Privacy Statement for HS018 - Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Scheme

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 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) scheme is a payment to a landlord to assist towards the payment of the monthly rent.

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 applicants and property owners), telephone number, email address, PPSN, bank details and personal tax details (of property owner, LPT details (of the property), date of birth, occupation and income details (of all household members) and income tax reference number and tax clearance access PIN (of the property owner). Proof of ownership details for the property owner, size of property, monthly rent of the property, date tenancy commenced and confirmation that current rent is paid up to date.

Personal data is also collected from HAP Api. 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 that is relevant to a Rent Assessment/Review.

This personal data will be used for the following purpose:

The applicant's details are required as they pay a weekly contribution towards the rent which is calculated on their net weekly income in line with Meath County Council's Differential Rent Scheme. The landlord's details are required to provide evidence that they are the owners of the property and the PPSN and bank details are required to ensure the landlord is tax compliant and it is the landlord's bank account the HAP is being paid into.

- (a) applicant details for calculating the weekly contribution
- (b) contact details are required for correspondence with the applicant and landlord.
- (c) the proposed rent for the property to determine the HAP payment that can be awarded
- (d) all other information requested on the application form is required to administer the application eg. verify ownership of the property, bank details for payment of the HAP award, etc.

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, PPSN, date of birth income details of the applicant(s) will be shared with the Shared Services in Limerick along with the landlord name, address, contact number, PPSN, email and bank account details will be shared with the Shared Services Centre in Limerick.
- (b) The name, address, PPSN, date of birth of the applicant(s) are shared with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for recoument purposes.

In this activity, if the personal data is to be transferred to a different country, it will be transferred to the following countries :

N/A

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 received will be retained while the HAP Assistance is still being provided.
- (b) Invalid applications received are returned to both applicant and landlord.

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

If the applicant does not provide the requested information, the application submitted by the applicant will be deemed invalid and the Section A (tenant) will be returned to the tenant, and Section B (landlord) along with the supporting documentation will be returned to the landlord and the applicant will not be considered for the funding.

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: dataprotectionofficer@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.

