An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant under the National Inspection Plan

Terms and Conditions

2026

Prepared by the Department of
Housing, Local Government and Heritage
gov.ie

Housing (Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant under the National Inspection Plan) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 562 of 2023)

- Please read the following information notes before completing the application form.
- All questions on the form must be answered and, where specified, supporting documents must be provided. Incomplete forms, or those not accompanied by the appropriate documents, will not be processed.
- Work must NOT start before the local authority has issued an Advisory Notice. The local authority should carry out such inspections or other checks as it considers necessary before approving the application. Works started before an Advisory notice is issued are not eligible for grant assistance.
- The grant scheme is administered by local authorities. Any enquiries should be addressed to the Rural Water Liaison Officer or the Environment Section in the local authority.
- All forms to be used can be obtained from the local authority, who will provide assistance with completing them, if required.
- In respect of an applicant receiving grants, subsidies or similar type payments from a Government Department or Public Authority that have a total value of more than €10,000 during the year, you will need an e-Tax Clearance certificate.
- The local authority reserves the right to make any necessary enquiries to verify information or for clarification of supporting documents provided with a grant application. An application that includes false or misleading information or documents will not be approved for a grant.

1 Purpose of Grant

This grant supports homeowners to repair, remediate, upgrade or replace a defective or inadequate domestic wastewater treatment system (DWWTS) to protect water quality and public health. The works must arise directly from an inspection carried out under the National Inspection Plan, and the subsequent issue of an Advisory Notice to the householder by the local authority. Part 4A of the Water Services Act 2007 (as inserted under the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012) refers.

This is a targeted grant scheme. A homeowner cannot apply for a grant simply because they have a defective DWWTS.

The grant scheme operates within the limits of the funding allocated annually by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and does not create an automatic entitlement to grant assistance. The scheme focuses public funding on DWWTS associated with identified environmental or verified human-health risks.

All works funded must comply with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2021 Code of Practice for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (or as amended).

Important: **Costs incurred for the routine maintenance, servicing or de-sludging of a DWWTS do not qualify for a grant.**

2 Level of Grant

The level of grant available is 85% of the approved cost of the works, subject to a maximum of €12,000. There is no minimum value in respect of costs.

3 Eligibility

To qualify, the local authority must be satisfied that the house and system meet all of the following conditions:

a) The house is occupied by the applicant as their primary residence (not a holiday home). This may include private, long-term rental properties.

b) The house is not connected to a public sewer.

c) The house is not currently under construction and was not constructed within the last 7 years.

d) No grant for these DWWTS that is the subject of the application has been paid in the last 7 years.

e) All works completed satisfactorily in accordance with the Advisory Notice.

Planning Permission

In general, planning permission is not required for works to repair or maintain an existing DWWTS where the works fall within the relevant planning exemption under Section 4(1)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Where the works are for the purpose of maintaining or improving an existing DWWTS and fall within the exemption, the local authority should not require the applicant to obtain planning permission as a condition of grant approval.

The local authority should consider whether planning permission is required based on the nature and extent of the works proposed.

In addition there is a specific exemption under the **Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 219 of 2013)** for the carrying out of development consisting of remedial works, in compliance with an advisory notice issued under section 70H(5) of the Water Services Act 2007 as amended.

Where there is any uncertainty as to whether the proposed works constitute development or exempted development, the applicant should be advised to contact the relevant planning authority.

4 Approved Cost

For the purposes of this grant scheme, approved cost is the lesser of:

- the actual cost of the works for the repair, remediation, upgrade, or replacement of a DWWTS (including site assessment if required) or the cost of connection to the public network,

  or

- the reasonable cost of carrying out those works as assessed by the local authority.

Where connection to the public network is a potential option, the local authority should compare the reasonable cost of connection with the reasonable cost of repair, remediation, upgrade or replacement of the DWWTS when determining the appropriate works and eligible cost.

The local authority will determine the reasonable cost of connection to the public network against the cost of remediation, repair, upgrade or replacement of a DWWTS, and establish if a grant can be given for connection to the public network.

The local authority shall determine whether the proposed works are necessary, proportionate and reasonable, having regard to the nature and extent of the identified environmental or verified human-health risk. The local authority may limit approved costs to those considered necessary to address the identified risk and achieve compliance with the EPA Code of Practice.

5 Tax Clearance Requirements

The current tax clearance status of the contractor(s) and the applicant (when required), must be confirmed to the satisfaction of the local authority.

In respect of each contractor, the applicant should include with their application form:

- the Tax Clearance Access Number (TCAN) and Tax Reference Number issued to the contractor by the Revenue Commissioners;

  or

- an up to date Revenue On-Line Service (ROS) printout of an eTax Clearance Certificate provided by the contractor.

This can be applied for using Revenue's online service at revenue.ie. The applicant can request a "TC1" application form to be posted to their address.

Where the tax clearance status of the contractor cannot be established at the time the grant application is being assessed, then the local authority must refuse the application for a grant.

In respect of an applicant receiving grants, subsidies or similar type payments from a government department or public authority of more than €10,000 during the year, you will need a Tax Clearance Certificate.

6 Submitting Grant Payment Claims

When the works are completed, the applicant must submit a grant payment claim on Form DWWTS NIP (a) to the local authority. The claim must be submitted within six months of the completion of the works.

7 Processing Grant Payment Claims

The local authority will:

a) verify that your claim is valid and complete;

b) confirm, through such checks or inspections as it considers necessary, that the works have been completed in accordance with the Advisory Notice and the EPA Code of Practice and that all relevant terms and conditions of the scheme have been met; and

c) notify the applicant in writing of the outcome and issue payment where the claim is approved.

Where payment of the grant is refused or part-refused, the local authority will notify the applicant in writing, clearly setting out the reasons for the decision and advising of the right to appeal.

The local authority shall verify that grant expenditure represents an appropriate and reasonable use of public funds and complies with all conditions of the scheme.

Payment of grant assistance remains subject to compliance with all scheme requirements and the availability of funding under the annual allocation determined by the Minister.

8 Appeals Process

An applicant may appeal a local authority decision to refuse or partially refuse payment of a grant.

The appeal must be made in writing, including by email, within three weeks of the date of the decision letter and should clearly set out the reasons for the appeal.

The appeal will be considered by an officer of the local authority who was not involved in the original decision.

A decision on the appeal will be made within four weeks of receipt of the appeal.

The applicant will be notified of the appeal decision in writing within five working days of the decision being made.

9 General Funding Provision

Grant assistance is always subject to the availability of funding, annual allocations determined by the Minister, compliance with statutory requirements and compliance with all conditions of the scheme.

Approval of an application for payment does not guarantee payment of the maximum grant amount. The amount paid will be based on the approved cost of eligible works and the actual eligible expenditure incurred, subject to the terms and conditions of the scheme.

10 Help and Contact

For forms, help with completing an application or general queries, contact your local authority’s Rural Water Liaison Officer or Environment Section.

11 Appendices

11.1 FORM DWWTS NIP (a) Grant Payment Claim Form

GRANT PAYMENT CLAIM FORM

Works for the remediation, repair, upgrade or replacement of a Domestic Wastewater Treatment System (DWWTS), related to an inspection under the National Inspection Plan.

- Please read the following information notes before completing the application form.
- All questions on the form must be answered and, where specified, supporting documents must be provided. Incomplete forms, or those not accompanied by the appropriate documents, will not be processed.
- Work must NOT start before the local authority or its representative's visit. If work has started before that date, your application will not be considered.
- Once the application has been approved and works completed, the local authority may carry out such inspections or other checks as it considers necessary before approving claim for payment.
- The grant scheme is administered by local authorities. Any enquiries should be addressed to the Rural Water Liaison Officer or the Environment Section in the local authority.
- All forms to be used can be obtained from the local authority, who will provide assistance with completing them if required.
- In respect of an applicant receiving grants, subsidies or similar type payments from a Government Department or Public Authority that have a total value of more than €10,000 during the year, you will need an e-Tax Clearance certificate.
- The local authority reserves the right to make any necessary enquiries to verify information or for clarification of supporting documents provided with a grant application. An application that includes false or misleading information or documents will not be approved for a grant.

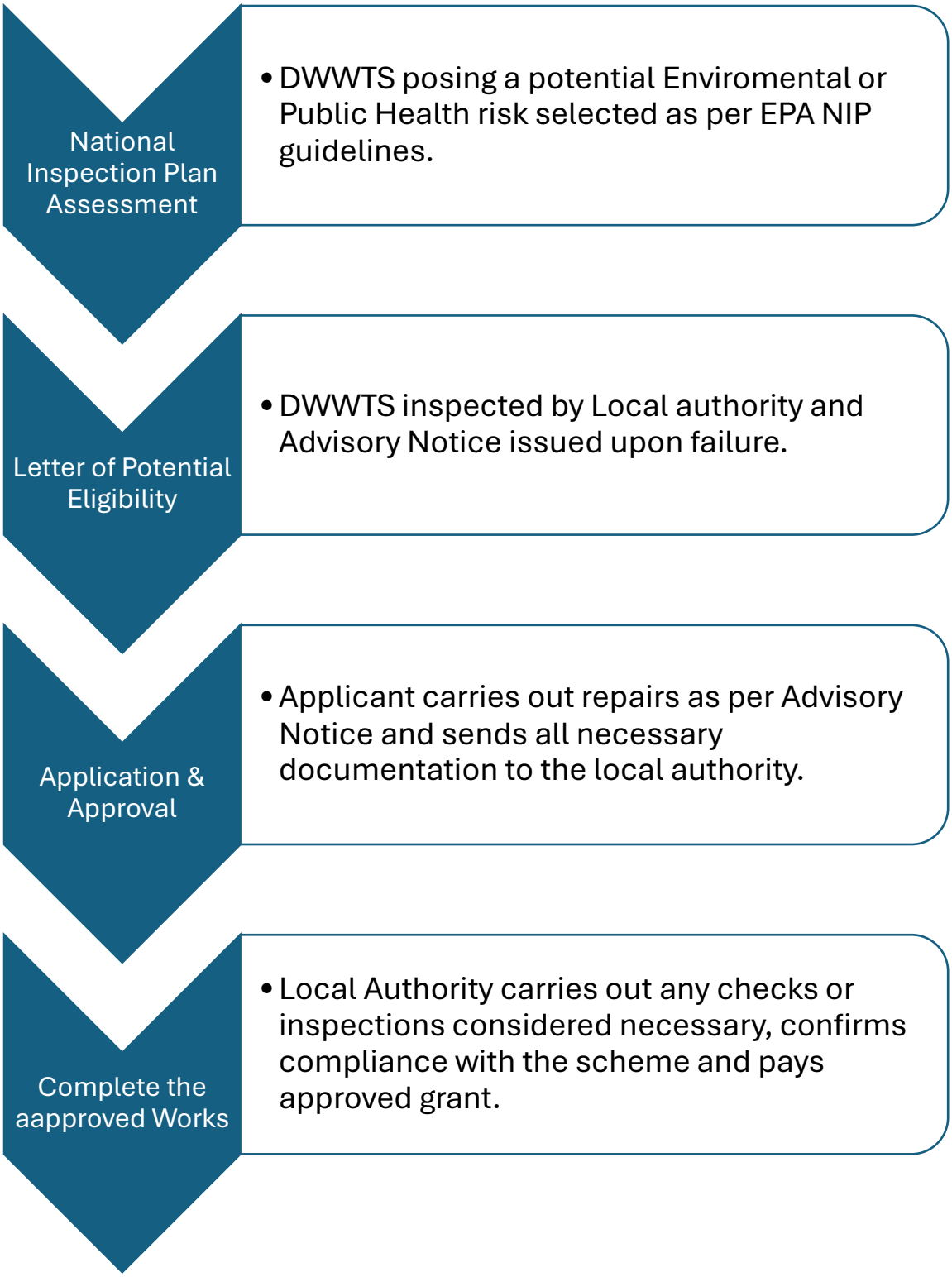
1. Details of the Applicant	
Name of applicant (in block capitals):	
Address (location of DWWTS): EIRCODE (required):	
Telephone no:	
E-mail address:	
E-Tax clearance printout:	Yes ☐ No ☐

SAMPLE

In the last 12 mths, have you received a grant from any public body? If yes, please provide details: • amount: • date paid:	Yes ☐ No ☐ €
2. Details of the DWWTS	
Date inspection carried out:	
Advisory Notice reference number:	
Date of local authority Notice of Compliance:	
3. Previous Payments	
Was any grant paid in respect of this property in the last 7 years? If yes, please provide details: • amount: • date paid:	Yes ☐ No ☐ €
4. General description and cost of works carried out (Itemised receipt(s) must be provided when the works are completed):	
5. Details of Contractor(s) (e-Tax Clearance printout for each contractor must be provided)	
Contractor 1	**Contractor 2 (if applicable)**
Contractor name:	Contractor name:
Contractor address: EIRCODE:	Contractor address: EIRCODE:
6. Declaration	
I declare that the information provided by me on this grant payment claim form is correct and I understand that the provision of any false or misleading information or invalid supporting documents may result in this claim being cancelled **Signature of claimant:** _____ **Date:** _____	

SAMPLE

11.2 Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Grant NIP Application Process Flow Chart



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