

MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL to be held on Monday, 25th September 23.

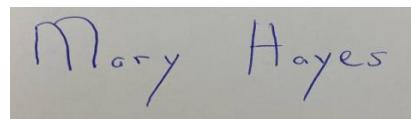
Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that housing adaptation grant money be paid directly to the builder/contractor when the job is completed, the same system as in Counties Cork and Kerry.

REPLY:

- The Housing Adaptation Grant for Persons with a Disability, Housing Aid for Older People and the Mobility Aid Grants are grants which are available to private householders. The housing aid grants are works carried out to private houses, where the householder & approved grant applicant engages directly with the contractor. The Council administers the scheme and approves an applicant for a grant but does not recommend or engage contractors to carry out works to the approved applicant's property as this is the responsibility of the householder.
- Once an applicant is approved for a grant, it is the decision of the householder to engage a contractor to carry out the works. Applicants are advised at the time of approval that payment of the grant will be made directly to them. If there are future issues with workmanship or payment queries this is between the contractor and the applicant and Limerick City and County Council has no liability.
- Under the Revenue Guidance Notes for Government Payments, Local Authorities are required to file an annual return of payments made in the previous year which includes the Tax Reference details of those receiving payment. The payments made to approved applicants for the housing aid grants noted above would also be included in this report. Any contractor employed directly by the Council to carry out what would be deemed construction works is subject to Relevant Contractor Retention Tax and details of the contract must be filed with ROS by the Council. Local Authorities are deemed principal contractors and if the practice of paying contractors instead of the approved housing grant applicants for works under the Housing grant scheme, it could be deemed that the RCT system would apply.

- In exceptional circumstances we do authorise payment to contractors where an applicant does not have a bank account. These are considered on a case by case basis.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive style with "Mary" on the first line and "Hayes" on the second line.

Mary Hayes
Senior Executive Officer
Housing Support Services

21st September 2023