

From: Minister Browne's Office
Sent: Wednesday 26 February 2025 12:11
To: CPCM - Meetings Admin
Subject: HPLG-MBO-00357-2025

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

26th February 2025

RE: HPLG-MBO-00357-2025

I have been asked by Mr. James Browne T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to thank you for your letter dated 13 February 2025, in connection with the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People scheme, in respect of private houses.

On 26 September 2024, Ministers' Darragh O'Brien and Alan Dillon published the Report on the Review of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability. Amongst the recommendations included in the Report were a proposed increase in the grant limits by over 30% and the income thresholds by 25% as well as number of other measures in relation to the means test. The Report on the Review of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability is available on the Department's website.

On 5 November 2024, Minister Darragh O'Brien signed a statutory instrument, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, giving effect to the recommendations in the Review. The new scheme commenced from 1 December 2024 and all applications submitted on or after that date will be considered under the revised scheme. New application forms are available from local authorities from 1 December.

The Housing (Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People) Regulations 2024 provide the legal basis for the introduction of the recommendations set out in the recently completed review. The key changes include an increase in the grant limits of over 30%, an increase of 25% in the income thresholds for eligibility. The legislation also adjusts the burden sharing for local authorities by reducing the local authority funding

contribution to 15% (from the existing 20%) together with a number of amendments to the means test. Key changes in the Regulations include:

- An increase in the maximum level of Housing Adaption Grant for Disabled People to €40,000 (an increase of €10,000);
- An increase in the maximum level of the Housing Aid for Older People Grant to €10,700 (an increase of €2,700); and
- An increase in the maximum level of the Mobility Aid Grant of €8,000 (an increase of €2,000).
- Household income reverts to 2007 definition assessing just the homeowner and their spouse in owner occupied housing, and tenant and their spouse in private rented accommodation.

Budget 2025 provides for an increase of €25m in the funding provision for the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability scheme, with almost €100 million allocated for 2025, available from 1 January 2025. This increase will facilitate the implementation of the revised scheme.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan McCarthy

Private Secretary