



1st October, 2026

Re: Current Operation of the Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes

Dear Meetings Administrator,

I write to inform you that the members of Donegal County Council at their recent plenary meeting resolved to adopt the following resolution:

"I ask that Donegal County Council calls on the Minister to urgently review the current operation of the Housing Adaptation Grant schemes for older people and people with disabilities.

Many elderly and disabled people require essential adaptations to their homes, including accessible bathrooms, ramps, stairlifts and other works that allow them to live safely and independently. However, under the current arrangements, applicants are often required to provide upfront payments to contractors, creating a significant barrier for those who cannot afford the cost. In my opinion, this current system is not practical, as it leaves the most vulnerable people behind, the people that it is supposed to help, as they cannot afford the upfront costs. Furthermore, the income thresholds are set far too low by means test and exclude many people who genuinely need this grant.

I ask that this council consider any mechanisms that could be put in place whereby Contractors could be paid directly or provide appropriate advance or staged payments following approval of a grant. If we cannot fix this issue in house, I call on the council to write to the relevant ministerial department/s and ask for engagement with local authorities and relevant organizations to find a practical and nationally consistent solution.

I ask that the council agrees to circulate this motion to all local authorities throughout Ireland, inviting them to consider adopting a similar position, and a copy is to be forwarded to the relevant minister/s for a formal response."

Members asked also that a specific response timeline be provided as to when this review would take place.

Yours sincerely

For Richard Gibson
Meetings Administrator