



**Department of Housing, Local Government and
Heritage
Housing Grants Section
Government Offices
Ballina
Co. Mayo**

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Explanatory Memorandum H.A. 2 T

Grant for the Renewal or Repair of Thatched Roofs of Houses

**PLEASE READ THIS MEMORANDUM CAREFULLY BEFORE COMPLETING GRANT
APPLICATION FORM**

January 2021



Part A - Eligibility

1. Conditions of Eligibility

A grant of up to €3,810 or two thirds of the approved cost (whichever lesser) may be payable towards necessary works to renew or repair the thatched roofs of houses. A higher grant (up to €5,714) may be payable for houses on specified Islands. For owners of qualifying thatch properties, who are also Medical Card holders, the maximum grant available is €6,350, or up to 80% of the approved cost (€8,252 for Islands). This is subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) The house is:
 - (a) 10 or more years old,
 - (b) Structurally sound, and,
 - (c) Used on completion of the approved works as a normal place of residence.
[Houses occupied on a part-time basis (e.g. holiday homes) are not eligible.]
- (ii) The work is not commenced until the house has been inspected by an inspector of the Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- (iii) The work is carried out in accordance with good thatching practice, is satisfactorily completed and any other repairs to the house, considered necessary by the Department are carried out.
- (iv) The approved cost of the work is greater than €952.
- (v) Applicants furnish their income tax numbers and confirm that their tax affairs are in order.

2. A grant cannot be allowed where a grant for the renewal or repair of thatch was paid under this scheme or Roinn na Gaeltachta scheme, unless a period of 7 years has elapsed since payment of the previous grant.

3. A grant cannot be allowed for the provision of a thatched roof on a house not previously having a thatched roof.



Part B - General

4. When to Apply

Application must be made in good time to ensure that an inspection can be carried out before work commences. Applicants are advised not to start immediately after inspection but to wait until you get a decision on your eligibility and on the amount of the grant to which you are entitled.

Should work commence before an inspection is carried out, a grant will not be allowed.

In order to avoid delays, please ensure that all questions on the application form are fully answered. Application forms not fully completed may be returned to applicants.

5. Where to Apply

Fully completed application forms should be forwarded to the Housing Grants Section, Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Government Buildings, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

6. Payment of Grants

A Certificate of Approval will issue following the first inspection if the proposed work qualifies for a grant. When the work is completed, the Certificate of Approval should be returned to the Department signed by the applicant and the thatcher who carried out the work.

Following the receipt of the signed Certificate of Approval an inspection will be carried out after which the grant will be paid, provided all the work approved and any other necessary repairs have been satisfactorily completed.

The payment of a grant involves no warranty on the part of the Minister as to the works carried out or the structural soundness of the house.



SPECIAL NOTE

1. The work should be undertaken by an experienced tradesman, skilled in the use of thatching materials.
2. Suitable straw or reeds should be used.
3. All bad and rotted thatch should be stripped off and all deep holes repaired and levelled.
4. Where the roof is being completely renewed, the new thatch should have a minimum thickness of 350mm and be laid on a firm and sound base.
5. Ridges, eaves, verges, etc., should be properly executed so as to prevent the ingress of water.
6. Where thatch abuts a chimney, suitable flashing material should be provided.
7. The thatched roof should be effectively protected against attacks by birds or vermin.

Housing Grants section is committed to providing a high quality service to all our customers. We aim to maintain and improve this standard of service and to keep errors to a minimum. If an applicant is dissatisfied with the level of service received, we at Housing Grants want to hear about the problem so that we can work at improving the service. Complaints should be directed to Quality Customer Service Officer, Housing Grants Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Government Offices, Ballina, Co. Mayo.