



Public Information

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY FLOODING

Introduction

This leaflet sets out information on the assistance available from Government for persons affected by flooding. It describes the schemes which are available under the following four headings:

- House-holders:** The Department of Social Protection's Humanitarian Assistance Scheme
- Small Businesses:** The Irish Red Cross Temporary Humanitarian Assistance Scheme
- Community, Voluntary & Sporting Bodies:** The Irish Red Cross Temporary Humanitarian Assistance Scheme.
- Farming Community:** Department of Agriculture's Schemes to support specific needs of farmers

It also provides information on who to contact and how to apply for assistance.

HOUSE-HOLDERS

Support for people whose homes are affected by flooding: Department of Social Protection's Humanitarian Assistance Scheme

The Humanitarian Assistance Scheme, which is means tested, is available to assist all people whose homes are damaged by flooding and who are not in a position to meet costs for essential needs, household items and in some instances structural repair. Assistance can be provided to non-Social Welfare recipients and even persons on higher income may be eligible to receive some support under the scheme. For example, a family consisting of a couple and two children with a gross household income of €70,000 or less will receive 100% of the amount allowable in respect of their application. A reduced level of support can be provided where such families have income over €70,000.

In dealing with emergency events of this nature, the Department of Social Protection generally adopts a three stage approach as follows:

Stage 1 is to provide emergency income support payments (food, clothing and personal items) in the immediate aftermath of the event. A relatively small amount of financial assistance is generally provided initially with payments around the country ranging from €100 to €500 depending on family size.

Stage 2 generally involves the replacement of white goods, basic furniture items and other essential household items. It is not until the flood water abates and houses dry out that the full extent of the damage to homes will become known.

Stage 3 is to identify what longer term financial support or works are required. It could take several months before this stage of response commences. Works carried out can include plastering, dry-lining, relaying of floors, electrical re-wiring and painting.

Assistance is not provided for losses which are covered by insurance or for commercial and business losses.

How to Apply

People seeking assistance under the scheme should contact their local Department of Social Protection Intreo Centre or Community Welfare Service office. Department contact phone numbers for persons in affected areas are available below and on the Department's website, along with full information on the Humanitarian Assistance Scheme, as follows:

<http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Humanitarian-Assistance-Scheme.aspx>.

Areas affected	
Athlone, Co. Westmeath	(090) 6449650
Co. Carlow	086 8371159
Co. Clare, Co. Limerick	(061) 436010, (061) 436027
Co. Cork, Co. Kerry	(021) 4805475
Co. Galway	(091) 536773
Co. Mayo	(094) 9063707
Co. Sligo, Co. Leitrim, Co. Donegal	(071) 9113765
Co. Cavan, Co. Louth, Co. Monaghan	(042) 9392686
Counties Offaly, Laois, Kilkenny, North and South Tipperary	(057) 9318543
Co. Waterford	(051) 356000
Co. Wexford	(053) 9165400
Co. Wicklow	(01) 2117958

This list may be updated, as appropriate, on the Department of Social Protection website as the flooding situation changes.

SMALL BUSINESSES

Support for people whose small businesses are affected by flooding: IRISH RED CROSS Temporary Humanitarian Support Scheme

The Irish Red Cross Society is administering a temporary scheme to provide emergency humanitarian support to small businesses that have been unable to secure flood insurance and have been flooded following storms in December 2015 – January 2016. The scheme is a humanitarian support contribution towards the costs of returning business premises to their pre-flood condition including the replacement of flooring, fixtures and fittings and damaged stock. The scheme does not provide a contribution to loss of earnings or loss of business good-will.

The scheme is targeted at small businesses (up to 20 employees) and has two stages:

1. The first stage is intended to provide an immediate contribution of up to €5,000, depending on the scale of damage incurred.
2. In the event that businesses have incurred significant damages above €5,000, the second stage will provide a means to seek further support. However, this will be a more lengthy process requiring a detailed assessment.

The total level of support available for both stages combined will be capped at €20,000 per property.

Where premises/ business has been flooded, reinstated, and then flooded for a second time, a small business can submit a second claim which will be subject to a more detailed assessment.

The time period covers December 2015 and January 2016. It should be noted that it remains open for people to apply for assistance until 21 February 2016.

Email at emergencyflooding2015@redcross.ie or call us on 01-6424600 for more details.

CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION FOR PAYMENT UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS SCHEME

1. Only those small businesses that could not secure flood insurance are eligible.
2. For the purpose of this scheme a small business will be defined as one with up to 20 employees.
3. The business premises must have been flooded on or after December 4 2015 and this fact verified by the relevant Local Authority.
4. Any location within the State that was flooded during the period in question is encompassed by the scheme.
5. At the time of the flood, the business must have been trading and in a rateable premises or be able to supply a Tax Clearance Certificate, or where this is not available, recent correspondence from Revenue showing a Tax Registration Number.

How to Apply

Application forms can be downloaded here: <https://www.redcross.ie/emergency-humanitarian-flooding-assistance/>.

Completed application forms and supporting documentation can be scanned and submitted electronically to emergencyflooding2015@redcross.ie

Alternatively, completed application forms and supporting documentation can be sent by post marking it "Private and Confidential" to:

The Irish Red Cross Society,
Emergency Flooding 2015,
16 Merrion Square,
Dublin 2.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Sunday, 21 February 2016.

Anyone making a second claim (i.e. applicants that have already submitted applications following Storm Desmond, who are submitting new applications as a result of Storm Frank) please indicate that you are making a second claim. The submission of a second claim will be processed following a visit from an independent assessor appointed by the Irish Red Cross.

COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY & SPORTING BODIES

Support for Community, Voluntary & Sporting Bodies affected by flooding:

IRISH RED CROSS Temporary Humanitarian Support Scheme

The Irish Red Cross Society is administering a temporary scheme to provide emergency humanitarian support to small businesses which has been extended to cover Community, Voluntary and Sporting Bodies affected by the flooding in December 2015 – January 2016. The scheme is a humanitarian support contribution to cover damage to buildings, contents or equipment following storms in December 2015 – January 2016.

The scheme has two stages:

1. The first stage is intended to provide an immediate contribution of up to €5,000, depending on the scale of damage incurred.
2. In the event that a premises, its contents or equipment has incurred significant damages above €5,000, the second stage will provide a means to seek further support. However, this will be a more lengthy process requiring a more detailed assessment.

The total level of support available for both stages combined will be capped at €20,000 per property.

The time period covers December 2015 and January 2016. It should be noted that it remains open for people to apply for assistance until 21 February 2016

Email at emergencyflooding2015@redcross.ie or call us on 01-6424600 for more details.

CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION FOR PAYMENT UNDER THE COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND SPORTING BODIES SCHEME

1. The community, voluntary or sporting body must have been operating/ trading at the time between the period of December 2015 and January 2016.
2. The premises must have been flooded during the period of December 2015 and January 2016 and this fact is verified by the relevant Local Authority.
3. Only those organisations that could not secure flood insurance are eligible.

How to Apply

Application forms can be downloaded here: <https://www.redcross.ie/emergency-humanitarian-flooding-assistance/>

Completed application forms and supporting documentation can be scanned and submitted electronically to emergencyflooding2015@redcross.ie

Alternatively, completed application forms and supporting documentation can be sent by post marking it **“Private and Confidential”** to:

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FARMING COMMUNITY

Support for people whose farms are affected by flooding: Department of Agriculture's Assistance Schemes

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has put in place the following assistance measures in response to the recent severe flooding.

1. Animal Welfare

- **Helpline: Callsave: 0761 064408 or 01 607 2379**

The Department's Animal Welfare Helpline is operational for farmers in need of emergency support where there is potential for animal welfare issues e.g. the provision of emergency fodder

- **Temporary Movement of Livestock**

The Department has relaxed a number of the rules around the movement of animals where the welfare of lives of animals is threatened. Herd Owners should contact the Animal Welfare helpline or their local Veterinary office for further details.

- **Flooded Slurry tanks**

The Department has put in place special arrangements in the event of flooding of slurry tanks in severely flooded areas. Farmers should contact their local Department office for guidance.

- **Teagasc Advisory Helpline: Call save 0761 113555**

Farmers impacted by flooding are also advised to keep in touch with their Teagasc Adviser for advice.

2. Fodder Aid Scheme 2016

A new scheme of assistance for farmers who have suffered fodder losses as a result of severe flooding during the months of December 2015 and January 2016 has been launched. This support will apply to the loss of silage, hay, straw and concentrates where there is evidence of damage caused by flooding and where the losses are not covered by insurance. On-farm visits will be undertaken by Department personnel to confirm the quantities of fodder lost due to the flooding.

Application Forms and Terms and Conditions for the Scheme are available on the Department's website from **Thursday 7 January**, from the Departments local office network, and from Teagasc. The closing date for applications for this scheme is **Friday 22nd January 2016**.

Queries in relation to the Scheme can be directed to:

The Direct Payments Unit (Fodder Aid Section)
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Portlaoise,
Co Laois.

Phone No. Callsave 0761 064426

In addition to the above, the terms and conditions of a scheme to cover a small number of farmers who have experienced exceptional losses is under consideration at present. This measure may require clearance with the European Commission. Details will be published as soon as possible.

3. Farm Inspections

In the case of farm inspections where significant flooding is evident on farms, force majeure provisions provided in the EU Regulations will be applied by Department Inspectors and sensitivity shown where flood damage is found e.g. fencing missing.