



**An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht**  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

# **Working Group on the Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme**

## **Meeting Minutes 17/09/2021**

**24<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

<b>Venue; Meeting held virtually via Webex</b>
<b>Date &amp; Timings: 17/09/2021 @ 10.00</b>
<b>Working group attendees:</b>  <b>Graham Doyle</b> , Secretary General, D/HLGH- Chairperson <b>Barry Quinlan</b> , Assistant Secretary, D/HLGH <b>Paul Benson</b> , Principal Officer, D/HLGH <b>John O'Connor</b> , Independent Housing Expert and Advisor <b>Michael Doherty</b> , Donegal Homeowner <b>Eileen Doherty</b> , Donegal Homeowner <b>Joe Morgan</b> , Donegal Homeowner <b>Eamonn Jackson</b> , Donegal Homeowner <b>Martina Hegarty</b> , Mayo Homeowner <b>Julie Tracey</b> , Mayo Homeowner <b>Thomas Gilligan</b> , Director of Services of Mayo County Council
<b>Other attendees:</b>  <b>Kevin Dillon</b> , Ministers Special Advisor <b>Niamh Drew</b> , Ministers Programme Manager <b>Noel Halvey</b> , Assistant Principal Officer, D/HLGH, Group Secretary
<b>Apologies:</b>
<b>Circulation:</b> Attendees plus Niamh Redmond, Ciara Shaughnessy, Laura Mannion.

**With a number of Working Group Members changing since the last meeting everyone gave an introduction and the meeting proceeded with a quorum as per the Terms of Reference**

**Agenda item 1:** Endorse amended meeting minutes from meeting four.

<b>Discussion points:</b>		
<b>Decisions Taken:</b> Minutes Endorsed		
<b>Dissension from Decisions:</b>		
<b>Actions required</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>By when</b>

**Agenda item 2:** Endorse amended meeting minutes from meeting five.

<b>Discussion points:</b>		
<b>Decisions Taken:</b> Minutes Endorsed		
<b>Dissension from Decisions:</b>		
<b>Actions required</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>By when</b>

**Agenda Items 3:** Update on subgroups on meetings held during August

<b>Discussion points:</b> John O'Connor provided an update in relation to the meetings held between the Housing Association and Homeowner Representatives which took place through August.  Main issues discussed were Remediation Scheme, Costs/SCSI Costs, Engineers Ireland (Damien Owens in attendance), Certification and Insurance, Assisted Homeowners with final paper. Eileen Doherty confirmed that the discussions had been positive and helpful to homeowners.  Paul Benson gave an overview of the discussions in relation to possible changes which could be made to the scheme to improve it for participants covering areas like, the application process, costs, second grant options, liabilities, guarantees and certification, allowable costs, excluded works, betterment and costs per square foot.  It was also outlined that as a result of these meetings a lot of progress had been made in the month of August with the engagement outside of the formal working group meetings.  <b>Decisions Taken:</b>  <b>Dissension from Decisions:</b>		
<b>Actions required</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>By when</b>

**Agenda Item 4:** Homeowners representatives present their final position paper and costings document

**Discussion points:** Eileen commenced the presentation of the Homeowner’s final position paper. The main points of the presentation were 100% redress, homeowner assurance, property exclusions, testing/delays, LA administration, special provision, IS:465 protocol, SEAI grants, public inquiry.

Joe Morgan took over presenting in relation to the costs and stated that in relation to options 2 to 5 100% within the current caps would cover all costs in relation to remediation and outlined what 100% in relation to option 1 means.

In relation to CAPS, 100% funding would mean for any dwelling up to 1700 sq/ft the true cost to remediate is €272,415 based on homeowner costings and for those larger dwellings up to 4000 sq/ft €524,666 is the true cost to remediate.

Clarifications sought by Kevin Dillon in relation to:

- SCSi – was foundation included in Mica costs
- Clarification on retrospective homes
- PPR vs Rental vs Holiday homes quantities
- Basis of 2% reduction for betterment within calculations
- Economies of scale calculation

Paul Benson queried some of the figures in the homeowner calculator and it was confirmed by Joe Morgan that the calculator did include for new foundations and had not offset anything for salvage costs in the examples given

**Decisions Taken:** Documents to be shared by homeowners with the Department

**Dissension from Decisions:**

Actions required	By whom	By when
Donegal homeowner representatives to send on the final position paper and associated documents to the Department	Eileen, Joe	Received

**Agenda Item 5:** AOB

**Discussion points:** Homeowners pressed for a response from Minister O'Brien to the DCB issue by the 30th September. It was confirmed that the terms of reference required the working group to complete its work and submit a report to the Minister by the extended 30th September deadline. Kevin Dillon however did confirm that the Minister would make every effort to communicate a position by or within a short period of the 30th September.

**Decisions Taken:** Sub group meetings to continue during the week of the 20th and a final meeting of the wider group to take place week beginning the 27th - date to be decided

**Dissension from Decisions:**

<b>Actions required</b>	<b>By whom</b>	By when
Arrange next meetings	Noel Halvey	Week of the 20 <sup>th</sup> September

**Next meeting: Wednesday XX September 2021 Virtually via Webex at XXam**

***This concluded the meeting:***

