

Brenda Kelly
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Corporate Department
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Ref: DRCD-MO-00307-2022

Dear Ms Kelly,

Thank you for your correspondence dated June 28th with regard to a motion put forward at a recent meeting of Kilkenny County Council seeking additional funding under the Local Improvement Scheme for 2022.

As part of *Our Rural Future*, the Government is committed to ensuring that the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) is funded into the future. The LIS supports the improvement of rural roads and laneways that are not normally maintained by local authorities. The scheme makes an important contribution to connectivity in rural Ireland.

The scheme was reintroduced in 2017, following a number of years with no dedicated funding. Between 2017 and 2021, the Department has allocated €80 million towards improvement works on over 3,000 non-public roads and lanes. These works have benefited over 13,300 landowners and residents in these rural areas.

The Minister was pleased, as part of Budget 2022, to announce an increase in the base funding for LIS to €11 million this year, bringing the total since 2017 to just over €90 million. In that announcement, the Minister allocated €390,790 to County Kilkenny, bringing the total allocated to the county since 2017 to just over €3 million.

The Minister is currently reviewing expenditure year to date within her Department and if savings emerge in other areas, she will consider additional funding for the Local Improvement Scheme in the overall allocations.

The Minister wants to thank you for bringing this matter to her attention and for the ongoing support shown by Kilkenny County Council in the administration of the Local Improvement Scheme in the county.

Yours sincerely,

Damien Griffin
Private Secretary to Heather Humphreys T.D.
Minister for Rural and Community Development

An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and Community Development

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