

**Question: 615** Minister, despite the Covid-19 crisis, can you confirm that the funding for the Local Improvement Schemes which were announced recently, will not be effected and will still be allowed to be drawn down by our Local Authorities.

Yours Sincerely,

- Michael Healy-Rae T.D.

### **REPLY**

#### **Minister for Rural and Community Development (Michael Ring)**

The Local Improvement Scheme, or LIS, is a programme for improvement works on small private or non-public roads in rural areas which are not under the normal maintenance of the Local Authorities. The scheme is funded by my Department and is administered through the Local Authorities.

Since 2017, I have allocated over €48 million to the Local Authorities to deliver the scheme. This has resulted in over 2,000 road projects being approved for works.

Last month I confirmed that a budget of €10 million is being made available for the Local Improvement Scheme in 2020. Each Local Authority is being provided with the same financial allocation as 2019.

Local Authorities are currently determining the roads to be funded under the scheme in 2020 and this information is due to be provided to my Department later this month. My Department will, of course, provide flexibility in the current circumstances for Local Authorities that are not in a position to meet this deadline. My Department will also keep the timeline for the completion of the works under review as the COVID-19 situation develops.