



**Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail An Longfoirt**  
**Public Participation Network Longford**

**County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)**

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## **PPN Newsletter February 2025**

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### **Suicide Reduction Policy – Public Consultation survey**

A public consultation to inform the next suicide reduction policy in Ireland was launched on 7 March 2025:

[gov.ie - Minister for Mental Health launches public consultation on new suicide reduction policy](#)

Information about the public consultation can be found here:

[gov.ie - Public consultation on Ireland's next suicide reduction policy](#)

To offer your views on suicide reduction in Ireland and express what you would like to see in the new policy you can complete the below linked survey:

[Suicide Reduction Policy - Public Consultation](#)

## Aarhus Convention and the Pollutant Release Transfer Register (PRTR) Protocol

Please find information on the public consultation on Ireland's implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the Pollutant Release Transfer Register (PRTR) Protocol:

The Department of Climate, Environment, Energy have just launched the public consultation on Ireland's implementation of the Aarhus Convention and the Pollutant Release Transfer Register (PRTR) Protocol available [here](#).

DECC encourages your organisation to participate in this public consultation. This process will inform Ireland's National Implementation Reports on the Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocol 2025. The Department has prepared draft National Implementation Reports to outline the implementation of the Aarhus Convention and PRTR Protocols in Ireland.

To inform the final documents, comments are invited from stakeholders, members of the public and other interested parties. DECC invites you to further disseminate information about the public consultation process and requests that you promote these public consultations through your organisation's website and social media forums, where possible.

### **Aarhus Convention**

The Aarhus Convention lays down a set of basic rules to promote citizen's involvement in environmental matters and improve enforcement of environmental law.

Its provisions are broken down into three Pillars: Access to Information on the Environment, Public Participation in Environmental Decision-making and Access to Justice.

Ireland ratified the Aarhus Convention on 20th June 2012.

### **PRTR Protocol**

The PRTR Protocol seeks to reduce the burden of pollution and waste by establishing publicly accessible national pollutant registers. The Protocol requires each of its Parties to establish and maintain a publicly accessible national PRTR that meets certain requirements which are set out in the Protocol.

The Irish PRTR, which was launched in 2007, is maintained by the Environmental Protection Agency and is available at <https://www.epa.ie/our-services/compliance--enforcement/whats-happening/pollutant-release-and-transfer-register/>

Comments on the draft document should be submitted by email or received by post no later than the **7th April 2025**.

Email: [Aarhus-decc@decc.gov.ie](mailto:Aarhus-decc@decc.gov.ie) or Post:

The Aarhus Unit,  
Department of Climate, Environment and Energy,  
Tom Johnston House,  
Haddington Road,  
Dublin,  
D04 K7X4

For more information on the Aarhus Convention, please go to:  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b3b1a-aarhus-convention/>

## Department of Rural and Community Development – Rural Development Policy Survey

**The Department of Rural and Community Development is developing the next phase of Ireland’s rural development policy which will build on the progress made under *Our Rural Future 2021 -2025*.**

We invite you to take part in our public consultation survey, available here:  
<https://panel.amarachsveys.ie/S2/159/DRCD2025/> .

As an organisation with an interest in rural Ireland, your insights are crucial and your feedback will help ensure rural policy continues to support and strengthen rural communities across Ireland.

We would also be grateful if you could share the survey, which can be completed in English or Irish, within your organisation and with your broader networks. The survey will remain open until Wednesday 2 April.

Please contact [Rural.Consultation@dr cd.gov.ie](mailto:Rural.Consultation@dr cd.gov.ie) if you have any queries.

Thank you for your time and contribution.

Department of Rural and Community Development

## National Built Heritage Service 2025 Conservation Advice Scheme for Vacant Traditional Houses

The National Built Heritage Service (NBHS), Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage recently launched their **2025 Conservation Advice Scheme for Vacant Traditional Houses**. The Conservation Advice Grant Scheme for Vacant Traditional Houses is an expanded funding scheme to provide **grants for**

**expert conservation advice to owners** of vacant traditional houses who are availing of, or considering, the **Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant**. [Click here for information on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant in Co. Longford](#)

The Conservation Advice Grant Scheme provides grants to cover 67% of the costs (up to a maximum grant of €5,000) of having a conservation expert with proven and appropriate expertise:

- visit a vacant or derelict traditional building
- conduct a survey, and
- compile tailored conservation advice for the property owner.

This expert advice will include a report which outlines the condition of the building and identifies conservation improvements which would restore it to use while enhancing its character, energy efficiency, integrity, and amenity.

The aim of the scheme is to help owners of traditionally constructed houses to understand the heritage value and potential of these structures and to prompt them to consider investments which could protect and enhance that value.

The grant scheme has two streams:

#### **Stream 1**

This is open to owners of vacant traditional houses in villages, towns and cities, where the building is a Protected Structure and/or an historic structure within an Architectural Conservation Area.

#### **Stream 2**

This is open to the private owners of vacant traditional farmhouses, where the building one of the following:

1. A farmhouse which is a Protected Structure.
2. An historic farmhouse located within a rural Architectural Conservation Area.
3. A vernacular farmhouse that has no statutory protection.

Vernacular farmhouses comprise modest homes constructed by people without formal training following long established folk traditions, using materials such as thatch, stone, slate, earth, wattle and unsawn timber.

[Please click here for information](#) on how to find out if your building is on the Longford County Council Record of Protected Structures (RPS), or within the boundary of an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA).

#### **To apply:**

Please see the following link for further information and relevant documentation: [gov.ie - Conservation Advice Grant Scheme for Vacant Traditional Houses](#)

Application forms can be accessed here: [gov.ie - Conservation Advice Grant Scheme for Vacant Traditional Houses](#)

The guidance documents, application forms and Report Form templates have also been included below for your convenience. This fund is highly competitive, so please

read the guidance and privacy statement carefully and supply all information requested.

**Deadline:**

The deadline for application is **5pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025**. The completed and signed application forms, reports and all supporting documentation must be sent to [conservationadvicegrants@housing.gov.ie](mailto:conservationadvicegrants@housing.gov.ie) **only**.

[HSF2025\\_Privacy-Statement\\_Conservation-Advice-Scheme.pdf](#)

[HSF2025\\_Stream-2\\_Report-Template\\_CAS-for-Vacant-Traditional-Farmhouses.docx](#)

[HSF2025\\_Stream-2\\_Guidance-Booklet-for-Applicants\\_CAS-for-Vacant-Traditional-FARMHOUSES.pdf](#)

[HSF2025\\_Stream-1\\_Report-Template\\_CAS-for-Vacant-Traditional-Houses-TOWNS.docx](#)

[HSF2025\\_Stream-1\\_Guidance-Booklet-for-Applicants\\_CAS-for-Vacant-Traditional-Houses-TOWNS.pdf](#)