



Waterford City & County Council
Art/ Craft Studio or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shop Grant Scheme
Guidelines & Criteria
(April 9th 2015)

Objectives of the Scheme:

- ◆ To encourage Art/ Craft Studios or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shops¹ to occupy commercial premises/ retail units that have been vacant for a period of three or more months.
- ◆ To enhance the vitality and vibrancy of Waterford City centre and to strengthen Waterford's towns and villages core by promoting the re-development of underused town/village centre sites.
- ◆ To demonstrate the serious commitment of Waterford City & County Council to the economic regeneration of Waterford City centre and Waterford's towns and villages.

Guidelines & Criteria for Waterford City & County Council 'Art/ Craft Studio or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shop Scheme':

1. General description of the 'Art/Craft Studio or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shop Scheme'.

It is proposed to offer an incentive in the form of a grant to encourage Art/ Craft Studios or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shops in Waterford City Centre Commercial Area² and Waterford's towns and village centres.

A map entitled 'Waterford City Centre Grants Incentive Scheme' shows the prescribed area for Waterford City centre is included in Appendix 1. See Table 1 for a full list of eligible towns and villages. The relevant area in each town and village is the area zoned as 'Town Centre' or 'Village Centre' in the Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017. For maps of each of the areas covered under this scheme, please go to www.waterfordcouncil.ie/en/Resident/Planning/ForwardPlanning/.

2. Specification of eligibility of Art/ Craft Studios or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shops.

The **Art Craft Studios or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shops Scheme** will be available in the City Centre Commercial Area and Waterford's Towns and Villages for Qualifying Occupiers who **self produce** arts, craft or artisan foods or where arts, craft or artisan food are produced on location.

Applications under the Artisan Food Shops category are restricted to retail outlets and where the **sale of self produce is the primary activity of the retail space**. Premises such as restaurants, cafes, pubs etc., are not eligible under this scheme.

The floor space of the studio or shop should be less than 40m². Where the occupied premises has a larger floorplate, consideration will be given to inclusion of a portion of the premises under this scheme. This will be at the discretion of the Economic Development Department.

The premises must have been vacant for three or more months.

A prerequisite condition of qualifying for the Scheme is that there is no local authority charges owing on the building for which the relief is sought over the period of the grant aid (up to three years).

It shall be a condition of the scheme that:

- (i) An application for the Scheme is made on the Art Craft Studios or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shops Scheme Application Form.
- (ii) The applicant signs up for Direct Debit payments of any charges due to Waterford City & County Council. Failure to remain current on any charges will result in immediate cessation of the Scheme, removal of supports and the re-imposition of Commercial Rates.
- (iii) In the event that the applicant is leasing a property, which is the subject of the grant, it is conditional on proper evidence of the lease being provided to Waterford City & County Council.
- (iv) The scheme shall apply to the authorised planning use of premises only.
- (v) All applications will be reviewed on an individual basis and acceptance onto the Scheme will be at the sole discretion of Waterford City & County Council.



- (vi) An entitlement to the Art Craft Studios or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shops Scheme is personal to the Qualifying Occupier entitled thereto and shall not be capable of being assigned or shared with any third party. Any provision in an agreement or lease for the assignment or sharing of such entitlements shall be void.
- (vii) Should a successful applicant move to another Waterford location within the life of the scheme, the continuation of the grant will be at the discretion of the Economic Development Department.
- (viii) An applicant may only avail of one of the Economic Incentive Schemes from Waterford City & County Council.
- (ix) Failure to continue to meet the criteria of the scheme may result in the cessation of the scheme.

3. Grant Relief to be provided.

Grant relief for the Art Craft Studios or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shops Scheme is as follows:

100% of Commercial Rates payable in Years 1 to 3 of trading (i.e. 12 month period of trading).

This Grant will be discharged by way of an offset against Commercial Rates due.

Notes:

- ◆ Structural changes to a property may result in a revaluation of the property by Revenue or a localised apportionment of rates.
- ◆ Only the area or floor of a building in which the art/ craft studio or shop is operating will be assessed in calculating the value of the Grant.

4. Appeal Mechanism

The Director of Economic Development & Planning of Waterford City & County Council is responsible for the approval or not of the grant scheme subject to the Guidelines & Criteria for the Waterford City & County Council Art Craft Studios or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shops Scheme.

Should any body/ individual wish to appeal a decision, they may do so by stating in writing the entire basis for their appeal with vouchers attached and this appeal should be addressed to:

Chief Executive, Waterford City & County Council, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford.

The decision of the Chief Executive in respect of such an appeal will be final, conclusive and binding on all parties.

5. Effective Period of the Scheme

The effective period for the commencement of the Waterford City & County Council Art Craft Studios or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shops Scheme shall be the date on which the Scheme is approved by the Elected Members of Waterford City & County Council.

The Scheme will be available up to and including 31st December 2016. Only complete applications received on or before 31st December 2016 will be considered.

The Scheme may be the subject of review and amendment at any time by Waterford City & County Council.

Application Forms for the Art Craft Studios or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shops Scheme may be obtained from Lisa Grant:

✉ lgrant@waterfordcouncil.ie

🌐 <http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie/en/Business/Starting.a.Business/Retail.Business.Supports/>

☎ 0761 099709

📄 Economic Development Department, Waterford City & County Council, City Hall, The Mall Waterford

6. Assessment of Applications.

All applications will be assessed under the above Guidelines & Criteria and any Grant awarded will be further subject to the necessary funds to implement the Scheme.

Appendix 1 – Map of the Waterford City Centre Commercial Area as defined in the Waterford City Development Plan 2013-2019.

Table 1 Locations eligible under the Arts /Crafts Studio or Art/ Craft/ Artisan Food Shop Scheme

Level 1	Waterford City Centre Commercial Area
Level 2	Dungarvan & Tramore
Level 3	Ardmore, Ballymacarbry, Cappoquin, Dunhill, Dunmore East, Kilmacthomas, Kilmeaden, Lismore, Passage East, Portlaw, Stradbally, Tallow, Sean Phobal/ An Rinn
Level 4	Aglish, Annestown, Baile Na nGall, Ballinroad, Ballyaneen, Ballyduff Lower (East), Ballyduff Upper (West), Bawnfune, Bunmahon/ Knockmahon, Cheekpoint, Clashmore, Clonmel Environs, Clonea Power, Crooke, Fenor, Heilbhc, Kill, Knockanore, Lemybrien, Maoil na Choirne, Piltown, Rathgormuck, Tournaeena, Villierstown

¹ Artisan food refers to traditional or traditionally made food, mostly in batch sizes using hand-done techniques which encompasses flavour, tradition and the integrity of the producer

² The City Centre Commercial Area is as defined in the Waterford City Development Plan 2013-2019