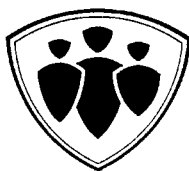


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MID-WESTERN
HEALTH BOARD

Date 05th March, 2004

**To: Cathaoirleach & Each Member
Mid-Western Health Board**

Item No 3 on Agenda

Report for Meeting of the Board to be held on Friday, 12th March, 2004

Briefing Notes for the Report of the Chief Executive Officer

Housing Aid for the Elderly

In North Tipperary and Clare, storage heaters are installed by external Registered Electrical Contractors at a cost of approximately €450 – €550, depending on the state of wiring, fuse board and type of house. In Limerick there is an Electrician within the Special Housing Aid for Elderly Scheme, therefore the cost of the scheme in Limerick of installing a radiator is approximately €300. However, depending on the workload of the scheme in Limerick, external Contractors are also employed and the cost of this method is similar to Tipperary and Clare.

The following is the breakdown if the ESB installed the storage heater.

Cost of heater	€267
2.5 T & E Cabling	€30
Trunking	€5
20 amp DPSW	€10
*Main Switch Fuse	€14
*Cert for ESB	€80
*Enclosure	€40
Surface box	€6
MCB	€8
Labour	€90
TOTAL	€550

* These items would be the same cost for more than 1 heater.

The main advantages to older persons of this type of heating are cleanliness and safety. The house is warm in the morning and gives off an even heat all day. The cost of night storage heating is €1.08 two monthly standing charge plus a running cost of €5.22 per heater.

The total budget for Housing Aid for the Elderly for 2004 is €1.6million for the Mid Western Health Board Region. The allocation between the three areas is as follows:

Area	Allocation for 2004	Current Waiting List	Average Grant Paid in 2003
Limerick	€640,000.00	701	€3,642.00
Clare	€480,000.00	507	€2,256.00
North Tipperary	€480,000.00	453	€3,000.00

It is difficult to estimate the cost of clearing the waiting list as it depends on a number of factors such as the type of work to be carried out, availability of contractors etc. However based on the average grant paid in 2003, the total cost of clearing the current waiting list is €5.055 million.

Based on the average grant paid in 2003, the following is the number of applications that could be dealt with this year:

- Limerick- 175 Applications
- Clare- 212 Applications
- North Tipperary- 160 Applications