

# Rural Empty Properties Grant (REPG)

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The Scottish Government's Inverness Office offers a new form of grant to encourage private landlords with several properties, particularly Estates - to bring their empty properties back into good condition and long-term rented occupation for the benefit of the local community.

Key differences between this scheme and the Lead Tenancies Scheme are:

- that the owner of the property is directly responsible for finding a suitable tenant, collecting the rent and otherwise managing and maintaining the property properly.
- Communities Scotland are very unlikely to be interested in the REPG assisting one property - they are much more interested in supporting projects which will help a landlord to bring at least three empty houses back into use, although the houses in question could be located quite far apart from each other.
- the rents charged are usually higher than Housing Association rents and the tenants are likely to be 'economically active' i.e. not people in receipt of Housing Benefit.

The Scottish Government will only consider REPG assisting landlords who can demonstrate that they have the skills and experience required to draw up a proper Business Plan for the project and manage the properties professionally. The amount of grant awarded to a successful applicant will depend on the scale and economic viability of the particular project after careful consideration of the Business Plan by the Scottish Government's staff in Inverness. Generally speaking, the greater the number of years the landlord is willing to guarantee his renovated properties will be used to provide affordable housing for local people the greater the amount of grant will be allocated. The proportion of public funding in the overall project costs is normally somewhere between 10% and 33% although, in exceptional cases, it can go as high as 60% maximum.

The Scottish Government's Inverness Office will be happy to provide more detailed information and advice to anyone interested in the Rural Empty Properties Grant Scheme.

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**Shetland Islands  
Council**



This information sheet is a reproduction of the **Housing Options Guide – Renovating Private Properties for Renting Out (Rural Empty Properties Grant)** section.

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