

# Multinational companies Financial incentives for foreign owned companies in Ireland

# Grants check?

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Do you know what grants are available?

Do you know your current grant entitlements or obligations?

Notwithstanding the current economic climate, Ireland remains a very attractive location for overseas companies. Ireland's low tax, high skills, focused sectoral approach and government support have all been factors which have led overseas companies to invest and reinvest in Ireland.

IDA Ireland, the government agency with responsibility for securing new investment from overseas

companies and for encouraging existing investors to expand and develop their businesses in Ireland, may be able to offer financial assistance to your company to establish or expand in Ireland.

Overleaf we provide a summary of incentives available in Ireland and a reminder of issues you may need to consider if you are already in receipt of grants.

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## Eligibility

*Is your company eligible for grant assistance?*

IDA can support companies involved in manufacturing or internationally traded services (ie providing a service to customers outside Ireland). If your company has already received some grant assistance and has met all its obligations under its grant agreement, then your company may be eligible for further grant assistance.

## Grant assistance

*What type of assistance is available?*

The range and rate of assistance available depends on a company's location within Ireland:

**Employment/Capital grants** - If your company is located in the Border, Midlands and Western region of Ireland or in the South-East region (Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Waterford, South Tipperary), and is planning to expand and increase job numbers, you may be eligible for employment grants and/or capital grants to assist our expansion of existing operations.

**Training grants** - if your company is upskilling, adding new functions or changing the way it does things, and a considerable investment in training personnel is required, IDA may be able to offer training grants to assist with the cost. A maximum grant rate of 25% of costs is available for specific training; a maximum grant rate of 60% is available towards the costs of training that is considered "general" in nature.

**Research & Development grants** – a number of R&D activities can attract financial assistance:

- feasibility studies to determine the feasibility of conducting specific R&D activities in Ireland

- the establishment of new R&D facilities
- the expansion of existing R&D facilities
- research & development into new products or processes.
- collaboration with a university department
- cross border European collaboration (EU FP7 programme).

The rate of R&D grant assistance from IDA can vary up to a maximum of 35% depending on the type of R&D being carried out and the degree of collaboration. This is in addition to 25% R&D tax credits available for expenditure on qualifying R&D.

## Existing Grant Agreements

Many overseas companies operating in Ireland have Grant Agreements that were negotiated and signed several years ago by people who may no longer be involved in the Irish operation. A full understanding of existing Grant Agreements is required if you are:

- unsure if you can still claim some grants under current Grant Agreement/s
- considering applying for additional assistance
- restructuring
- reducing your workforce
- closing your Irish operation
- unsure if you still have commitments under the terms of existing Grant Agreements.

Should you require further information please call your usual contact within the firm or contact:

Liam Diamond 01 792 6579  
Joan Callaghan 01 792 8623.

## How can PwC help?

The PwC Grants team can help you in a number of ways:

### 1. Grant eligibility

We can help you to determine eligibility for new grant assistance and identify the types of grant available.

### 2. Grant applications

We can assist you with the application and negotiation process and help ensure that the grant offered is suitably structured for your company.

### 3. Grant payments

Once you have been awarded grants it is important that you draw down the grants on a timely, efficient basis. All grant claims must be audited – we offer a streamlined grant audit service to ensure that the grant audit does not hold up the company's claim for grant monies.

### 4. Grants review

If you are unclear about your grant status and the outstanding obligations or entitlements you have, we can review your existing Grant Agreements and provide you with a full status report indicating: amounts still to be drawn down obligations still outstanding, action to be taken.

### 5. Grant repayments/clawback

In the event that things do not go according to the company's original plans, we will advise you on how to manage any clawback or repayment issues that arise.

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