

The Safe-Home Programme

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Co. Mayo

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From the Chairman's Desk

Greetings,

It's a variable summer weather-wise, what with rain and wind and un-summer like temperatures. Yet the swifts are here and the woodbine (the plant) is beautifully fragrant. It's a joy to walk on the Great Western Greenway which runs just behind our St. Brendan's Village where our Safe Home office is located. This was the railway once (now without the tracks) which took so many of our people to find work abroad as economic migrants and brought them back again on holidays or permanently in a coffin until the last train came and went. Now the old railway track is a major tourist highway bringing in up to 250,000 people to walk or cycle past our doors annually.

Our people left for all over the world and built the canals and the railways not alone in the UK but also in the USA and beyond. Their sweat and tears went in to forming the modern skyline of a great many cities including London built up from scratch after the war. I was reminded about all of this by a short video sent to me this week by my good friend Donal McManus of the ICSH produced by the Irish Architecture Foundation called "We Built this City."

https://vimeo.com/132519037?mc_cid=b5b29a66ad&mc_eid=a0ad170c9e

This week also I had an interesting letter from long term Irish emigrant, Jim, living in Nottingham who acknowledged that England gave us Irish the employment we needed with no travel restrictions at a critical time in our history. In return the Irish built Britain. The mail boat from Dublin to Liverpool awaited those who had travelled up from the western counties. According to Jim those boats didn't have stabilisers and our emigrants were like plastic ducks in a whirlpool travelling in 3rd class in steerage. Many didn't even have the price of a cup of tea beyond the boat fare and had to learn quickly, as it was sink or swim. Jim says he has written a book about Ireland in the 1950's. In his work of fiction he follows the fortunes of two young men who took the boat to Liverpool like so many others at that time. He is looking for a publisher at present. We wish him well in his endeavors.

Greece has escaped from a Grexit for now and the horror of senseless death and injury continues in Turkey. Our Government has held their first cabinet meeting outside of Dublin as they plan their budget strategy for a likely general election in the first quarter of the New Year.

Interesting times ahead no doubt!

So long for now

Dr Jerry Cowley - Chairman Safe Home

Housing Opportunities:

A Housing Association in **Malin (Inishowen peninsula), Co. Donegal** has a number of one bedroom properties available. They will consider applicants not originally from the county. This scheme is set in a rural location so it is likely to be most suitable for drivers or those with family living in the area.



*Connolly
Foundation:
Malin*



A Housing Association in **Kilminchy, Portlaoise, Co. Laois** has a one bedroom ground floor apartment available.

← Preference will be given to applicants originally from Laois but applicants from surrounding counties may also be considered.

Vacancies in Co. Cavan: Cluid Housing Association has some 2 bed apartments available in **Belturbet, Co. Cavan**. They also have 2 two bedroom houses available in **Swanlinbar, Co. Cavan**. Preference in both of these schemes will be given to applicants originally from Cavan but applicants from other counties may also be considered.



Oriel Lodge, Belturbet



Mill Street, Swanlinbar

For more detailed information on any of the above;
please contact the Safe Home office.

Applying for an Irish Passport if living abroad:

If you are an Irish citizen living in Northern Ireland or outside Ireland, you should apply for your passport using the APS 2 application form. You can get the application form from the Irish embassy or consulate in the country **where you live** (or the closest embassy or consulate).

The Passport Express service including forms may also be available from some UK Post Office branches in Northern Ireland.

When you get the form, you should read the detailed notes provided with it, to help you complete your application correctly. The application form must be signed by an official witness who can confirm your identity and the details you have given.

Check with your nearest Irish welfare & advice services as some will provide assistance with completing passport applications.

Fees within Ireland:

The fees when applying for an Irish passport using An Post's Passport Express are:

- Standard 10-year, 32-page passport (aged 18 and over): €80
- Large 10-year 66-page passport (aged 18 and over): €110

When applying in person at a Passport Office the fees are:

- Standard 10-year, 32-page passport (aged 18 and over): €95
- Large 10-year 66-page passport (aged 18 and over): €125

There are additional charges in Ireland and abroad if you require your passport urgently (within 5 working days).

Please Note! When applying for a passport through your Irish embassy or consulate, there may be additional administrative costs or handling charges depending on where you live. **Check this in advance with the Irish embassy or consulate in the country in which you are living.**

Irish Passport Office in Britain:

Embassy of Ireland,
114a Cromwell Road,
London, SW7 4ES

Phone: +44 207 3734339

Sterling Fees:

Standard 10 yr passport - £70

Large 66 page passport - £96

Standard 5yr passport for those 3-18 yrs - £23

Processing Times: If living abroad, in general you should allow at least 6-8 weeks for the processing of your passport via your local embassy or consulate.

Free Travel in Ireland:

Everyone **aged 66 and over and permanently living in Ireland**, is entitled to free travel under the Department of Social Protection Free Travel scheme.

Note! Other qualifying persons under 66 years may also be entitled to avail of Free Travel; E.G, those in receipt of Disability Allowance/Carers Allowance.

If you have a Free Travel Pass and you are married, in a civil partnership or cohabiting, you are entitled to a Free Travel Pass which allows your partner to accompany you free of charge when travelling. (This does not apply to people under age 66 who are getting Carer's Allowance).

Free travel is available on all State public transport (bus, rail and Dublin's LUAS service) and also on a limited number of services throughout the country that are operated by private bus transport companies. If you qualify for free travel, you will be issued with a pass that you must carry with you when using public transport. Free travel passes are non-transferrable and can only be used by the named person.

To travel around Northern Ireland free of charge on all bus and rail services a Senior SmartPass card is required. The application form for the Smartpass is known as a FTNI1. This application is available from a local social welfare office. It is not available online.

If a Free Travel Pass holder (with qualifying medical conditions) requires someone to accompany them when travelling, they can apply for a Companion Pass.

Companion Pass:

A Free Travel Pass holder may not necessarily have a spouse/partner who can accompany them on journeys. In these instances, if awarded a Companion Free Travel Pass, this allows a named companion (aged 16yrs+) to travel with them free of charge.

There are additional qualifying conditions to be met and a separate application form will need to be completed that includes details of relevant medical conditions, certified by a G.P.

There are 2 different application forms for a Companion Pass: (A) one for accompanying those under 70 years (this requires detailed info from a G.P) and (B) one for accompanying those over 70yrs – this form is a lot more straightforward and is not required to be certified by a G.P.

Application Forms are for Citizens Information drop-in offices/Dept. of Social Protection Offices and some Post Offices. **For more detailed information** on the Free Travel Scheme and the Free Travel Companion Pass:

Social Welfare Services (Free Travel Section), College Road, Sligo, Ireland

Tel: (071) 915 7100 **Locall:** 1890 500 000 **www.welfare.ie**

It's now a lot easier to find out who you are AND where you are!

Parish Records go online for free: For most family history researchers, parish registers provide the earliest direct source of family information. Unlike many other records, parish registers provide evidence of direct links between one generation and the next (via baptismal registers) and one family and another (via marriage registers). They are also, for the majority of Irish people who lived during the 18th and 19th centuries, the only record of their existence.

Covering more than 1,000 parishes, the registers typically include information such as dates of baptisms and marriages, and the names of key people involved, such as witnesses or godparents. The National Library of Ireland microfilmed registers from the majority of Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland during the 1950s and 1960s. From 8th of July, the Digital images from these microfilms are now freely available via the National Library website: **www.nli.ie** or **registers.nli.ie**

Eircode: The Irish postcode system (Eircode) was launched earlier this month amid much bemusement and scratching of head! There were some initial 'teething problems' such as Shannon Airport being listed in Co. Limerick instead of Co. Clare! For now at least there seems to be general confusion about what realistic benefits the introduction of the Eircode system will have. Some rural dwellers are particularly sceptical about how accurate and useful the codes will be.

Under the Eircode system, every home and business in the country has been given its own unique reference code. This code should make the location much easier and simpler to find for individuals, public services and businesses.

- Eircode should allow for delivery companies to identify exact addresses easier
- Make it easier and quicker for emergency services to locate an address
- Make shopping online more straight-forward
- Assist in the development of Irish Businesses
- Assist in better planning and delivery of public services

Every new system has its settling in period so hopefully in time, we will all reap the benefits of the new Eircode.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. I am in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in the UK, how will this payment be affected if I decide to move to Ireland in the future?

A. The Mobility part of your DLA **will not** transfer with you. The Care component **may transfer** –however, there are specific individual conditions attached to the transfer of this. It may depend on a number of factors; E.G the date you were awarded the payment/the number of contributions paid during your working life.

We would advise anyone in receipt of DLA to contact the Department for Work & Pensions to make enquiries about their own situation:

DLA Exportability Team
Room C216, Warbreck House
Warbreck Hill Road, Blackpool FY2 0ZZ
Tel: 08457 123 456

Q. My DLA payment is not taken into account when being assessed for other means tested benefits in England. Will this still be the case if some of my DLA transfers to Ireland with me?

A. NO – If you are applying for any social assistance (non-contributory/means tested) welfare payments in Ireland (E.G Disability Allowance), **ALL** income that transfers with you will be taken into account in the financial assessment here.

As always if you wish to contact us:

Tel: 098 36036

Tel: 00 353 9836036 (UK)

Tel: 011353 9836036 (USA)

Email: safehomeireland@eircom.net

Write to: The Safe Home Programme, St Brendan's Village, Mulranny, Co Mayo, Ireland.

Dr. Cowley, Karen, Mary Ann, Brenda & Noreen

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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF IRELAND