



Emigrant Support Service



ADVICE &
INFORMATION



OUTREACH
VISITS



HOUSING
ASSISTANCE



CONNECT

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**Thinking of returning or
moving to Ireland?**

Get in touch

From the Chairman's Desk

Greetings,

Just when we thought that Brexit couldn't get any more complicated that is exactly what is happening. The British parliament have already said they don't want a no-deal Brexit, but Boris Johnson, the favourite to be the next Conservative party leader, has promised to take the UK out of Brexit on 31/10/19, deal or no deal! This makes a no-deal Brexit even more likely and a snap withdrawal by the UK from the EU without any economic buffer is an even more distinct possibility.

This of course means major difficulties with hair-shirt budgets which will become inevitable for ourselves as well as economic uncertainty into the future. Some speculate that Boris Johnson is over reacting in a desperate bid to take the political heat off himself.

Let's wait and see. Don't rule out another UK referendum on Brexit to finally solve this impasse!

Just when you thought your job was safe we hear that robots are in line to take over an estimated 20 million jobs by 2030. But according to the national broadcaster RTÉ who reported the results of the recent study these are low skill jobs in manufacturing and services where repetitive functions are required and so would be ideally suited to a robot. They say that warehouse systems where objects could be retrieved by machines are eminently suitable for takeover.

But you will be relieved to know that it's unlikely our nurses (and doctors) will be replaced anytime soon by robots as jobs in unstructured environments that demand compassion and creativity will still require the human touch. On balance it is felt that the greater use of robots will result in greater productivity, generating as many new jobs as it destroys. That at least is reassuring.

So long for now,

Dr Jerry Cowley



Housing opportunity for Safe Home housing applicants



A Housing Association in **Lifford, Co. Donegal** have a 2 bedroom (first floor) apartment available.

While priority will be given to applicants originally from/with strong connections to the area, the Housing Association will also consider applicants from other counties. The weekly cost for this property is €140. This fee includes, rent, maintenance and refuse collection, and lunch 6 days a week.

Important note! Applicants who are not approved on the Donegal County Council housing list will have to meet the full rent costs from their own means. For further information, please contact the Safe Home office.

Ireland's Diaspora Policy – Public Consultation Process – Kerry and Mayo

Over the past number of months, the Minister of State for the Diaspora and International Development, Ciarán Cannon, T.D. has been carrying out a consultation process to inform the Government's new Diaspora policy. The Minister encouraged members of the public and agencies working with the Irish emigrant community to attend events in their area, "It is important that as many voices as possible are heard, from partner organisations and community bodies to individual members of the public at home and abroad. All who hold a view on the future of our diaspora policy are encouraged to participate".

Up-coming consultations are due to take place in Co. Kerry (Tralee) and Mayo (Castlebar) in July;

Monday 1st July, Brandon Hotel, Tralee, from 6-8pm

Monday 8th July, T.F Royal Hotel, Castlebar from 6- 8pm.

To register, please login via: <https://www.dfa.ie/global-irish/consultations/>

Areas that the consultation process seeks to address; How do we continue to connect with people who feel a connection to Ireland? How can we support and strengthen the connections with established Irish communities abroad? How are Irish communities changing? How will they want to connect with us? Who are the people that we want to connect with and how do we maintain our relevance to them?

If you have suggestions, but are unable to attend any of the consultation events, you can send an email submission via the contact form on: www.dfa.ie (see section on Global Irish Consultations) OR in writing to: The Irish Abroad Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Iveagh House, 80 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 D02 VY53

Did you know?

Since early June, more of Ireland's historical Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths have been made available to the public online. Accessible for free at irishgenealogy.ie They cover births from 1864 to 1918; marriages from 1864 to 1943; and deaths from 1878 to 1968.

This digitisation process is part of a joint initiative by the Departments of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

The Irish Driving Test Application Process; Information for holders of driving licences from 'other countries' (e.g. USA), where there is no licence exchange agreement in place

If return to Ireland and are not from an EU country or one of the 'recognised States' where there is an agreed licence exchange agreement in place, you can drive here for a period of up to 12 months, but thereafter, you will have to apply for an Irish driving licence. You will need to go through the full driver licensing procedure. As a step first in this, you will need to complete and pass a driver theory test and then apply for a provisional licence/learner driving permit. When you have your learner driving permit, you will then need to sit Essential Driver Training (EDT) lessons.

Some returnees can apply for reduction to allow them to take 6 EDT lessons instead of the usual 12. There is also an exemption from having to wait 6 months before applying for the driving test.

- You must have held your full foreign driving licence for at least two years.
- To get the exemption from waiting 6 months before you sit the test, you must have held your full foreign driving licence for at least six months.

Note! If your full foreign driving licence expired more than six months ago, it will not be accepted for exemptions

The form to apply for the reduced EDT lessons and the 6 month waiting time exemption can be found via the NDLS website; <https://www.ndls.ie/forms-reports.html>

The application form must be accompanied by the applicant's foreign drivers licence and a '**Letter of Entitlement**' (also referred to as a Driver Statement)- this can be obtained from the licensing body that issued the foreign driving licence. (Example: in the USA, the equivalent of the Letter of Entitlement from the DMV is known as an 'abstract'.) You must send the original Letter of Entitlement to the NDLS. They will also accept an email or online printout.

The Letter of Entitlement must include a copy of a driver record that shows the following details:

Name – Address – Date of birth – Driver Number – Date of Commencement – Date of expiry of licence – Vehicle category/class of licence including details of what the category/class refers to

Important notes!

You must always have someone with a full driving licence in the car with you when you are driving on a learner permit. This person must have had their driving licence for at least 2 years.

If you previously passed a theory test in Ireland, this is only valid for a period of 2 years from the date issued.

Queries in relation to any of the above can be address via email to : info@ndls.ie



It is with great excitement and honour that we announce today that Olivia Tracey, Actress, Model, Writer, Former Miss Ireland and Television Personality who lives in Los Angeles California and hails from Dublin, recently agreed to be **Safe Home Ireland's first "Ambassador"**.

Olivia's role will be to help spread awareness of Safe Home's services to Irish Emigrants in California and the USA.

We will be holding an event to launch this first stage of our Ambassador journey in Co. Mayo in August - date to be announced shortly!

Frequently Asked Question – Banking in Ireland

Q. I am returning to Ireland shortly and hope to open a bank account as soon as possible after I move. I don't have an Irish Insurance Number (PPSN). Can you tell me if a PPS number is required in order to open an account in Ireland? **A.** No, a PPSN is not a mandatory requirement to open a bank account here.

Opening a bank account on return to Ireland can prove somewhat 'tricky', particularly for those who do not have proof of their address in Ireland (e.g. anyone returning to stay with family/friends). Outlined below is a general guide on opening a bank account, issued by the Consumer Protection Commission in Ireland.

To meet anti-money laundering legislation, you will need to supply documents to prove (A) your identity and (B) your address in Ireland. You cannot use the same document to prove both your identity and address.

(A) You can prove your identity by producing **one** of the following:

A valid passport or a current Irish driving licence

A National Age Card (issued by An Garda Síochána)

An identification form with a photograph signed by a member of An Garda Síochána

Documents issued by Government departments showing your name

(B) You will need **one** of the following documents with your name on it to prove where you live:

A current utility bill (such as a gas, electricity, telephone or TV bill)

A current car or home insurance policy that shows your Irish address

A document issued by a Government department that shows your name and address

A list of your tax credits issued by Revenue

A current balancing statement or a C2 certificate from the Revenue Commissioners

A social insurance document that shows your address

A letter from your employer or licensed employment agency stating that you have recently arrived in Ireland and have started work but cannot yet provide evidence of your Irish address. (You will have to provide evidence of your address at a later date)

Safe Home Ireland is supported by the Emigrant Support Programme via:

