



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,

As we head in to D-Day for Brexit on 31st October 2019, the temperature is rising in every sense of the word, and especially in London. No one there in the Brexit camp can be too happy about the leak of the paper outlining how bad Downing Street expects things to be with a no-deal Brexit with predicted food, medicine and petrol shortages after a no-deal Brexit.

A return to the hard border in Ireland was the shock prediction in such a no-deal scenario, and a three month meltdown at ports being inevitable as they would be unable to do all the extra checks required. Loss of thousands of jobs and closure of many businesses would be inevitable due to such delays.

This is a terrible scenario indeed and lays bare the stark reality of a no-deal Brexit which the UK parliament have already rejected as unacceptable, despite their PM Boris Johnson's position to leave the EU no matter what. Time will only tell how it all pans finally, but the hope is that some modicum of common sense must surely prevail in everyone's interest. Let's wait (with much trepidation) and see.

As we head in to the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, don't forget that you need to protect yourself for the coming winter if you are 65 years of age or older, are suffering from a long term illness such as bronchitis or cancer, are a resident of a nursing home, are pregnant, are a carer /health worker, or if you work with poultry, pigs or water fowl. Remember these viruses are very clever and mutate all the time and you must get the up to date vaccine.

The seasonal flu vaccine protects against the 3 strains of flu virus recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the strains most likely to be circulating this season. So don't forget to go to your GP from anytime now and be safe this winter. Your life could easily depend on it!

So long for now,

Dr Jerry Cowley - Chairman

Applying for an Emergency Medical Card in Ireland

An emergency medical card is a temporary medical card that is issued **without a means test in certain emergency situations** and is valid for 6 months. For example, you could be issued an emergency medical card if you are ordinarily resident in Ireland and are in an acute medical crisis where you need urgent treatment that you cannot afford without a medical card.

If your application is approved, it can take 7 to 10 days to get your emergency medical card in the post. However, your card will be active straight away so you can get the care you need.

You will need to complete a means assessment before your emergency medical card expires. The HSE will write to you when you need to do this. The means assessment is for a full medical card for you and your family.

Terminal illness card: In some cases, the HSE medical officer can recommend a terminal illness card. These are given to people who are getting 'end of life' treatment. This means a prognosis of less than 12 months to live. If you get a terminal illness card, it will never be reviewed and it will not expire.

Application process: Only a healthcare professional (for example, a doctor or consultant) can apply for an emergency medical card for you. The application is reviewed by a Health Service Executive (HSE) medical officer. They must include a detailed medical report with the application including your diagnosis, planned treatment and the prognosis.

For more information, contact your G.P./relevant medical professional or phone the National Medical Card Unit on +353 51 595 129

New online information platform for returning and returned Irish Emigrants

A new online information service aims to help make life easier for the increasing number of Irish citizens returning to Ireland from abroad. The service will be relevant to those at the early stages of planning a return to Ireland, as well as people who have recently returned /moved to Ireland.

The service was created by the Citizens Information Board to give practical advice to Irish emigrants on issues such as how to get an Irish driving licence, tax queries, housing supports, education, and getting a passport for a child born abroad when they return.

In launching the new service recently, Minister for the Diaspora Ciarán Cannon said that the website was a key part of the Government's commitment to help people who have left Ireland in previous years and now want to move back. "I am keenly aware that returning to Ireland from abroad can be a challenging experience. This new content, specially catered for returning emigrants, is exceptionally detailed and will no doubt be an invaluable resource for Irish emigrants moving back home."

The project was completed with support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Safe Home Ireland was pleased to have contributed to various sections of this online portal.

The Returning to Ireland content is available via:

https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/returning_to_ireland/

If you cannot find what you are looking for within the Returning to Ireland section or if you have any suggestions on what could be done better, you can contact the Citizens Information Board via email at: **returning2ireland@ciboard.ie**

Home visits to Safe Home housing applicants throughout the UK

As part of Safe Home Ireland's housing application process, Safe Home Outreach Officers endeavour to carry out home visits with our UK based applicants. Ideally we would like to meet with our clients regardless of their location, but unfortunately we do not have access to funding that would allow us to carry out visits to Safe Home clients further afield.

Safe Home does not have any staff based in the UK, however, our staff travel to various cities throughout the UK a number of times each year to carry out home visits. Where possible, we also try to link in with Irish welfare and support agencies during these trips, as well as co-facilitating Moving to Ireland Information Clinics.

Our clients will sometimes query why a home visit is necessary, we do so for a number of reasons, some of those are listed below.

Safe Home does not own or manage any properties of our own, we work with local authorities and Housing Associations in order to secure housing for our applicants. Many of these housing bodies request that we personally meet with our clients prior to them being taken into consideration for any vacancies which may arise. Sometimes deciding to return to Ireland can be based on a range of emotions, such as moving to be closer to family and friends, while this is extremely important we want to ensure that our clients have a clear insight into the broader practicalities of all aspects of returning to Ireland. For example, does any current income transfer? What about entitlements in Ireland? What about health/medical matters? The cost of living in Ireland etc.

Home visits give our housing applicants an opportunity to ask any questions and discuss any issues that may be concerning them about a move to Ireland in the relaxed setting of their own homes.

Moving home is not for everyone, so having a chance to have a face to face conversation often helps people to reach the decision that is best for them, whether that is moving back home or choosing to stay on in their adopted country.

Public Services Card – Ireland

A Public Services Card (PSC) is usually issued when you are allocated an Irish insurance number (PPSN) in Ireland. If you apply for, or are currently getting, a social welfare payment (including Child Benefit), you will be required to register for a Public Services Card.

On 16 August 2019, the Data Protection Commission (DPC) published a statement on its findings on certain aspects of the Public Services Card (PSC). In summary, the DPC found that the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP)-processing of personal data (when issuing a PSC) to validate the identity of a person claiming or getting a social welfare payment **has a legal basis** under applicable data protection law.

However, the processing of personal data by DEASP (when issuing a PSC) for the purposes of transactions between individuals and other specified Government/public bodies (for example, to apply for a passport or in relation to the learner driver application process) **does not have a legal basis** under applicable data protection laws.

The findings of the DPC does not affect the validity or use of Public Service Cards that have already been issued. Anyone who has already been issued a PSC to access social welfare benefits and free travel and the DEASP can continue to issue PSCs for these purposes.

PSCs can still be used as evidence of identity when applying for a driving licence or learner permit or if you are sitting the Driver Theory Test, but they **are not mandatory** in these instances.

Irish in Business, Toronto, Canada

The Irish International Business Network (IIBN) are planning to launch a branch in Toronto later on this year.

Ahead of this launch, the IIBN are currently building a database of first, second and third generation Irish ex-pats entrepreneurs and business professions located in the Toronto area.

If you/anyone you know may be interested in registering for this, please contact;
Ailbhe Mullen (Executive Director –IIBN) via **email to:** ailbhem@iibn.com
Tel: UK: +44 (0)7470 339 799 **IRE:** +353(0)89 236 3821

Foreign Birth Register – Ireland

You are automatically an Irish citizen if one of your parents was an Irish citizen at the time of your birth, and was born on the island of Ireland. You don't need to apply to become an Irish citizen in this case.

If you were born outside of Ireland, you can become an Irish citizen if:

1. One of your grandparents was born in Ireland, or;
2. One of your parents was an Irish citizen at the time of your birth, even though they were not born in Ireland.

In these cases, you can become an Irish citizen through Foreign Birth Registration. Once a person is entered onto the Foreign Births Register they are an Irish citizen and entitled to apply for an Irish passport.

Note! Since 1 July 1986, a person registered in the Foreign Births Entry Book after 1986 is deemed to be an Irish citizen only from the date of their entry in the Register and **not from the date of birth**. This means that children born to that person before their date of entry in the Register are not entitled to citizenship.

People registered before July 1986 are deemed Irish citizens either from the date the original Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act came into force, that is, 17 July 1956, or their date of birth, whichever is later. Only children born after 17 July 1956 can claim citizenship in such cases.

Applications to be included on the Foreign Birth register must be made online via the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade at;

<https://fbr.dfa.ie/eseries/uiid904669677/fbr301.xsp?t=1566566696867>

Fees: Over 18 years of age; **Total cost is €278** = Registration plus Certificate, €270 + postage fee (non-refundable). Under 18 years of age; **Total cost is €153** = Registration plus Certificate: €145 + postage fee (non-refundable). Payment methods: Payment is made by debit/credit card as part of the online application process.

Note! At present, it takes between 6 to 9 months to process a completed Foreign Birth Registration application. However, due to the complex nature of the Foreign Birth Registration, it may take up to 12 months to process an application. If you are an expectant parent applying to be entered on the Foreign Birth Register, you should mark this clearly on your application.

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



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA NA HÉIREANN
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF IRELAND