



Emigrant Support Service

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### Safe Home office hours:

Monday–Thursday:  
9am–5pm

Friday: 9am–4pm

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

**Get in touch**



ADVICE &  
INFORMATION



OUTREACH  
VISITS



HOUSING  
ASSISTANCE



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### From the Chairman's Desk

Greetings,

Those of us who remember long hot Summer days in the bog will remember how good tea and sandwiches tasted there. We also remember the inspiration for the modern drone, namely the amazing dragon-fly with its four vibrating transparent wings, showing all the colours of the rainbow, and sounding the same as the modern drone with its four small propellers hovering around at will. Man's ingenuity which put a man on the moon, also with his potential to use his inventions for good or bad, is reflected in how these drones were developed and the use we make of them. Just this week we heard of sophisticated incendiary drones, capable of travelling almost 1,000 miles, wreaking havoc on Saudi Arabia oil refinery installations which will almost certainly increase the price of oil worldwide.

Drones carrying deadly missiles from the US military have brought death and destruction to its enemies in the Middle East and elsewhere through targeted drone attacks. Just this week also a drone was used to take essential medicine (insulin) to the Aran Islands (off Galway) from a Galway city pharmacist, and the same drone ensured essential blood specimens were delivered to Galway for urgent laboratory analysis on its return. Don't be surprised if some day real soon you get your medicines, or even your pizza or fish and chips by drone delivery to your door. Stranger things have happened!

As D-Day for Brexit comes closer our Government is taking meticulous steps to ensure no one is in any doubt about its position on the need to retain the 'backstop' to ensure no return to a hard border between here and the northern part of Ireland. Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has made it crystal clear as have the EU that there will be no halfway house solution accepted as an alternative proposal to the backstop, as any other arrangement needs to work the same way to ensure no return to a hard border. So far, both the EU and Dublin agree no such workable alternative to the backstop has been proposed by the UK. Time is fast running out for a solution as we all brace ourselves for the no-deal scenario with all its negative consequences which would inevitably result from the loss of free trade. Let us hope once again that good sense will ultimately prevail across the Irish Sea.

Safe Home is co-hosting a **Returning to Ireland Information session** in the London Irish Centre on Friday 27th September (10.30am–12.00pm), contact London Irish Centre or Safe Home for more information. **In Edinburgh**, Safe Home will have stall at the **Irish Culture and Heritage Day** on Sunday 29th September (12pm–6pm). The event, hosted by the Consulate General of Ireland, Scotland GAA, and Conradh na Gaeilge Glasgow, will take place in the Grange Cricket Club in Stockbridge, and is free to attend. If you are thinking of returning/moving to Ireland, do drop in to meet with our staff.

So long for now, **Dr Jerry Cowley - Chairman**



## **UK driving licence holders in Ireland, post Brexit**

A Frequently Asked Questions Guide issued by the National Driver licence Service (NDLS)

### **Q. I live in Ireland, hold a UK/NI driving licence and would like to be able to continue to drive here in Ireland after Brexit on my UK/NI driving licence?**

**A.** The UK is scheduled to leave the EU on 31 October 2019. Anyone living in Ireland who holds a UK/NI driving licence must exchange it for an Irish driving licence, before the 31 October 2019, the withdrawal date of the UK from the EU. After this date, if you are living in Ireland your UK/NI driving licence will no longer be valid to drive here.

To avoid possible lengthy delays in exchanging a licence around 31 October, and not being able to drive, you are strongly urged to take steps immediately to exchange your licence. If the NDLS experience large volumes of UK/NI licence exchange applications around 31 October, there will be inevitable delays. If you act now you can avoid such an outcome.

### **Q. Will I be able to exchange my UK/NI licence after the UK/NI leaves the EU?**

**A.** The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is planning to put in place appropriate arrangements that will allow for the exchange of a UK driving licence for an Irish driving licence following Brexit. It's important to remember that in the immediate absence of such an arrangement post-Brexit, your UK licence will no longer be valid in Ireland. It must be exchanged for an Irish licence.

### **Q. Am I licensed to drive while my licence has been sent for exchange?**

**A.** It is important to note that while an individual is exchanging their licence, if their licence is valid and in-date, they will continue to be licenced for the period of the exchange process. For example, where the individual is exchanging their UK/NI licence, the NDLS will provide them with a receipt to confirm they are indeed in the process of exchanging their licence.

It is a requirement for individuals to have a licence with them at all times when driving. Enforcement is an operational matter for An Garda Síochána and they may, at their discretion, use the details of the NDLS receipt to verify the licence submitted to the NDLS for exchange.

### **Q. I live in the UK/NI and hold a UK/NI driving licence and would like to be able to drive a vehicle in Ireland from time to time on holidays after Brexit.**

**A.** As a visitor there is no reason that you will not be able to drive in Ireland for holidays with your existing driving licence. This will apply regardless of whether there is a deal or no-deal Brexit. You should not be required to carry an International Driving Permit with you in order to drive here, just ensure to carry your UK/NI driving licence with you.

### **Q. I'm a UK/NI citizen, I live here in Ireland and I hold an Irish driving licence can I drive in the UK/NI from time to time?**

**A.** An Irish driving licence will continue to be recognised in the UK/NI. An Irish driving licence is an EU licence and the UK/NI has indicated it will continue to recognise EU driving licences.

## Irish Passports – Frequently Asked Questions

**Can I get my passport today?** In the case of an emergency situation (e.g. the death or serious illness of a family member, or for emergency medical treatment of the applicant), the passport can be issued on the day applied for.

Additionally, a Pilot Rapid Renewal service has been introduced in the Passport Office in Knockmaun House, 42-47, Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2.

**Opening Hours:** 9:00am-4:30pm, Mon-Fri. **Tel:** +353 (0)1 671 1633.

A 'live' web chat service is available from 9am – 4.30pm, Mon – Fri

Where possible and by appointment only, this service will facilitate the renewal of a passport for an Adult or Child Travelling in less than 3 working days. This service is available only through the Dublin office. A first time Adult or Child applicant cannot avail of this service.

If you wish to make an appointment for the Rapid Renewal Passport Service visit;

**[www.passportappointments.ie](http://www.passportappointments.ie)** In all other circumstances, it will take a minimum of 3 working days to issue a passport.

**What can I do if lose my Irish passport abroad?** If you are an Irish citizen currently living abroad, travelling or on holiday abroad and your Irish passport is lost/stolen/misplaced, you must contact your nearest Irish embassy or consulate immediately.

You will be asked to confirm the loss in writing or, if you are applying for a new passport, to include the details in your application. (Applications for a new passport by people living in Northern Ireland or outside Ireland are made online or using form APS 2). If you are currently in a country where there is no Irish representation, you may contact an embassy/consulate of another EU member state who will contact the nearest Irish embassy on your behalf.

## Have you plans to start a business in Ireland? – Useful resources

Local Enterprise Offices provide supports to local businesses that are starting up or in development. Their role is to stimulate economic activity at local level and to promote microenterprises (10 or fewer employees). **[www.localenterprise.ie](http://www.localenterprise.ie)** is the dedicated client-focused website providing information about all national and local supports and events for local business. It includes a web based tool that will guide anyone with a business idea to where they may get financial support. It also offers other supports to anyone with a business idea or who already has an established business such as referral to other supports, guidance on 'how to start your own business', training and mentoring. For more detailed information, **email:** [client.service@enterprise-ireland.com](mailto:client.service@enterprise-ireland.com)

**Start-up Entrepreneur Programme:** The Start-up Entrepreneur Programme (STEP) allows a non-EEA national with an innovative business idea and minimum funding of €50,000 to come and set up a business in Ireland. The aim of the Programme is to support high potential start-ups which are defined as start-up ventures that are less than 5 years old, and;

- Introducing a new or innovative product or service to international markets
- Involved in manufacturing or internationally traded services
- Capable of creating 10 jobs in Ireland and realising €1 million in sales within three to four years of starting up
- Led by an experienced management team and Headquartered and controlled in Ireland

**Notes!** A 12-month immigration permission is available for foreign national entrepreneurs attending incubators or innovation boot camps in Ireland to allow them to prepare a STEP application. The STEP scheme does not apply to retail, catering, personal services or similar businesses. For more information on STEP, **Tel:** +353 1 7272130 **email:** [hpsuenquiries@enterprise-ireland.com](mailto:hpsuenquiries@enterprise-ireland.com)

## Expansion of the Blue Badge Scheme in the UK

A Blue Badge allows people with disabilities or health conditions to park closer to their destination, either as a passenger or a driver. The badge is for on-street parking only. Off-street private car parks, such as those provided in hospitals or supermarket car parks, are governed by separate rules.

**From 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019, people with hidden disabilities, including anxiety disorders or a brain injury, can apply for a Blue Badge.**

The Department for Transport has issued new guidance to councils in England on Blue Badge parking permit eligibility, along with a new online eligibility checker to make the scheme clearer for people before they apply. While the new criteria will give clear and consistent guidelines on Blue Badge eligibility for the whole of England, not everyone with non-visible disabilities will qualify for a badge. It will be up to the relevant local authority to decide if an applicant meets the eligibility criteria, as is currently the case.

A Blue Badge costs up to £10 in England and £20 in Scotland. There is no charge in Wales.

You can apply for a badge for yourself, on behalf of somebody else or an organisation that transports people that need a Blue Badge. In England, Scotland and Wales, you can apply online via; **<https://apply-blue-badge.service.gov.uk/applicant>**

If you are unable to make a Blue Badge application online, please get in touch with your local Council for guidance.

**Note!** Disabled Parking Cards (also known as 'European' parking cards) and the Blue Badge scheme in the UK can currently be used by disabled people within the 28 member states of the EU and are also recognised in the US and Canada.

This means that when you travel abroad, you can bring your European Parking Card with you. However, it is important to remember that you must observe the motoring laws and restrictions on parking in other countries.



Radharc na Cille – Carrigart

### Housing Opportunity – Co. Donegal

Cluid Housing Association have a one-bedroom apartment available in their scheme in Carrigart.

Carrigart village is set in the North West of Co. Donegal (approx 23 miles from Letterkenny).

While preference will be given to Safe Home applicants originally from/with strong family connections in Donegal, applicants from other counties will also be considered. However, applicants must be registered and approved by Donegal County Council. **Please contact the Safe Home office for additional information.**

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