



ADVICE & INFORMATION



OUTREACH VISITS



HOUSING ASSISTANCE



CONNECT

## Welcome from our new Chairperson – Nova Fariss

May 2021 – Issue 232

### CONTACT US:



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#### Website:

[www.safehomeireland.com](http://www.safehomeireland.com)



#### Email:

[info@safehomeireland.com](mailto:info@safehomeireland.com)



### Safe Home office hours:

**Monday to Thursday:**  
**9.00am to 5.00pm**  
**Friday:**  
**9.00am to 4.00pm**

**Thinking of returning or  
moving to Ireland?  
Get in touch!**



I am very proud to have been invited to join the Board of Safe Home Ireland in 2020, and to have been recently elected as Chairperson, succeeding Dr. Jerry Cowley whose enthusiasm and commitment has been so vital to the development and survival since its inception in 2000. I am delighted that Jerry has been appointed Life President of Safe Home Ireland so will still play a vital role in the organisation.

The experiences of immigration, emigration, relocation and "finding home" have been an ongoing interest in my personal and professional life. Having been born and reared in Perth, Australia, I was aware that so many people had left other worlds and lives for a whole variety of reasons, including safety and promised opportunity. Many came with optimism and others came with heartache. In those times, most people knew they could never think of returning due to the financial cost or political challenges involved.

Consequently, the idea of returning to the place known as "home" has always been a partner in the emigration experience. It is for me now, as an Australian living away from my own family. To quote the Peter Allen song used in the Qantas advertisements, I still call Australia "home".

The work and support provided by Safe Home Ireland is vital to helping many people to navigate the challenges of making those important decisions about returning home and dealing with the complicated practicalities. Making a good idea "doable" is creating opportunities for a quality of life that can help close the circle for people's experience of living away from that place known as "home".

I am honoured to be elected as Chairperson during Safe Home's 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary and I am look forward to meeting many of you when we are able to meet in person again.

***Take care, stay safe from Nova, the staff and board of Safe Home Ireland***

Safe Home Programme CLG  
trading as Safe Home Ireland  
Charity No: 20049119  
Company Reg No: 351678



Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme  
An Rann Gníomhaíochas Éireannach  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



The next event to celebrate our 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary will be an Evening of Poetry and Spoken Word to mark the Summer Solstice on Tuesday 21st June (21.30pm UTC+1). Led by our Ambassador Seán Keane, come join us on our Facebook Page for a Facebook Live Event to enjoy the wonderful selection of poets, bards and seanchaí, enthralling with a mix of humour, tradition and emotion, it will definitely be an evening not to be missed.

**An Evening of Poetry & Spoken Word**

Presented by Safe Home Ireland to mark the Summer Solstice

**Monday 21st June 2021  
21:30pm (UTC+1)**

**Seán Keane**  
Safe Home Ireland Ambassador

**Seamus O'Rourke**

**Maria Noonan-McDermott**

**Ciarán Cannon**

**Anne Marie Kennedy**

**Owen & Micheál Moley Ó Súilleabháin**

**Oona Agbi Colin**

**Michael Joe Ginnelly**

**Zayneb Amin**

**Martin Frain (RIP)**  
read by Margaret Lynchehaun

**Text SAFEHOME to 50300 to donate €6**

Text costs €6. Safe Home Ireland will receive a minimum of €5.40. Service Provider: LIKECHARITY. Helpline: 076 6805278.

 **Returning to Ireland Information Session** 

After the success of the Information clinics in association with The Luton Irish Forum, another online information session has been scheduled for **16<sup>th</sup> June at 6pm** this time in partnership with The London Irish Centre. This is ideal for those hoping to return to live in Ireland or those born outside Ireland thinking of moving to Ireland. The session is particularly designed for those living in the UK but is open to anyone who has an interest in moving to Ireland in the future. Please register your attendance via [info@londonirishcentre.org](mailto:info@londonirishcentre.org) or +44 2079162222

 **Free Immigration Legal Clinics: Chicago**

If you have immigration or US citizenship questions, then a free legal clinic being hosted by Irish Community Services in Chicago may be of interest to you. The up-coming clinic will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> of June. Consultations are being conducted via Zoom. To register or for more information, please call ICS; **Tel:** 773-282-8445 or **email** [info@irishchicago.org](mailto:info@irishchicago.org)



## Passport Online

The Passport Service has recommenced processing Passport Online applications and is scaling up operations to clear all applications on hand within 6-8 weeks.

The Passport Service are aware there is an issue with a small number of resubmission links for photographs, consent forms for children and first time adult witness forms. They are working on this issue and will update when it is resolved. The Customer Service Hub are available to assist but they cannot issue a new link until this issue is resolved.

Passport Online is open to all applicants, including children, renewing their passports and those applying for their first passport who are resident in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Great Britain, Europe, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. If you are resident in a country where Passport Online is not available, please contact your local **Irish Embassy or Consulate**.

To apply via Passport Online, <https://passportonline.dfa.ie/Apply/Passport>.

## Passport Express

The processing of Passport Express applications, including Northern Ireland Passport Express and Great Britain Passport Express, is currently paused. The turnaround time after they resume processing will be 6-8 weeks.

## Foreign Birth Registrations

The routine processing of Foreign Birth Registrations is currently paused.

If you have an urgent query, such as you are an expectant parent, please contact them through their WebChat function.

If you have a query regarding a passport application, please contact **Customer Service Hub on +35316711633** who will be happy to assist you.

For the most up to date travel advice please check: [www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice](http://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice). If you are abroad, you should contact your local **Irish Embassy or Consulate**. They can advise you about your options for travel.



## Bringing UK Car into Ireland

UK Residents transferring permanently to Ireland can apply for a VRT Exemption under Transfer of Residence. The onus is on the person moving residence to provide documentary evidence that they have been living in the UK for a continuous period of 12 months and fulfils the conditions for transfer of residence.

Please see revenue web information @ <https://www.revenue.ie/en/importing-vehicles-duty-free-allowances/transfer-of-residence/index.aspx>

You must import the goods within 6 months before or 12 months after the date of Transfer. Keep all car documentation including car insurance, tax, payments etc for the 12 months prior to moving.

**For additional information, contact Revenue: Tel:+353 172383619 or please refer to the Revenue website.**



## Travel

The Irish Government continues to strongly advise against all non-essential travel to and from Ireland. In the event of urgent travel to Ireland, passengers are advised to contact the nearest Embassy or Consulate before commencing the journey or contact The Department of Foreign Affairs Emergency Travel Advice Line – **Tel: + 353 1 613 1700** or check [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie) for more information. **All passengers arriving in Ireland must: complete a [COVID-19 Passenger Locator Form](#)**

You must also provide evidence that you have a negative or 'not detected' result from a COVID- (RT-PCR) test carried out no more than 72 prior to arrival in Ireland, or have evidence that you are exempt from this legal requirement. **Please be aware that only PCR tests are valid. The PCR test usually comes at a cost and results may not be immediate, therefore we suggest you arrange appointments in advance.**

If you are travelling from or via a [designated state](#) (deemed high risk) then you must also pre-book and pre-pay for a place in a designated facility for mandatory hotel quarantine. List of designated states (deemed high risk) are available on [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) under Travelling to Ireland during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Fully vaccinated passengers who are exempt from mandatory hotel quarantine are treated in the same way as someone arriving in Ireland from a non-designated state– that is they are required to quarantine at home for 14 days which may be reduced if a second PCR test is taken at least day 5 days after arrival and a negative/'not detected' result is received. Written confirmation of the test result should be retained for at least 14 days. The Department of Health has confirmed that unvaccinated dependants travelling with a fully vaccinated person who is exempt from MHQ are also exempt from MHQ and can quarantine at home/at the address given on the Passenger Locator Form. A dependant is: a child under 18 or a person over 18 that is suffering from a mental or physical disability to such an extent that it is not reasonably possible for him or her to look after himself or herself fully suffering from a mental or physical disability to such an extent that it is not reasonably possible for him or her to look after himself or herself fully.

## Easing of Covid-19 Restrictions in Ireland

COVID-19: Resilience and Recovery | The Path Ahead

# Plan Your Outdoor Summer



## May

Continue to work from home

**From 4th May only:**

Full reopening of construction

**From 10th May:**

Phased re-opening of retail (Outdoor retail, Click and Collect/In Store by Appointment only from 10th, full re-opening from 17th)

Outdoor gatherings of up to 15

Outdoor training for adults, in pods of up to 15

Reopening of personal services

Reopening of galleries, museums, libraries and other cultural attractions

Recommencement of religious services

Funeral services–50 mourners permitted

Wedding services (religious & civil)–50 guests permitted

Wedding celebrations/ receptions –6 indoor/ 15 outdoor

No restrictions on domestic travel

Public transport capacity increased to 50%

You can meet outdoors incl. private gardens with either:  
A group of 3 households  
A group of 6 people from any number of households

## June

Continue to work from home

The following will be considered for June, subject to maintaining progress on the virus:

**From 2nd June only:**

Hotels, B&Bs, guesthouses, self-catering accommodation and hostels can reopen. Indoor dining and bar services for residents only

**From 7th June:**

Outdoor matches (no spectators)

Gyms, Swimming Pools, Leisure Centres for individual training only

Outdoor dining– groups of up to 6 people

Wedding celebrations/ receptions–up to 25

Indoor visits in private homes from one other household