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Welcome from our CEO

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

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

Welcome to the October edition of our Newsletter. There is something beautiful about Autumn in Ireland, the vibrant colours of the falling leaves, and the cosy open fires to name but a few! Autumn is also a gentle reminder to embrace change, that letting go can be positive as new growth and new opportunities are around the corner.

COVID continues to be a feature in all of our lives and while we know the pandemic is far from over, we are slowly and carefully, resuming to a new normal here in Ireland. On 22nd October, following public health advice, the Government agreed the reopening of the hospitality and entertainment sector, however, with the full range of protective measures in place and with the robust implementation of the [EU Digital COVID Certificate](#) (COVID-19 pass) for indoor events. There are no capacity limits for outdoor events, religious events or weddings. Social distancing, mask wearing and a phased return to the office will continue.

With live music performances back again, we are excited to announce that our Ambassador, the legendary [Seán Keane](#) will be performing an **indoor Concert on Sunday 7th November (at 4pm)** in [Nevins Newfield Inn](#), Mulranny. Co. Mayo to celebrate 21 years of Safe Home Ireland. At this event, we will also be launching our first **Poetry book** entitled, *Reflections*. This is the collation of poetry and spoken word from the Facebook live concert that we held to mark the summer Solstice on 21st June. The book will be available to purchase online and will make a lovely Christmas or birthday gift so please do get in touch if you would like your own copy!

We have resumed our virtual [Returning to Ireland Information clinics](#) and are pleased to partner with [Luton Irish Forum](#) to host our next clinic on 30th November. The clinic is particularly designed for those living in the UK and will cover all aspects to moving to Ireland. For those who are interested in attending contact our office or Luton Irish Forum for registration details.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank [Inspire Fitness in Galway](#) for hosting a fitness challenge in October to raise vital funds for Safe Home Ireland as well helping to advance our profile. We would like to thank all those who took part, many of whom are new to our work.

Finally, I am pleased to introduce two new features to our Newsletters, commencing this month **'Postcards from Abroad'** and **Returning to Ireland – is it for me?** We know that Covid has got people thinking of home and with this in mind we want to explore this further. We hope you enjoy reading them and if you would like more information or to contribute, please do get in contact.

You can link in with us via all of our social media channels for regular updates on our work. Also, if you are, or have a family member abroad thinking about moving or returning to Ireland, or indeed, have recently returned, please do contact us.


Until next month, take care, stay safe and keep in touch from Karen and all the staff and board of Safe Home Ireland



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

In Béarla (Gaeilge) An t-Éireann
Department of Housing Affairs





Returning to Ireland - Is it for me? Part One

Prior to March 2020, for a lot of Irish people living abroad it was just a matter of getting on a plane or onto a ferry whenever they felt homesick, wanted to see family members and friends, to attend a family event or simply come home for a while. In the last nineteen months so much changed for us all, it could be that relatives were born or passed away, grew up or reached milestones without them being fully acknowledged or celebrated in the typical Irish way.

This has led to a dilemma for many, do they remain in their adopted countries where they may have begun to put down roots, where there may be better opportunities, amenities and not to mention, better weather! ...or do they respond to the pull to come home in order to be closer to family and friends, or perhaps to raise their children away from large cities?

For other people coming home has always been the goal or dream. In any case transporting your life from one country to another (even if that country was the one of your birth) can be a complicated process, both you and Ireland have changed in the years you have been away.

There are so many practical and emotional considerations and even more so if there are non-Irish born spouses or children involved. This month we would like to pose a few thought provoking questions that you could ask yourself to help you to make a decision. Then in our next newsletter we will highlight practical questions as well as outline a few ways in which to prepare for the move, if you do decide to return to Ireland.

- Consider your family links at home then in your adopted country...will a return to Ireland mean that you are physically closer to parents, siblings, nieces and nephews but will you be leaving behind children or grandchildren or other family members?
- Similarly, with friendships ... look at your circle of friends in both countries and your support network as moving can be an uncertain and lonely time for some people
- Are you travelling alone or with a partner and/children and how does each individual think/feel about the move? Are you bringing people who have never lived in Ireland before? If so, take time to consider what additional challenges this may bring for them and you.
- What are your plans when you move? Are you hoping to find work, set up a business or are you hoping to retire? If you are still working, what will it be like to leave your current workplace?
- Another consideration is the length of time you have been away. As already mentioned, both you and Ireland have changed... if you have not been home for many years but still dream of returning, is it possible now that things are opening in many countries that you can go to Ireland for a break? A visit would give the opportunity to experience the changes and imagine how it would be to live there permanently
- What are your hobbies and interests? if you move to Ireland can you continue with these or are there others there you would like to take up?
- Are you someone who enjoys a busy social life? Will you be moving from a busy urban centre to a rural area in Ireland? Take time to consider how this may feel and work out in reality.

We hope that these questions will help people to weigh up the pros and cons of returning home or 'staying put'. If you have any queries or if you would like to talk through any aspect of returning home permanently, please do contact us.



Local Property Tax (LPT) – Ireland

LPT is a self-assessed tax charged on the market value of residential properties in Ireland. Over the past number of weeks, owners of properties in the State, both resident and non-resident, have been receiving notification from Revenue about their LPT obligations.

Home owners have to self-assess the value of their property at 1 November 2021. The valuation of the property on this date will determine the amount of LPT that they will pay for 2022 and for the three years from 2023 to 2025. If you are the owner of a residential property on 1 November 2021, then you are liable for LPT for 2022 for that property. You are liable for LPT **even if you do not usually live in the property.** To meet LPT obligations for 2022, home owners need to do **3** things:

1. Determine the market value of their property at **1 November 2021** – see [HERE](#) for more information
2. Submit LPT Return, including the valuation, by **7 November 2021**
3. Pay or make arrangements to pay their **LPT charge for 2022**

If you are living abroad, but own a residential property here in Ireland; you will need a [Personal Public Service Number \(PPSN\)](#) to submit your Local Property Tax (LPT) Return. If you do not have a PPSN, you can apply for one from;

Client Identity Services - Tel: +353 71 967 2616 **Email:** CIS@welfare.ie

When you receive your PPSN from the DSP, contact [Revenue](#); **Tel:** + 353 1 738 3626 (Mon- Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm) so that the PPSN can be activated as a Tax Reference Number for LPT purposes.



Social Housing in Ireland – Frequently Asked Question

I am currently living in Luton and wish to apply for social housing in Ireland through the Safe Home Programme scheme for qualifying Irish emigrants. I come from Galway originally but I also have friends and relatives in Cork and I am quite flexible about where I'm prepared to move to.

Q. Can I apply to be on the Council housing lists in both counties?

A. No, you can only be registered on ONE Council housing list in Ireland. In terms of which Council area you choose to apply to, it is important to consider where your strongest 'local connection' lies.

Anyone who is not already resident in the catchment area of the Council that they are seeking to apply to must demonstrate that they have a connection to /in the area. Council's lay out guidelines for applicants in terms of what they will consider acceptable 'local connection'. For Safe Home applicants, the most relevant of these are, that the applicant can show that they have **(a)** were born, lived or worked in the area for a period of 5 years or more in the past or **(b)** that they have strong family ties/close relatives living in the catchment area for a period of 2 years or more.

Most of our applicants are considered by Councils here to have the 'local connection', because they can fit under either (a) or (b) above. However, from time to time, we do have applicants that have a difficulty in fitting into these categories, due to family and other circumstances. In these cases, Safe Home Ireland will always try our very best to liaise with the relevant Council so that a sensitive and workable solution can be found.

It is important not to be put off by any of this where there's a will, there does tend to be a way!



The Irish Passport Office in London remains CLOSED

Paper applications are currently **not being processed** by the Passport Service. The quickest way to obtain a passport at this time is by applying through the online service at; www.dfa.ie/passportonline

The online system is open to all applicants, including children, applying for their first Irish Passport who are resident in Ireland, UK, EU, EEA and Switzerland. If you need assistance with the online application process, it may be worthwhile linking in with your nearest Irish Welfare & Advice Centre or other local support services in your area or contact us and we can assist.

Note! The Passport Express service operated by Liverpool and Glasgow post offices is back up and running. This is the only paper application route for citizens in Great Britain- the estimated turnaround time for Passport Express is 8-10 weeks.

Contact the Embassy: Tel: 0207 235 2171 (general queries)

Passport Office Tel; 0207 373 4339, **Contact info** [HERE](#)



Postcard from Abroad



I sit at my high-rise window and look lovingly at the autumnal foliage as it waves good bye from its mothers hold. It was like that for me in 1971 when I waved goodbye to my parents at Shannon Airport. I remember the car journey well, almost in total darkness, and not much chat either as my mother and father sat up front in our ford escort. Both of them silently weeping, full of apprehension for their daughter of 21.

I reassured them "I will come home if it doesn't work out" I was lucky and I never did. But my mind has now dwelt on the possibility, Covid has changed so much for me in the last 18 months, the four Marys as we were called, is no longer four but two. We had promised we would be there for each other in the high rise, coffees, walks, mass on Sundays, birthdays, thanksgiving, just friendship and support.

Mary from Wexford was stolen early in the pandemic, poor lungs she brought with her to America, the good weather improved them she didn't have the strength when covid hit. Mary from Cavan, had a fall while she was cocooning, and didn't ring anyone until the infection had spread, she didn't want to bother us as we were all in fear and almost afraid to go out. Mary from Galway has made her mind up that she wants to be buried with her own people in Connemara on the other side of the wild Atlantic. She contacted Safe Home through the Irish Centre in Canton and it seems a viable option for both of us if they could help us set up home in our native west of Ireland.

We could still honour our promise and instead of views from a high-rise we could wake up to views of the twelve pins or the reek. Life is short and we are both fit and able at 72 so why wait until we are feeble. Covid has changed our perspective, and now is the time to take the leap of faith like we did in the early 70's.

I know the two songs we will be singing at our Sunday Afternoon sing song because it is all that is in our heads at the moment. The N17 by the Saw Doctors and Home by Seán Keane will get a spin or two by two day dream believers!

With love from Boston xx