



SAFE HOME IRELAND
EMIGRANT SUPPORT SERVICE



ADVICE &
INFORMATION



OUTREACH
VISITS



HOUSING
ASSISTANCE



CONNECT

June 2022 – Issue 243

Welcome from our CEO

Welcome to our June Newsletter! It is hard to believe that we are half way through 2022 already – time is really flying by! It is a welcome relief for us all to be able to travel again after the varying levels of travel restrictions for over 2 years. For those of you who are travelling home to Ireland this summer we hope that you will have a special time as you reconnect with family and loved ones – it has been a tough few years.

June has been another busy month for us and we are pleased to report that we have now recommenced our **outreach and advocacy service to the UK**. We have visited some of our housing applicants in London, Birmingham and Derby in June with further appointments planned for July and September.

We are really looking forward to our first in-person **Returning to Ireland Information Clinic**, on **Tuesday 12th July in Luton**, in partnership with [Luton Irish Forum](#). If you are thinking about moving/returning to Ireland and live close to Luton please get in touch with us or the Luton Irish Forum to book your place. We are also in the planning stages of other Information Clinics in London and the North of England and our first scheduled clinic will be in **Birmingham on Monday 5th September** in partnership with [Birmingham Irish Association](#). Our Information clinics cover a range of topics including making a planned return and all that is involved, moving home with children, retiring in Ireland, information on health, housing, and more. We also aim to offer a limited number of one-to-one appointments before and after the Clinics for those who wish to discuss their particular situation in private.

We are also looking forward to hosting a **Returning to Ireland virtual clinic** in partnership with US based [Coalition of Immigration Centres](#) for its members on **Thursday 30th June**. This has come about at the request of Coalition members to be better informed of our services and supports in response to an increase in interest from people who are considering returning to Ireland.

We wish to remind you about our **21st Anniversary celebration event**, which will take place in the [Tullamore Court Hotel](#), Co. Offaly, on December 1st 2022, led by our Ambassador, [Seán Keane](#). You can secure a FREE ticket by joining our Planned Giving campaign, for as little as €5.00 per month. There will be other ticket options too, so please do get in touch if you would like more information. We will also be launching a report at the event highlighting our impact over the 21-year period, including first-hand experiences from people who Safe Home Ireland assisted during this time.

Until next month, take care and enjoy the summer wherever in the world you are located!

Le gach dea-ghuí, Karen and all the Staff, Board and Friends of Safe Home Ireland

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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!

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



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An tAire Ceilbhí Éireannach
Department of Foreign Affairs

The Bank of England will be withdrawing legal tender status of the paper £20 and £50 notes after 30 September 2022. They are encouraging anyone who has these at home to spend or deposit them at their bank or Post Office.

There are approximately £7 billion worth of paper £20 and £10.5 billion worth of paper £50 notes still in circulation. As they are returned to the Bank of England, these are being replaced with the new polymer £20 notes featuring J.M.W. Turner, and polymer £50 notes featuring Alan Turing. After 30 September 2022, the new polymer notes will be the only ones with legal tender status.

Once this deadline has passed, people will no longer be able to spend Bank of England paper notes in shops, or use them to pay businesses. People with a UK bank account will still be able to deposit withdrawn notes into their account. Some Post Offices may also accept withdrawn notes as payment for goods and services or as a deposit to an account accessed via them. The Bank of England will continue to exchange all withdrawn notes. See [Bank of England](#) for more information.

A brief overview

[The State Pension \(Contributory\)](#) is paid to people from the age of 66 who have enough [\(PRSI\) contributions](#) – it is not means tested. The number of paid PRSI contributions you need for the State Pension (Contributory) depends on your retirement date.

- If you reach pension age on or after 6 April 2012, you need to have 520 full-rate PRSI contributions (10 years' contributions). Only 260 of the 520 contributions can be [voluntary contributions](#).
- If you reached pension age between 6 April 2002 and 5 April 2012, you needed to have 260 full-rate contributions (5 years' contributions).
- If you reached pension age before 6 April 2002, you needed 156 qualifying full-rate paid contributions (3 years' contributions).

People who have worked in other EU countries or in countries where there is a Bilateral agreement in place with Ireland can combine their contributions, to qualify for a pro-rata pension.

The Department of Social Protection/Pension services in Ireland do not provide a pension forecast. People are advised to apply for their Contributory Pension **3 months** before they reach the age of 66. However, if they have paid social insurance contributions in more than one country, the advice is to apply **6 months** before they reach 66.

Applications from abroad should be made via the Pension Services in the country of residence, rather than to the Pension Services Office in Sligo.

Applying for your Contributory Pension – Late Claims

If you are late in making your pension application, you may still get your payment back-dated to the time that you became entitled to it or for least 6 months before you made your claim, whichever is the lower.

To get the time limit extended you must have a *good reason* for not making your claim within the time limit. There is little information about what is a good reason but if you were sick or in hospital this might well be considered as a good reason for not making your claim on time. **The maximum period of back-dating a pensions claim is 6 months.**

Featured in our Blog - <https://safehomeireland.com/blog/>

We would like to draw your attention to the [Irish Women Abroad Network](#), which featured in our first ever Blog in March 2021. The Network is led by Sarah Whelan, in Australia and has over 3,000 members, mainly based in Australia, but also in other locations worldwide; countries where Irish women have emigrated to, as well as some Irish based members, who have returned to Ireland.

The Network offers invaluable support and resources to Irish women abroad and it also provides some great information/tips to assist people who may be thinking of relocating to Ireland. There is a fee for some aspects of the service, but the information and resources are free and extremely valuable to those considering making the move. For more information or to book a private appointment see [Irish Women Abroad Directory](#). We wish Sarah every success with this new venture and look forward to working with her too.

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In July 2021, Nessa Monaghan, **Chair of London of London Irish LGBT Network**, featured in our July 2021 blog outlining aspects of her experiences as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, in Ireland and London. The Network was formed in 2014 by a group of Irish LGBTQ people living in London who wanted to meet up and share their Irish culture and identities. For more information, please see; [HERE](#)

Every year, during the month of June, the LGBTQ+ population and their allies come together to celebrate and recognise the influence LGBTQ+ people have had around the world. **Pride** is celebrated annually in honour of the [1969 Stonewall Uprising](#), led by Marsha P. Johnson, an African-American transgender woman. This was a seminal event in LGBTQI+ history, which marked a turning point in the community's activism. For the first time in two years, Pride events took place in person across Ireland with a host of organisations and venues running. The flagship event was held on Dublin on Saturday 25th June and [Mayo Pride](#) is back in Westport with an explosion of diversity, inclusivity and colour from July 1st to July 3rd. The main parade will be led by none other than, Mayo's very own, Dr. Panti Bliss. We hope you all had a great Pride this year and enjoy the celebrations that continue in the coming weeks and months.

Frequently Asked Question: Registering for a Personal Public Service Number (PPSN)

I am an Irish citizen living abroad, I will be moving to Ireland shortly and am trying to get as much as possible in place beforehand.

Q. Will I be entitled to apply for a PPSN as a non-resident?

A. Yes, you can apply for a PPSN from abroad, in exceptional circumstances. However, please be aware that there is no automatic entitlement to a PPSN, regardless of whether someone is living in Ireland or wishing to apply from abroad.

There are exceptional circumstances where someone can apply for a PPSN from abroad. However, regardless of whether the application is a resident or non-resident one, applicants must have a 'valid reason' as to why a PPSN is required – you may be asked to provide proof of this when applying.

Some examples that may be acceptable as a 'valid reason';

- Applying for social welfare schemes
- Required for school/college enrolment purposes/Pupil ID
- Applying for public health services, including the medical card and the Drugs Payment Scheme
- Required for schemes run by the Revenue Commissioners, such as mortgage interest relief or for other taxation purposes (e.g Inheritance Tax)
- Social Housing applications and Housing grants
- Driver Theory Testing and driving licences applications

For more information, & the application form if applying from abroad, please contact;

Client Identity Services: **Tel** +353 71 967 2616

Email: CIS@welfare.ie



Postcard from Abroad



Heaney once said that we have three lives. Well my first one started on 8th of September 1980. My mother named me Liam, after the Liam McCarthy cup that passed by Portiuncula Hospital in Ballinasloe around the time of my birth, for the first time in 57 years. I seemed to spend years in 'school, school and more school' until I finally finished my education with a Masters in Computer Studies at the ripe age of nearly 24.

My next step was meant to be finding work with one of the computer giants in Galway or Dublin but I decided I wanted to see a little bit of the world first. I needed to lift my head from a computer screen and see how other people live. I was always intrigued by the ancient civilisations of South America. So I worked long hours during the summer of 2004 and saved everything I could to take my 'Gap Year', as I thought, in September of that year.

My first job was as a barman on a cruise liner sailing out of Southampton, that got me a free fare to Florida, I made my way to New Mexico and learned about the Aztec civilization. I had a guitar on my back that opened many doors, many parties, and many brushes with romance. I travelled through Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, walked the paths of the Incas, met some beautiful people. I stayed in hostels, rented apartments, and slept beneath the stars. My computer skills came in handy as I built webpages for so many businesses along the way. Even though I probably looked like a hippy and behaved like one, I had a great life for the last 27 years going through Chile, Argentina, and back up to Brazil and every other country in South America.

When I reached 50, I told myself my 'Gap Year' needs to end but then came Covid and I had to wait that out until I made any final decisions. Now, I feel the time is right for me to talk to Safe Home Ireland and put the finishing touches to my plan to start my third life back in East Galway. I hope I will be able to settle in the lowlands and the hurling fields of my native home. I am lucky my parents, now in their late seventies, are still around. Mind you, they have heard plans for return many times before from me..... they hope it will be a reality this time.

Applying for your Irish Birth Certificate – Did you know?

You can now apply for a copy of your birth cert via email to: **GRO@welfare.ie** The GRO (General Register Office) will first need to identify if they have birth register on file for you. You will be asked to provide the following information so that this process can begin

- Full name and Date of birth
- Place of birth (county will help if other information is not known)
- Mother's birth surname

Once a record has been located, they can proceed to issue a birth cert for you. Applications are normally processed within 5 working days. An electronic billing system is in place to cover the costs = €20 for the cert + €2 for P&P outside of Ireland

Note! Certificates can also be ordered and paid for over the phone in regional Civil Registration Offices.