



ADVICE &
INFORMATION



OUTREACH
VISITS



HOUSING
ASSISTANCE



CONNECT

September 2022 – Issue 244

Welcome from our CEO

Welcome to our September Newsletter. We hope you had a lovely summer wherever in the world you are located. We were blessed to have had some lovely sunny spells this summer, in-between some showery days too which is no surprise in Ireland, sometimes with all four seasons in the one day!

We were delighted to meet with our colleagues of the [Birmingham Irish Association](#) earlier this month to co-facilitate a **Moving to Ireland Information Clinic**. Thank you to all who attended and if you would like more information on our upcoming clinics or would like us to facilitate a session please do get in touch. We are also so pleased to be back meeting our Housing applicants across the UK and with our partner Irish Centres too. Since June we have visited 32 people across London, Manchester and Birmingham and we have further outreach visits planned in the London area later this month too.

I would like to take this opportunity to share information again on 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](#). We will also be launching a 21in21 Impact Report, for which we are seeking your views and you will read more about how you can contribute, later in the Newsletter (and enclosed for those who wish to send by a completed survey by post). Tickets are now on sale for this special event from the Tullamore Court Hotel, [Eventbrite](#) and on our [Website](#). **For those you have signed up to our Planned Giving Campaign or are regular donors we will be posting your complimentary tickets in the coming weeks.** If you could like to sign up to our Planned Giving you and do this under the DONATE section on our website: [www.safehomeireland.com](#)

Finally, we have some sad news in relation to our **Newsletter**. Due to a reduction in funding this year and the increased cost of postage, we will be reducing our postal Newsletter to two editions/year, with immediate effect. We know for many of our readers, who are not online, this will come as a complete shock and disappointment too. We want to assure you that should we secure additional funding we will review this decision. We encourage those of you who can, to sign up to the e-bulletin (email version) via our [website](#). Anyone still wishing to receive a postal copy of the newsletter will need to contact us to confirm this. **NOTE:** Our next postal edition will be our Christmas Newsletter and thereafter June 2023. We will continue to our monthly e-bulletin.

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

CONTACT US:



Safe Home Ireland
St Brendan's Village
Mulranny, Westport
Co. Mayo, Ireland



Office:

098 36036 (from Ireland)
+353 98 36036 (from abroad)



Mobile:

+ 353 86 059 4538
(Text/WhatsApp)



Website:

www.safehomeireland.com



Email:

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!

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



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme



An Rann Ceilidh Eanáire
Department of Foreign Affairs



The Act allows for a clear right of access to birth certificates, and birth and early life information for all persons who were adopted, boarded out, the subject of an illegal birth registration or who otherwise have questions in relation to their origins.

There are two key dates surrounding the implementation of the Act:

1. As of July 2022, people can register a preference on the Contact Preference Register, see: www.birthinfo.ie

A new Contact Preference Register replaced the previous National Adoption Contact Preference Register (NACPR) and all data from the NACPR has now been transferred over. Contact preference options have also been updated in line with the new legislation.

The service will allow parents to register a no contact preference prior to their information being released as part of a person's birth and early life information. This ensures that the parent's right to privacy and wish for privacy will be communicated when releasing their information.

It is important to be aware that information will always be released, even where a 'no contact' preference has been registered. **If you are eligible to register a preference, it's important to do so before the Information Service opens for applications in October, 2022.** While preferences can still be registered after that, only preferences recorded on the register at the time of an application for information will be released with the associated birth information.

The new Contact Preference Register will enable the following people to register their preference in relation to contact with each other:

- adopted persons,
- those whose birth was illegally registered,
- those who were resident in an institution,
- those who were placed in a care arrangement,
- a parent of one of the above persons (or a person who believes themselves to be a parent)
- a relative of one of the above persons (or a person who believes themselves to be a relative)
- where the parent of one of the above persons is deceased, a friend of that parent who has information to share.
- next of kin of one of the above persons where that person is now deceased,
- a person who provided care to a child in a care arrangement,
- a person who was a relevant guardian of an adopted person.

2. From October 2022, you can request a tracing service or request information about your birth and early years. This will be a free service.

For more information, please contact:

Adoption Authority of Ireland: **Tel: + 353 12309 300; Email: records@aai.gov.ie**
See also: www.birthinfo.ie

For those affected who may be living overseas; supports have been put in place through some of the Irish advice and welfare services in Britain and the USA, Embassy staff in other areas may also be able to provide guidance.

If you are unsure about where or how to access support, please do feel free to contact us here at the Safe Home office and we will do our very best to point you in the right direction.



Survivor Support Liaison and Information Adviser Service London

In July this year, the [London Irish Centre](#) launched this service to provide advice and advocacy to former residents and survivors of Irish institutional abuse living in Britain.

Their newly launched Response Line is a free phone service in which clear, up-to-date information is given to former residents of Mother and Baby Institutions and County Homes on the upcoming Payment Scheme. The response line is also open for signposting towards suitable emotional support and/or specialist counselling, for all former residents of Mother and Baby Institutions and County Homes.

The services aims to support survivors in a way that will make the upcoming applications for the Payment Scheme as straight-forward as possible. It is an open, comprehensive service that operates on a basis of compassion and understanding and that values all survivors of Irish institutions and their lived experiences.

The Response Freephone Line is 0800 519 5519 (UK only). It is open 10am–4pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

OR contact the Support Team, via, Tel : **0207 4282071** or **07947111493**, Mon-Thurs 10am– 4pm

The Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme

The Scheme will provide financial payments and an enhanced medical card to defined groups in acknowledgement of suffering experienced while resident in Mother and Baby and County Home Institutions.

It will provide a general payment that increases based on the length of stay at the Institution. Additional payments will also be paid to mothers who carried out commercial work while in the Institution.

This will also apply to young mothers who were under 18 during their stay.

Initially, applicants seeking redress under this scheme had to show that they were resident in a relevant Institution for a minimum period of 6 months. In July 2022, this requirement was abolished. **No dates have been finalised yet for the roll-out of this scheme.**

For more information – The Dept. of Children operates a dedicated phone line, **Tel:** 00 353 1 647 3200 - Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5.30pm
OR email motherandbabyhomes@equality.gov.ie



Feedback on our services

Safe Home Ireland is currently in the process of conducting an Impact Report on our work and services since we were set up in 2000. We are also undertaking a strategic planning process that will inform our direction over the next 3 years. We would like to hear from you!

Whether you are involved in an agency abroad, a client of Safe Home or just someone with an interest in the work that we do, we are asking that you get in touch with us to give your opinion and feedback. What do you feel we do well, what can we do even better? Your input will help us shape our service and help those who may wish to avail of our service in the future.

Please contact our office directly, by email/phone, complete and return the hard copy of the survey (enclosed for Safe Home housing applicants only). **Alternatively, you can complete and return the survey online via Survey Monkey [HERE](#).**

Note! As an incentive, to those of you who do respond, we will enter you in a raffle for two complimentary tickets to a Celebration Concert with our Ambassador, [Seán Keane](#), on 1st December 2022 in the [Tullamore Court Hotel](#), Co. Offaly. If you are unable to travel you can gift the tickets to someone else!

Are banking in Ireland with Ulster Bank or KBC Bank?

Back in late 2020 Ulster Bank and later in 2021 KBC Bank announced that they would be leaving the Irish market. Ulster Bank is giving customers six months' notice to close their accounts and have already began writing out to customers on a phased basis, this will continue into early 2023. This is to make sure that there isn't a flood of customers trying to switch provider at once. KBC is also giving customers six months' notice to close their current accounts and they began writing out to customers over a 14-month period starting from 1st June 2022. **NOTE: If you don't close your account within the six-month time frame, Ulster Bank and KBC will simply close your account themselves and issue you with a cheque for any remaining money in it.**

If you are living abroad and bank with either of these institutions and do not receive any notification, it is important to contact your bank so that you can put a switching plan in place to move/close your account. This is particularly important if you receive any social welfare payment into your account here (e.g Irish State Pension Contributory), failure to put alternative arrangements in place will lead to disruptions in your pension payment.

Note! If you already have another account (here or abroad) and wish to have your Irish Pension paid there instead, contact The Pension Services Office in Sligo to provide them with that new information; **Tel:** +353 71 915 7100 or **Email:** state.con@welfare.ie

Frequently Asked Question

I was pre-pension age when I returned home to Ireland after working 28 years in the UK. I have now reached pension age.

Q. How do I go about claiming my UK State Pension from Ireland?

A. you can claim State Pension abroad if you've paid enough UK National Insurance contributions to qualify.

Note! If you wish to get a forecast of your UK pension entitlement, contact the Future Pension Centre Helpline, **Tel: 0800 731 0175** (within UK) OR if outside the UK, **Tel: +44 (0)191 218 3600**

Making a claim:

You must be within 4 months of your State Pension age to claim.

To claim your pension, you can either:

- Fill in form [EUP 65](#) to make a claim through your country of residence (Pension Services Office, Sligo). This is often the quicker route. The form is available online or by contacting the Pension Services Office, College Road, Sligo. **Tel:** 071 915 7100 (ask for Contributory Pensions Section).
- Send the [International claim form IPC BR1NSP](#) to the International Pension Centre (the address is on the form). For more information, contact The International Pension Centre - **Telephone:** +44 (0) 191 218 7777- Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

Getting paid; your State Pension can be paid into:

A bank in the country you're living in OR a bank or building society in the UK you can use:

(a) an account in your name, (b) a joint account or (c) someone else's account - if you have their permission and keep to the terms and conditions of the account

You will need the international bank account number (IBAN) and bank identification code (BIC) numbers if you have an overseas account. You will be paid in local currency - the amount you get may change due to exchange rates.



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

An Bunann Oifigeil Kéimeanna
Department of Foreign Affairs