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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 tAonú Ceilteach Éireannach
Department of Foreign Affairs



Tickets now available from Hotel Reception; Eventbrite or from Safe Home Ireland

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Welcome from our CEO

Welcome to the October edition of our Newsletter and the season of Halloween!

We would like to thank all of those who replied to our recent Survey, which informs our 21in21 Impact Report that will be launched on 1st December at our 21st Anniversary celebration event, in the [Tullamore Court Hotel, Co. Offaly](#). Next week, we will be announcing winners of the draw for two tickets to come to see our Ambassador, [Seán Keane](#) in Concert.

Tickets for this Concert are on sale from the [Tullamore Court Hotel](#), [Eventbrite](#) and on our [Website](#). For those who have signed up to our Planned Giving Campaign or are regular donors, we will be in touch with you directly. If you would like to sign up to our Planned Giving, you can do this under the DONATE section on our website: www.safehomeireland.com

We are excited to announce that we will be also launching a 2023 Inspirational Journal/Diary, which will contain 52 thought provoking and inspirational poems and messages from our weekly Friday Friendship social media posts. Copies of this diary will be available at our above event as well as from our website and from our office. More information to follow!

We hope you have a lovely Halloween wherever in the world you are located! Halloween in Ireland has been celebrated for centuries and first originated from the festival of Samhain which dates back over 2,000 years. Did you know that the name Hallowe'en derives from it being the evening before the Feast of All Saints (The Hallowed Ones)? It also marks the end of the bright half of the year and the start of the dark half so don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour on Saturday (in Daylight Saving Zones/Countries only)! Finally check out [The Museum of Ireland](#) for details of Traditions and customs of Halloween/Samhain in Ireland.

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



Seán Keane
Safe Home Ireland Ambassador

Tullamore Court Hotel

Thursday 1st December 2022
Doors open 5pm; Concert starts 6pm

Celebrating 21 Years of Safe Home Ireland

Tickets €30





Application for Social Housing in Ireland and Income Limits

Councils here in Ireland will only process non-resident applications from qualifying Irish emigrants, under the scheme, facilitated by ourselves here at Safe Home Ireland.

Generally, the Council approval will only relate to Housing Association schemes for older people, rather than the broader approval to cover all types of social housing supports - this includes access to Council housing/Housing Association properties and help with rent costs if renting from a private landlord under the Housing Assistance Payment scheme.

Social housing applicants must meet income /means testing guidelines as well as meeting the set criteria for the provision of housing for older Irish emigrants (outlined below);

Safe Home Ireland housing applicants must be;

- Older Irish born emigrants, aged 57yrs+
- Living in rented accommodation abroad
- Unable to provide accommodation for themselves from their own means
- Capable of independent living.

You can read more about the Safe Home Ireland housing application process and Frequently Asked Questions, [HERE](#).

Remember! Even if you do not meet the criteria to apply for housing under our scheme or have accommodation sourced for yourself on return, you can still link in with us for information on returning/moving to Ireland or if you need to avail of some outreach support, to help you get 'into the system' here on return.

Social Housing Means Testing; The [Household Means Policy](#) provides details of how your household income is assessed by local authorities for social housing support. The Policy includes information about what income is taken into account and what income is disregarded (not taken into account). For example, certain social welfare payments are not considered in these assessments.

There are 3 maximum income limits that apply to different housing authorities. You can find out more about the allowable income limits [HERE](#).

The local authority looks at the household's average net income for the 12 months before they received your application when assessing if your household meets the income criteria. Net income is the amount you are left with after tax and other deductions.

*From 1st. of October 2022. the maximum income limit for a single person increased in some





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.



The 2023 Budget was published/presented in Ireland on 27th of September last. The detail of the Budget may be of particular relevance to anyone considering returning/moving to Ireland in the future.

For a full overview on changes regarding key areas such as; housing, healthcare and social welfare and all the other 'fine print', please see [HERE](#).



I am living in the UK and wish to apply for my Irish passport. My driver's licence is out of date.

Q. Can you advise what other type of photo ID may be acceptable.

A. The Passport Office confirmed the following, "If a person does not have photo ID they would need to obtain some, this requirement for first time applications cannot be waived. This could include a passport from another country, a driving licence, or a national ID card. From the UK we may also accept an electoral card".

Contacting the Passport Office

Paper applications are still accepted but take significantly longer than online applications. The Passport Office advises where at all possible, applications should be made online [HERE](#)

Online applications are handled centrally by the Passport office in Ireland and not in the Passport Offices/Embassies abroad.

All queries relating to online applications are handled by the Customer Service Hub in Dublin, through the [webchat](#) service or by phone at **+353 1 671 1633**, which is available between 09.00-16.30 Monday to Friday.

All information on contacting the Passport Service can be found [HERE](#)

The Passport office advises that their communications hub, telephone and webchat agents are extremely busy at present but customers should continue to try and make contact.

