



**SAFE HOME IRELAND**  
EMIGRANT SUPPORT SERVICE



ADVICE &  
INFORMATION



OUTREACH  
VISITS



HOUSING  
ASSISTANCE



CONNECT

April 2023 – Issue 250

**WELCOME FROM OUR CEO**

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**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

We were delighted to attend the **Global Irish Civic Forum** in Dublin Castle this month. This is the third such forum, with the last taking place in 2017. The theme of the forum was "Together Again – Le Chéile Arís" and it truly lived up to its name! There were delegates and speakers from all continents and the programme reflected the five pillars of the Government Diaspora Strategy 2023-2025 (see [HERE](#)). It was heart-warming to hear about the work taking place abroad to advance Irish culture, the arts and sports as well as the impact of the business networks across the globe. We were also delighted to reconnect with so many of colleagues and partners from front-line organisations and to hear about their critical work supporting Irish abroad, particularly during Covid, in very challenging circumstances. The work carried out is commendable and we look forward to our continued partnership to support those who are considering/need to move to Ireland. See [HERE](#) for updated Global Diaspora Directory with details of almost 1,000 Irish organisations listed. Finally, most of the presentations and panel discussions from the Forum were recorded and we encourage you view online [HERE](#)

Our first Fundraising Walk, **The Long Road Home ... Ag Siúl le Chéile ...** is fast approaching and Ann Roddy, one of our Directors, will lead the walk. The walk will leave [EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin's Docklands](#) and will take 'the Long Road Home' (165km) to [Strokestown Park House and National Famine Museum](#), Co. Roscommon. We will be launching this Fundraising challenge at EPIC on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May. We would love you to join us for a day or for the whole challenge and if you are abroad, please consider doing it virtually! Your support is essential to ensure we can continue providing much-needed services to those who need them now and in the future. Please see poster for more information and registration details. Contact the [Safe Home Office](#) for details of how to support us with a donation.

**The Long Road Home... Ag Siúl le Chéile**  
Our Fundraising Walk will begin at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin's Docklands and finish at The National Famine Museum in Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.  
Friday 26th May to Sunday 4th June

The National Famine Way is a 165km trail that traces the footsteps of the 1,000 famine emigrants who left Strokestown in 1847. It commemorates the heart-breaking walk of forced emigration from Ireland.

**Registration €30**  
Join us for an hour, a day or come for the full 8 day challenge!

**SAFE HOME IRELAND**  
EMIGRANT SUPPORT SERVICE

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With the support of the [Community Foundation for Ireland](#), we are planning to establish **Returned Emigrants Network**. This network will be a once-off initiative to discuss the challenges and barriers facing returnees and seek solutions to address these. The intention is to reduce the barriers for those intending to return to Ireland and feed into policy representations. The Network members will collate a practical guide to ease the transition of moving home. We would be really interested to have input from Safe Home clients who have returned home and also from people who have returned independently. If you are willing to participate in this process, please contact our office and we can tell you more about it!

**Until next month, take care - from the Board, Staff & Friends of Safe Home Ireland**



Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme

No Mairé Cosúil Saorúcháil  
Departamento de Assuntos Irlandeses

## INFORMATION FOR SAFE HOME HOUSING APPLICANTS

### A. Keeping your Council housing application 'live'.

If you have been approved on a Council housing waiting list in Ireland, it is very important that you respond to any paperwork that the Council may send you for completion. Maintaining Council approval is an essential part of qualifying for any type of social housing support in Ireland. Most Councils now carry out annual Housing Needs Assessments, this is to ensure that their housing lists are kept up to date and accurate.

If you receive any paperwork from the Council asking you to confirm if you are still interested in remaining on the housing list and requesting additional information (such as up to date income/benefit information and a recent rent statement), please ensure that you respond within the timeframe given.

If you do receive paperwork and are unsure what you need to do, please contact us at Safe Home and we can help you with this. Alternatively, drop in to your nearest [Irish Welfare & Advice Centre](#) for assistance

### B. Police Checks/Garda Clearance requirement for social housing applicants

Most Local Authorities and social housing providers in Ireland will require prospective tenants to have Police/Garda clearance (or the equivalent, depending on the country you are currently living in).

These checks can often take some time to be carried out. For example; In the UK, the relevant clearance is known as a Subject Access Request (S.A.R) and can take up to 30 days to be processed. There is no charge for the S.A.R, applications, whether online or by post

When you submit a S.A.R application you will need to include copies (not originals) of at least two different documents which confirm your identity, current address and signature. These could be:

- A passport or driving licence which shows your date of birth and signature
- And **IF** you have lived at your current address for less than 10 years, a utility bill, bank, mortgage or credit card statement which is dated within the last six months and which shows your current address

More information on **UK Subject Access Requests**, including the application form can be obtained via: [www.acro.police.uk](http://www.acro.police.uk); To request an application form; **Tel:** 02380 47 9920  
**Email:** [customer.services@acro.pnn.police.uk](mailto:customer.services@acro.pnn.police.uk)

Alternatively, you can also contact ourselves here at Safe Home and we can post out the application form to you.

**Please note!** Due to a cyber-security incident with the [ACRO website](#), the facility to apply for a SAR online is currently suspended.

Some people may already have police clearance\* or the equivalent, if you have this and want to give your housing application the best chance of being successful, please forward to our offices to include on your housing file. **\*The clearance must have been carried out within the past 12 months\***

**Important Note!** In our experience of dealing with Housing Associations throughout the country, particularly in most recent times, only applicants who have recent police checks/equivalent will be made offers of accommodation. We understand that some applicants may have difficulty in applying for the required checks so please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries whatsoever.

The application procedures will of course be different depending on what country you are based in, so, you may need to research things for yourself in your host country. If you live close to an nearest [Irish Welfare & Advice Centre](#) abroad they too will be happy to offer assistance.

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## HOUSING OPPORTUNITY – MOVILLE. CO. DONEGAL



### Taobh na Cille – Moville, Co. Donegal

Apex Housing Association has a number of one & two bedroom apartments available in their scheme for older people in Moville. Moville is a lovely small coastal town on the Inishowen peninsula. It is about 30KMs from Derry and 34KMs from Buncrana.

Applicants must be **55 years+ and** capable of independent living.

**Current charges** range between €101 - €115 per week, depending on the size of the apartment. This includes rent, service charges and heat. All maintenance duties and repairs are the responsibility of the Housing Association.

**Note!** There is a no pets policy in place at this scheme.

Priority will be given to applicants who are approved on the Donegal County Council housing list. Qualifying tenants from the housing list can apply for some help with their rent costs.

While applicants who are not approved on the Council housing list can also be considered, these tenants would have to meet the full cost of their rent themselves.

If you are interested in putting your details forward for consideration or would like more information, please [contact the Safe Home office.](#)

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## THE END FOR LONG WAVE 252 RADIO SERVICE?

RTÉ Radio 1 announced in March that the Long Wave 252 service would cease from 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2023. At that time, RTÉ confirmed their commitment to running an information campaign for the Irish community in Britain that would be negatively impacted by the closure of the service and stated that Radio 1 could be accessed via other platforms, including channel 750 on Freesat, channel 0160 on Sky, channel 917 on Virgin Media, as well as through audio streaming services including the RTÉ Radio Player and Irish Radioplayer apps.

However, these are not avenues that can be easily accessed by all, particularly older people who are not au-fait with technology.

A long standing campaign has been running to highlight the real need and importance of the LW252 service to the Irish community in Britain. This has been spearheaded by Enda O’Kane. If you would like to lend your support to postpone RTE’s Longwave 252 shutdown you can sign the petition [HERE](#) or contact Enda via email at [soslongwave@gmail.com](mailto:soslongwave@gmail.com)

[THIS](#) article and web archive [HERE](#) will also give a little more insight and background



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION: DRIVING IN IRELAND AND THE REDUCED ESSENTIAL DRIVING THEORY (EDT)

I have recently returned to Ireland from the US and as far as I am aware I will qualify for the reduced EDT that will reduce the number of driving lessons I will need to take before sitting my Irish driving test.


**Q.** Can you clarify whether I will need to under-go the driver theory test and apply for the Irish provisional licence first?

**A.** The following conditions apply in relation to qualifying for the reduced driver training lessons (from 12 to 6);

1. You must hold a full foreign driving licence.
2. You must have held a licence for at least two years.
3. Your licence must not have expired more than six months on the date of receipt of application form.
4. You must be resident in Ireland.
- \*5. You must hold an Irish learner permit

\*This does include sitting the Driver Theory Test **and** then obtaining the Learner Permit.

More information on the Reduced EDT is available on the NDLS website [HERE](#), with the application EDT application form [HERE](#)



## CLAIMING UK WINTER FUEL PAYMENTS IF LIVING ABROAD

There have been some recent changes in the qualifying conditions to allow UK pension holders, living abroad, to qualify for Winter Fuel Payments.

*"If you do not live in the UK, you're only eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment if:*

- *you moved to an eligible country before 1 January 2021*
- *you were born before 26 September 1956*
- *you have a genuine and sufficient link to the UK - this can include having lived or worked in the UK, and having family in the UK"*

*source: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)*

If you think this may be something that is relevant to you, you can find more information, including contact details for the Winter Fuel Payment Centre [HERE](#)



Government of Ireland  
Emigrant Support Programme  
An Rialtas GóRÁDHA ÉIREANN  
Department of Foreign Affairs

