



SAFE HOME IRELAND
EMIGRANT SUPPORT SERVICE



ADVICE &
INFORMATION



OUTREACH
VISITS



HOUSING
ASSISTANCE



CONNECT

May 2023 – Issue 250

WELCOME FROM OUR CEO

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



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

Welcome to our May Newsletter. My introduction this month is primarily about our inaugural [National Famine Way](#) Fundraising challenge, *The Long Road Home – Ag Siúl le Chéile!*

The National Famine Way is a 165km walking and cycling trail that follows the footsteps of 1,490 tenants who were forced to emigrate by the Landlord of [Strokestown Park Estate](#) via Dublin and Liverpool, primarily to Canada, in 1847, at the height of the famine. To symbolise the work of Safe Home Ireland 'The Long Road Home' will be done in reverse to reflect our work in assisting people to 'come home'.

We are delighted to announce that our Ambassador, Seán Keane, will launch the challenge on Thursday 25th May (2pm) in [EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum](#). Other speakers will include Nathan Mannion of EPIC, Caroilín Callery of The Famine Museum Strokestown House and Safe Home Ireland Board member, Ann Roddy. We will then leave from EPIC on Friday 26th May and will take 'The Long Road Home' to [The National Famine Museum](#), Strokestown, to arrive on Sunday 4th June. Seán will also join us at various stages of the 10-day challenge. If you would like more information, to register or to sponsor a walker see [HERE](#) for more information and registration details.

We would also like to share details of a new folk musical '[In the Midst of Plenty](#)' from Roscommon-based [Enchanted Croí Theatre](#) currently touring around Ireland. The musical is set against the backdrop of the plot to assassinate the Landlord of Strokestown House Estate in 1847 after his forced evictions and assisted emigration programme. The musical is a story of love and survival in times of rebellion and adversity. We are pleased to have connected with the producers who are also supporting our 'Long Road Home' - Ag Siúl le Chéile'

Finally, I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet with [Minister Sean Fleming](#), the Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs with responsibility for International Development and Diaspora, to discuss in detail the impact of our work over the years as well as some of our plans going forward. We highlighted some of the challenges and barriers facing those who are considering returning to Ireland. We also expressed our sincere appreciation to the Department for supporting our work over the past 23 years and look forward to this continuing into the future.



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

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

Housing Opportunity – Lifford, Co. Donegal



St. Columba's Grove, Lifford, Co. Donegal

[Habinteg Housing Association](#) in Lifford, Co. Donegal has 2 one-bedroom apartments available. The apartments are in a sheltered housing unit - a warden is on site during normal working hours.

The scheme is set in a housing estate which is safe and well-maintained. Lifford is a small town with a good range of services. It is close to Strabane and also to Derry. It is located 2km from Strabane, 22km from Letterkenny and 24km from Derry.

The current total payable per week is €121 which is broken down as follows,

- €24 per week for six dinners - (this is **not** optional)
- €15 service charge which is applied to all units.
- €82 per week for rent (heating is included)

Qualifying tenants approved on the Donegal County Council housing list can apply for some help with the rent element of charges.

Important Note! 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 and other associated charges themselves.

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



Transfer of Residence – Bringing a car to Ireland

One of the most frequently asked questions we receive is about how to go about applying for the Vehicle Registration Tax exemption when returning/moving to Ireland permanently.

It can be a somewhat confusing process! We are happy to report that our colleagues in the Citizens Information Board/Citizens Information Service have recently developed a clear comprehensive guide which should help to make things a bit more straightforward. The information is available via the CIC website [HERE](#)



Working Together!


Safe Home Ireland works closely with [Citizens Information Centres \(CIC\)](#) throughout the country. CIC staff may refer specific returning to Ireland queries to ourselves or may refer people to us who could benefit from our 'one to one' outreach service.

We refer some of our clients to their local CIC office if they need some advice on services in the area or perhaps a bit of help with completing paperwork.

This hand in hand approach of working with other agencies 'on the ground' ensures that there is no duplication of services and that all agencies can target their resources effectively and towards those who are in greatest need.

If you have recently returned/ moved to Ireland and want to link in with your nearest CIC, you can find details of offices on a county by county basis [HERE](#). If you think you may benefit from a visit from a Safe Home Outreach Officer, please contact our office.

Also ... if you are still abroad and need some support in your current location or if you want help with applying for benefits/entitlements in your country of residence, remember, there are Irish agencies that you can contact. Please see [HERE](#) for an outline of agencies on a region-by-region basis.



Private Health Insurance in Ireland

Private health insurance can be a complex area and the way companies 'explain' their policies, it can often be very difficult to compare like with like, both in terms of product and cost.

As a starting point, for a very general and broad outline of private health insurance in Ireland, please see the Health Insurance Authority website; www.hia.ie The HIA are an independent Government body, rather than insurance providers themselves.

Something to watch out for: Age related issues - Introduced on May 1st 2015, Lifetime Community Rating encourages younger people to buy health cover – to reduce the overall cost of premiums for everyone. If you are 35+, and did not take out health insurance already, a loading of 2% is added for per year, for each year above 35.

NOTE! this loading does not apply if you take out the policy within 9 months of moving!

In order to have valid private health insurance cover in Ireland, people must prove that they have residency here for at least 6 months of the year. Different companies may require differing documentation to prove this

New entrants to the market will have to serve waiting periods before they are fully covered. Under most policies, people can be treated immediately for accidents, but would have to wait 6 months before being covered for new conditions and 5 years for pre-existing conditions. A pre-existing condition is one which shows signs or symptoms in the 6 months prior to taking out insurance. Have a look [HERE](#) for more information on waiting periods:

Realistically, maybe for the first year of cover after moving, (in order to get a plan that is tailored to your individual needs), it may be best to go via a Health Insurance Broker for guidance. Details of various brokers are available online.

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 Strakestown, Co. Roscommon.
Friday 26th May to Sunday 4th June 2023

The National Famine Walk is a 100km trail that traces the footsteps of the 1.480 famine emigrants who left Dúnreevan in 1847. It commemorates the most devastating week of forced emigration from Ireland.

Registration Details

SCAN ME

OR

Register on Website:
<https://platform.gigya.com/event/143>

OR

If you can not join us in-person and/or you live abroad, please consider doing it virtually or sponsoring one of our walkers!

Registration €30
This fee includes a t-shirt and a water bottle. It also includes a donation to the fund.

SAFE HOME IRELAND
Inclusive Support Services

Safe Home Ireland is a registered charity that assists Irish people abroad to 'Come Home' and also offers support and advocacy since they have returned.
Your support is vital for us to continue providing essential services to those in need, both here and in the States.

Contact Us:
Safe Home Ireland, St. Brendan's Walk,
Malins, Co. Mayo, F28 K286
Tel: +353 18 361036
Email: info@safehomeireland.com
Website: www.safehomeireland.com

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum
The National Famine Museum

Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme