



CEO Welcome

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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

I have just arrived back from a short but invaluable visit to the **USA, covering New York, Boston and Philadelphia**. During my week there I visited 9 Irish Welfare/Cultural Centres and met with so many dynamic, hardworking and dedicated staff and volunteers; I also met several people who are thinking about returning to Ireland, two of whom will return next month; I attended some seniors' luncheon clubs and met many people who are well settled and content in the US, while some others have a desire to return home one day; I met with Síghle FitzGerald, Consul General, and Paul Rooney, vice Consul of Ireland in Boston and attended the official opening of [Ireland House in New York](#) by [Tánaiste, Micheál Martin](#). Ireland House will house the Consulate General of Ireland in New York, Bord Bia, Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Tourism Ireland, CIE Tours and The Ireland Funds.

I was very fortunate to attend the annual [Brian J. Donnelly leadership awards in Boston](#) and meet this year's recipient of the Award, Kathleen O'Toole, a lawyer and career police officer who is recognised internationally for her principled leadership and public safety reform efforts. I also attended three [Seán Keane](#) (our Ambassador) concerts, in all cities I visited! The concerts served as a unique opportunity for Seán to get the word out about Safe Home to broader audiences, and for me to meet with some people who would like to more information about our charity/moving to Ireland.

I would like to thank everyone I met for the hospitality and warm welcome I received, and for giving so generously of their time to me. My trip generated extensive exposure for Safe Home Ireland and developed many new connections and partners for Safe Home' work going forward too. There are too many people to mention here but I have covered all meetings/visits via Instagram and Facebook and I will keep in touch with everyone going forward. Our last outreach trip to the US was in 2004, by our Outreach Officer, Brenda Fleming, so this was a much overdue trip!

The **Returned Emigrants Network**, which meets bi-monthly in Portlaoise, Co. Laois, will be **formally launched by Seán Fleming, TD and Minister of State Department of Foreign Affairs** (International Development & Diaspora) on **Saturday 12th October (2pm)** in [Portlaoise Parish Centre](#). If you/anyone you know has moved home in recent times, please spread the word to come along & join us. See back page for details or [contact our office](#).

Next month, on 27th October, Seán Ballantyne, (who returned home with his family in early 2024 from Luton to Sligo) will run the **Dublin Marathon** to support our work. Seán trains with Boyle Athletic club and we are so thankful for his and their support. A separate e-bulletin will follow on how you can support Seán on his challenge.

Our annual **fundraising concert** with our Ambassador, [Seán Keane](#), will be held on Sunday 1st December, in [The Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary](#), City Quay, Dublin, D02 A090. The Concert will take place at the earlier time of 5pm, to accommodate those who need to travel long distances home after the concert. Tickets are available now on [Eventbrite](#), priced at €32 (to include booking fees). More information on this event will be provided next month! Also see back page for poster.

Until then, Slán agus beannacht, from all the team at Safe Home Ireland





Applying for Social Housing Support in Ireland – an overview

What is covered by the term social housing support?

- Access to Council accommodation
- Access to Housing Association tenancies
- Financial Assistance with rent costs if renting in the private rented sector, through schemes such as Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

Before you begin the Social Housing Application process (applying to the Council)

PPS Number: In order to start the Council housing application process, applicants must have a valid Irish Insurance Number (PPSN).

For more information on applying for a PPSN, please see [HERE](#)

If you would like additional information on **applying for a PPSN as a non-resident**, please see [HERE](#) OR contact [our office](#).

Applications for non-resident PPSNs can only be facilitated in exceptional/limited circumstances.

Income Means Testing: In order to qualify for social housing support in Ireland, applicants must meet certain criteria, one of these is income means testing. Please see [HERE](#) for a guide to the allowable NET income levels on a county by county/Local Authority area basis


If an applicant's income exceeds the set limit for the catchment area they are applying to, they will not qualify for social housing support.

'Local Connection': As part of the qualifying criteria to be approved for Council housing, applicants are generally required to demonstrate a local connection to the area where they are seeking to be housed.

This connection is normally already satisfied where the applicant is already resident in the catchment area

OR

If applying from outside of the Council area, they can satisfy the Council that they have strong connections to /in the area (e.g. having lived there for 5 years+ in the past or have close family who have been resident in the area for a period of 2 years+)





There are 2 ways of applying for social housing support in Ireland (outlined below).

Sadly, neither of these two options are quick or easy, especially due to the current housing crisis here in Ireland. However, Council approval really is the key in being able to qualify for ANY type of social housing support.

1. Applying for social housing if already resident/living in Ireland.

This also includes people who may have recently returned home permanently and are staying with family or renting short-term), they must apply DIRECTLY to the Council in the catchment area where they have moved to in order to have their housing needs assessed.

You can read more about applying for social housing from within Ireland [HERE](#)

It can take the Council up to 12 weeks to assess/process a housing application **Once approved** on the housing list, applicants can be considered for secure social housing tenancies in Council accommodation or Housing Association schemes or for assistance with private rental costs via the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) For more info on HAP, please see [HERE](#)

Some points for consideration:


It is not possible to be registered on more than one Council housing list

Councils cannot give any timeframe of how long applicants will have to wait before securing suitable accommodation

The waits to secure Council and Housing Association tenancies can be significant, particularly in all cities, and most especially in all parts of Dublin.

Re HAP, it can be difficult to find affordable long-term private rented accommodation (the prospective tenant must do this themselves)

Note! To get a good picture of what is available to rent in the private rental market on an area by area basis, see: www.daft.ie





2. Applying for social housing as a qualifying Irish born emigrant, via Safe Home Ireland

Qualifying* (see criteria below) older Irish emigrants, still resident abroad, can apply for social housing via a limited concession that is facilitated by Safe Home Ireland.

* To apply for housing via Safe Home Ireland, applicants must be:

-Irish born, living abroad

-Aged 57 Yrs+


-Capable of Independent living

-Living in rented accommodation abroad and unable to provide accommodation for themselves (from their own income/savings) on return to Ireland.

Under this scheme, qualifying Safe Home applicants can generally only be considered for Housing Association schemes for older people, (not Council or HAP schemes).

Safe Home Ireland do not manage or build any housing ourselves. We work with our clients to help them to get registered/approved on the relevant Council housing waiting list so that they can be considered for Housing Association schemes down the line.

Note! For a more detailed overview of the Safe Home Ireland housing assistance, please see the Frequently Asked Question section on our website [HERE](#)




Important Reminder! The annual Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) is how Councils here update their housing list. Many Councils are currently carrying out these assessments.

If you have already been approved on a Council housing waiting list in Ireland and wish to be considered/nominated by the Council for any social housing options in the future, **ALWAYS** reply to any correspondence that you receive from the Council. Failure to do so may mean that your social housing application could be closed.

Normally, under HNA, Councils seek confirmation that the applicant wishes to remain on the housing list; that their circumstances have not changed since their initial application was processed and to request up to date proof of income /benefits and rent statements.

For Safe Home housing applicants who have heard from the Council but are unsure how to proceed, please do [contact us](#) and we will guide/assist you with this.



Renewing an Irish Driving Licence – Information from the Road Safety Authority

A driver should have a valid driving licence with them while driving. You can renew a licence within 3 months of the expiry date (i.e. 3 months before the licence expires).

However, a driver will not lose their driving licence entitlements unless they let their full licence expire for more than 10 years. If a driver lets their licence expire for more than 10 years they will have to do their theory test apply for a learner permit and sit a driving test again.

You can renew your expired licence online, as normal, or book an appointment to attend an NDLS centre in person.

For more information on renewing an Irish driving licence, please see [HERE](#)

For specific queries on Drivers Licence matters, email: lqueries@rsa.ie

Dates for your Diary!

An Evening of Music & Song
Sunday, 1st December, 2024

Concert in aid of:
SAFE HOME IRELAND
DIAPOIRA SUPPORT SERVICE

Sean Keane
Safe Home Ireland
Ambassador

Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
City Quay, Dublin,
D02 A090

Doors: 4pm
Concert: 5pm
Tickets: €32

From eventbrite | Scan QR to book
Feel free to bring a cushion!

Safe Home Ireland is a charity that works with the Irish diaspora. With your support, we can continue to provide information and guidance to Irish abroad thinking of returning home and maintain our vital support services for those who have recently returned.

Supported by
Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

For more information, contact Safe Home Ireland
Web: www.safehomeireland.com | Email: karen@safehomeireland.com | Tel: +353 98 36036
CHY 20049119

**Returned Emigrants Network
Launch Event**

Saturday 12th October 2024
2-3.30pm

Portlaoise Parish Centre
Stradbally Rd, Portlaoise,
Co. Laois, R32 FH67

With Minister Seán Fleming
Minister of State Department of Foreign Affairs
(International Development and Diaspora)

Have you recently returned home to Ireland?
Would you like to meet others who have lived abroad? Why not join Safe Home Ireland's Returned Emigrants Network?

For more info
Contact Karen at Safe Home Ireland
Tel: 098 36036 / 087 977 5080
Email: karen@safehomeireland.com

www.safehomeireland.com
info@safehomeireland.com

SAFE HOME IRELAND
DIAPOIRA SUPPORT SERVICE

Funded by
Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

Safe Home Ireland is a charity that works with the Irish diaspora to provide a range of services to Irish abroad thinking of returning home to Ireland. It also offers outreach support to those who have recently returned.

St. Brigid's High School, Co. Wick, 2016/17
Charity No. 10000000