



Emigrant Support Service

April 2017 – Issue 185

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### Safe Home office

**hours:** Monday–

Thursday:

9am-5pm

Friday: 9am-4pm



ADVICE &  
INFORMATION



OUTREACH  
VISITS



HOUSING  
ASSISTANCE



CONNECT

Greetings,

Ireland is changing. We won't have to export our toxic waste anymore, or worry about oversubscribed leaking landfills either. We will just burn it all to generate electricity for 80,000 Dublin homes in our new incinerator in Poolbeg, Dublin which took its first load of refuse this week.

Neither will we be exporting Irish women seeking abortions in the UK anymore. Suddenly the ground has shifted and there is widespread talk of another abortion referendum next year. Over the weekend the Citizen's Assembly proposed a total liberalisation of the law to allow legal abortion in this State in all sorts of circumstances. It only remains for a special Oireachtas Committee to water this radical proposal down to a level which, after Government approval, can be put to the people in a constitutional referendum for their consideration, before it becomes the law of the land.

In case that is not enough evidence of the move to a totally secular state, also this week there is general uproar over the proposal to give a religious order ownership of the new maternity hospital, soon to be constructed in Dublin with a state investment of 300 million euro. Already an Irish bishop has said that the Catholic ethos will prevail as regards the policies pursued by the new hospital.

In a world still marvelling at how Brexit happened and getting to grips with President Trump, the saga of uncertainty continues with the upcoming battle next month between anti-EU National Front leader, Marine Le Pen and her rival pro-EU candidate Emmanuel Macron for the French presidency. Ms Le Pen has capitalised on an agenda of anti-immigration in the first round of voting with 21.30% of the vote, leading in the rural areas, while her rival Emmanuelle Macron has just got ahead of with 24.01% of the votes, leading the vote in cities.

But never mind all of that! More exciting is the news of the proposal by British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn that St.Patrick's Day will be an official bank holiday in the UK. It's all part of his grand plan ahead of the UK General Election on 8<sup>th</sup> June next to celebrate, "the four nations that make up our great country." "But where Theresa May divides, Labour will unite our four nations". A labour government will make St. George's Day-England's national day and Shakespeare's birthday- a public holiday, along with St David's Day, St Andrew's Day and St. Patrick's Day". Nice one!

So long for now, **Dr Jerry Cowley, Chairman Safe Home**



## **Are you in the London area and thinking of moving /returning to Ireland?**

A Safe Home Outreach Officer will be holding an Information Clinic  
in

**The London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, London NW1 9XB**

For information on housing, health care, entitlements in Ireland and more, please drop along  
and meet Noreen at The Irish Centre

on

**Thursday 18th of May 2017 (10am- 1pm)**

A big thanks to the staff at the London Irish Centre for helping to organise and host this event.  
For more information, please contact the Safe Home office

**NOTE!** – if you are an Advice Centre in the UK and would like us to host a Clinic in your Centre, please  
contact the Safe Home office; Tel: 00 353 98 36036 or by email at [info@safehomeireland.com](mailto:info@safehomeireland.com)

### **Banking in Ireland**

**Q. I am hoping to move to Ireland shortly, can you tell me how to go about opening an Irish bank account before I arrive?**

**A.** Under Criminal Justice Legislation to prevent money laundering, it is generally not possible to open a bank account in Ireland until you can prove that you are actually resident here. Most banks will require the prospective account holder to present at the bank branch in person with up to date valid photo I.D (usually a passport or drivers licence) and utility bills in their own name at their Irish address. The issue of providing utility bills as proof of address is a matter which causes most difficulty for people who have recently returned/moved to Ireland. It can take some time to get utilities set up and in some cases, people may have returned to stay with family or friends in the short-term, so providing utility bills is not an option for them.

Some banks may accept letters from a Government Department addressed to the applicant at their Irish address. However, guidelines state that it is up to individual banks to decide what is acceptable in terms of the relevant supporting proof of identity and address.

We were interested to learn about a new initiative introduced by Bank of Ireland recently to give information and advice to people considering moving/returning to Ireland. They have set up a dedicated '**coming to Ireland team**' to assist with queries around transfer of funds and opening back accounts in Ireland. For more information on this service, please contact the B.O.I team directly: **Tel: 00 353 1 2500 346**. The phone lines are open from 07:00am – 24:00 (local Irish time) Monday to Friday and 10:00am -17:45 (local Irish time) on Saturday & Sunday.

**Note!** They also offer a Skype and Facetime option

Most of the major banks in Ireland offer the facility for people to open a non-resident account. Already having a non-resident account with an Irish bank may make it somewhat easier to open an Irish bank account if you thinking of moving here in the future (by using a change of address system). Some of the banks offer the facility to open the non-resident account online, while others request that you call into a branch if holidaying in Ireland and take along your photo I.D together with two forms of proof of address (utility bills from abroad).

For independent advice and information on banking in Ireland, financial product comparisons etc, you can contact; **The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission**, Bloom House PO Box 12585, Railway Street, Dublin 1 **Tel: 00 353 1 402 5555**  
For full details, see: [www.consumerhelp.ie](http://www.consumerhelp.ie)

## Housing Opportunity – For Donegal applicants only



**Ardara Voluntary Housing in Co. Donegal** currently have a two-bedroom apartment available, they also have a number of one bedroom units vacant in the scheme. Ardara is a small but busy town in the South West of Donegal. The nearest neighbouring towns are Dungloe and Killybegs. All apartments are self-contained and spacious. There is also a day care unit on-site which tenants can avail of, subject to assessment

**Note!** Applicants must be registered and approved by Donegal County Council to be considered for housing in this scheme.

**Please contact the Safe Home office for more information.**

## Renewing your Irish Passport online – Frequently Asked Questions;

Since 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2017, Irish Citizens **who are over 18**, and have previously held an Irish Passport can now apply to renew their Passport Book and/or Passport Card online. Please see below for some of the FAQ's that have been raised around the online application process.

**Q. Can I apply for a passport online?** Yes. You can apply online if you are over 18, currently hold an Irish Passport and are not changing the name on your current passport.

**Q. How much does it cost to apply online?** A standard passport book online costs €80. A Large passport book online costs €110. A passport card costs €35. It is cheaper when you apply for a passport book and card at the same time.

**Q. Can I apply online if my passport is lost/stolen?** Yes, but your application may take a little longer to process.

**Q. Can I apply for a Business Passport online?** No. You will be required to submit a paper application.

**Q. What do I need to apply online?** You will need a digital photograph, an email address and a credit/debit card to apply online.

**Q. How do I get a digital photo?** You can get a digital photo in 3 ways:

- You can get your photo taken in a Photo-Me booth where you will be given a unique code with your printed photos. You will be given the option to use your code during the online application process to retrieve your photo.
- You can go to a photo provider such as a photographer or pharmacy who can provide you with a digital photo on a USB or by e-mail.
- You can also get someone to take a photo at home using a digital camera or smartphone/ tablet. If the photo you submit does not meet the standard required to produce a passport, the Passport Service will contact you directly to submit a new photo.

**Important Note!** If you have already applied through Passport Express or your Irish Embassy/ Consulate you cannot apply online as well - this will delay both applications.

Passport online queries can be made on the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website:  
**<https://www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship/online-passport-queries/>**

### **A Holiday in Kerry – places still available**

The London Irish Centre, in partnership with, The Kerry Emigrant Support Group are organising an all-expenses trip to Ballybunion from 3rd to 10th June 2017

#### **To qualify, applicants must be:**

Irish born/citizen over the age of 55 - low to moderate support needs - financially unable to make a trip to Ireland - have not visited Ireland or been on a previous Kerry trip in the last 3 years.

**The closing date is 5th May**, with interviews taking place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Please contact** Margaret Kiely at the London Irish Centre; **Tel: 020 79162222** (extension 1)

### **ARAN HOME SUPPORT**

#### **An innovative new project launched recently by Leeds Irish Health and Homes**

Aran Home Support has been set up to provide a high quality, dementia specific, culturally sensitive service to individuals and families where memory loss and dementia are adversely affecting daily life.

**The areas covered are:** Leeds North including, but not restricted to, Kirkstall, Moortown, Roundhay, Alwoodley and Chapel Allerton.

**How the service works:** Aran Home Support is available from Monday 9am until Friday 5pm, with visits lasting for a minimum of two hours. The service caters for those experiencing mild to moderate stages of dementia and memory loss and who wish to remain in their own home. Members of the Aran team will arrange to visit you at home to discuss your requirements and what Aran Home Support can provide.

**What can the Aran service help you with?** The Service will help the person with dementia or memory loss to retain their memory of how to do the everyday tasks they have been used to doing and enjoy. They place the needs of the person with dementia firmly at the heart of all that they do, while at the same time, providing peace of mind, and much needed respite to family carers. They will also assist with light housekeeping tasks including meal preparation, baking, laundry, shopping and visits.

**How to apply for the service;** If you are interested in receiving the service or would like to enquire on behalf of a relative, friend or client, please contact Paula Cox, Dementia Services Development Manager at Leeds Irish Health and Homes on **0113 262 5614 Ext 161 or 07904 246 531**.

**Is there a charge for the service?** Yes, although it is a not for profit service, it still must pay for itself, so there will be a charge. You will be billed for the service monthly and can pay by Direct Debit, Credit or Debit Card, bank transfer, or cheque. **Please note!** Some people may be eligible for Direct Payments from Leeds City Council to support you in purchasing these services. For queries on Direct Payments, contact Adult Social Care on **0113 222 4401** (Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm)

Safe Home Ireland is supported by the Emigrant Support Programme via:



AN ROINN GNÓTHAÍ EACHTRACHA AGUS TRÁDÁLA NA HÉIREANN  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE OF IRELAND