

Welcome from CEO

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter! We hope you all had a lovely summer – it's hard to believe how quickly it has blown by! It has been a busy few months for our team and we are pleased to share some of our latest news and updates with you!

On **Sunday 7th September** (12pm-7pm) we will be attending the [London Irish Vintage Charity Day](#) at **Tír Chonaill Gaels Grounds, Greenford, London**. This is the 13th Annual Vintage Day and the event raises a lot of funds for selected charities each year. There is a great line up of music, a jiving competition, traditional Irish crafts, a vintage rally and lots of craic! Derek Ryan will be the headline act this year so we will all be [holding on to our hats](#)! We will be doing a live interview with [Highland Radio](#) (12-2pm) so be sure to tune in and come along to our stall to say hello!

We are at the final stages of **developing our NEW website** and are looking forward to the **public launch** and **Stakeholders Day** at [EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum](#) on **Monday 22nd September** (1.30-4pm). This will be a unique opportunity to meet the Safe Home team, including staff, board, friends and key stakeholders in Ireland and abroad. We will have a range of speakers who will share their experience of engaging with Safe Home in our work supporting the Irish diaspora to return home. You can register to attend on Eventbrite [HERE](#). There is also the opportunity to view online - contact karen@safehomeireland.com for more information/zoom link.

We are also looking forward to attending and having a stall at a **Health & Wellbeing Day** at [The London Irish Centre](#) on **Tuesday 30th September** (11am-2pm). For anyone thinking about moving or returning to Ireland, drop by to say hello to our Outreach & Advocacy Officer. That afternoon we will also be available for one-to-one appointments **if anyone would like to meet with us, please contact our office for more information or to make an appointment**. We will also be visiting some of our housing applicants across London during the week, as well as meeting with staff at Irish Welfare Centres. Further information will be shared on our social media channels.

contact

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

Safe Home Ireland,
St. Brendan's Village,
Mulranny, Co. Mayo
F28 A386

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 with us!

Safe Home Programme CLG
trading as Safe Home Ireland
Charity No: 20049119
Company Reg No: 351678

follow us



JOIN US FOR OUR 70th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Health & Wellbeing Fair

TUESDAY 30th SEPTEMBER
11am - 2pm
The London Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square NW1 9XB

Join us for a refreshing evening dedicated to your health and wellbeing! Enjoy inspiring guests and helpful tips to support a healthier, more balanced lifestyle. Whether you're looking to relax, learn, or connect with others, this uplifting event is the perfect place to start your day.

Over 20 stalls including:

- Camden Mobile Health Bus
- Breathe Stop Smoking Service
- Irish in Britain
- Macular Society
- Safehome Ireland
- St John's Ambulance

Bring your friends and family along for a morning of relaxation, conversation, and feel-good activities! It's a great opportunity to spend quality time together while exploring simple ways to boost your health and wellbeing. All ages welcome!

For more information: www.camden.gov.uk/events - 07446 202924

We can't wait to see you there!

 Camden

Safe Home Ireland Stakeholders Day and Launch of our New Website

Monday, 22nd September 2025 (1.30-4.00pm)

Meet the Team - Staff, Board, Friends, Ambassador and Life President
Connect with a wide range of Stakeholders and Supporters

Celebrating 25 years of our work!

Speakers to include:

- Aileen Conner, CEO The Irish Emigration Museum
- Sarah Morgan, CEO Techologies (Website Operator)
- Aileen O'Connell, Growth Digital (Website Designer)
- Jim Hennessy, The Irish Abroad Unit
- Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT)
- Asylum Seeker & Council Leader
- Consular Affairs Division (DFAT)
- Dr. Maria Kavanagh, The Diaspora Institute
- Consular Section, The National Archives
- Our Work in Action
- Asylum Seeker, London England
- Refugee, London England
- Refugee, London England
- Refugee, London England

The only Building, Dublin House, Dublin 1, D01 H9T0

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum

For more info: [safehomeireland.com](https://www.safehomeireland.com)
Register via Eventbrite: <https://journalofyox.co>

 **SAFE HOME IRELAND**  **UTS TECHNOLOGIES**  **GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND**

London Irish

12 noon until 7pm

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHARITY DAY
SUNDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER 2025

AT TIR CHONAILL GAELS BERKELEY AVENUE, GREENFORD, UB6 0NZ

For further details please contact Brenda at 7pm on 07841 042707 or email: londonirish@londonirish.org

Featuring: Artists: Derek Ryan, Hungry Ghost, Simi Attraction, Johnny McGovern (plus others)

This Year's Sponsored Charities:

-  St Lukes
-  St Vincent's
-  hopt
-  AIR AMBULANCE

Bringing Your Pet to Ireland

You will find Government guidance on the process involved in bringing your pet to Ireland [HERE](#). For any specific follow-up queries you may have, contact;

Email: livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie

Tel within Ireland: 01 607 2827

Tel outside of Ireland: 00 353 1 607 2827

Notes!

Please consider that many private landlords and social housing schemes may have restrictions in place in relation to pets. Sadly, some will have a strict NO pets policy. This tends to be particularly the case if the accommodation in question is apartment-style living.

If you have a much loved pet that you plan to bring home with you, it is best to check with your prospective landlord if there are any issues around this, in advance.

Access to Birth and Early Life Information in the Irish System

As a follow up to information in our June edition on how to apply for an Irish Birth Certificate, we had a number of queries from people who had been through the adoption process and wished to trace their records and also trace relatives.

The introduction of the [Birth Information and Tracing Act 2022](#) provided a full and clear right of access to birth certificates, birth and early life information for all persons who were adopted, boarded out, the subject of an illegal birth registration or who otherwise have questions in relation to their origins. It also allows for access to information by next of kin in certain circumstances.

The law established a Contact Preference Register and a robust tracing service and, as well as a range of new bespoke measures to address issues arising for people affected by illegal birth registration.

Click links below to access various services available;

- To apply for your [birth and early life information](#)
- To apply for a [tracing service](#)
- To register or update your preferences on the [Contact Preference Register](#).

For more information, please see [HERE](#)

Supports for Survivors of Irish Mother and Baby Homes

There was considerable media attention last month, as the excavation to locate the remains of hundreds of infants who died and were buried on the site of the former St. Mary's Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, County Galway began. The Home in Tuam was run by the Bon Secours sisters between 1925 and 1961.

While this commencement, after many years of campaigning, was greatly welcomed by survivors and families involved, for some, it brought past trauma to the fore.

If you or someone you know may need support, there are agencies that you can contact;

- **The National Counselling Service (NCS)** in Ireland provides free counselling to people age 18 or older who experienced childhood abuse or neglect, are former residents of a mother and baby home, or have a medical card. For more information, please see [HERE](#).
- **Sage Advocacy** offers free, confidential information, support, and advocacy to survivors of institutional abuse in Ireland, helping them to have their voices heard, explore their options, and access their rights. For more information and to access the service, please see [HERE](#)
- **The Samaritans** provide free, confidential emotional support is available 24/7 for **people resident in Ireland and for Irish people living abroad**, through dedicated free phone numbers. This service for the Irish diaspora is funded by the Government of Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme.

UK & Northern Ireland: 116 123 *

*Call free on 116 123 day or night, 365 days a year, from any phone in the UK or Republic of Ireland.

USA: 1 (800) 273-8255; **Canada:** 1 (877) 303-0833; **Australia:** 135 247

Elsewhere: +44 8457 90 90 90 (**standard call rates apply here**)

Email: jo@samaritans.org

Note that response times for email contact can take up to 24 hours. If you need urgent support, contact by phone, rather than email.

- The [Irish in Britain](#) have prepared a useful directory of support services for survivors available via Irish centres and other agencies across the UK, see [HERE](#)
- **Elsewhere abroad:** some of the larger Irish Centres globally may have specific support services in place for survivors. You will find contact information for various services worldwide via the **Global Irish Diaspora Directory** [HERE](#)
- For more general emotional and well-being support in Ireland and abroad, **Helplink** counselling service provides accessible mental health supports, in-person and online. They provide a specific service for Irish abroad and returning emigrants. For more information on this service, please see [HERE](#)

Driving in Ireland – Frequently Asked Question

I will be returning to Ireland shortly after 30 years living in the USA. I understand that I can drive in Ireland on my U.S driver's licence for up to 12 months but will then have to go through the whole process of applying for an Irish driving licence.

Q. Can you give me some idea of all that is involved in that?

A. This is a stressful, challenging and very costly exercise for people who return from countries where there are no licence-exchange arrangements in place.

In your case as you hold a national driving licence from a country outside of the EU **not** from a [Recognised States](#) for licence exchange, and you intend to stay in Ireland for more than 12 months, you are correct – you will have to apply for an Irish driving licence.

You can apply for the Irish Learner Drivers Licence at any stage within the first 12 months of return. You will also need to pass a theory test, take driving lessons (see below notes) and pass a driving test.

For more information on all that is involved in that process , please see [HERE](#)

Important Notes!

- Once you obtain an Irish Learner Permit, this will take precedence over your full foreign driving licence. This means that all rules and regulations pertaining to the holder of a learner permit will apply to you, including, displaying learner “**L**” plates, being accompanied by a qualified driver, as well as other requirements, listed [HERE](#).
- Under-going the learner driver process is likely to have implications for the cost of your car insurance
- You may qualify for reduced Essential Driving Training lessons (**6, instead of 12**), please see [HERE](#) for more information, including how to qualify and apply.

Join Our Campaign!

Irish-U.S. Driver's License Exchange Campaign

Working for reciprocal agreements between Ireland and US states

In February 2025, we jointly launched a Campaign in partnerships with individuals and organisations from the U.S. and Ireland to secure reciprocal agreements with key U.S. States initially (Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, Massachusetts, Illinois, California, New Jersey and Oklahoma) aiming to streamline mobility and reduce barriers for Irish citizens and U.S. residents alike. As we advised in previous editions, there is a commitment to advancing reciprocity as outlined in Ireland's current Programme for Government and it also has key Ministerial support. We will keep you updated regularly. In the meantime, if you are in a position to assist or support this work or are directly affected by this barrier, we would love to hear from you. To follow progress and updates sign-up to receive our Newsletter [HERE](#)