

OCT '25 – Issue 277

Welcome from CEO

Welcome to our October news and another busy month for us here at Safe Home! Earlier this month, on 14th October, we had the opportunity to deliver a **cross-party briefing on "Issues Affecting Returning Irish Citizens"** in Leinster House, in partnership with Ciaran Staunton of the *Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform*. Our briefing addressed a broad range of issues and challenges that were raised with us in advance of the meeting that affect many Irish people who are thinking about moving/returning to Ireland. We are encouraged that the members who attended committed to advancing some of our recommendations, including the establishment of a **Cross-Party Oireachtas Committee on Returning Irish Citizens** to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to the policy issues impacting returning emigrants.

The following day, we participated in a **Diaspora Consultation Forum**, hosted by [Neale Richmond TD](#), Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora. This forum forms part of a wider consultation process, both in Ireland and abroad, which will inform the development of Ireland's new Diaspora Strategy, scheduled for launch in April 2026. This provided an opportunity to highlight key challenges faced by Irish abroad and those returning, particularly people in vulnerable or crisis situations. Some of the points raised echoed themes from our cross-party briefing at the Dáil.

During the month one of our Outreach Officer had an information stand at a **Health & Wellbeing Clinic** organised and held in the [London Irish Centre](#). This was a unique opportunity to meet with a broad network of service providers, to provide more information about the services of Safe Home Ireland and a chance to talk 'one to one' with some people thinking about moving/returning to Ireland. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the London Irish Centre on 70 years of supporting the Irish community in London.

Finally, I am excited to announce that I will be travelling to **Boston and New York** next week. I look forward to meeting with staff and volunteers of Irish Centres in both cities, connecting with some of our housing applicants and hosting information sessions on 'Moving/ Returning to Ireland'. I will be in Boston from Wednesday 28th to Friday 30th October and in New York from Monday 3rd to Wednesday 5th November. If you, or anyone you know, would like to meet with me during this time, please contact our office and we can provide more details or make specific arrangements. Details of all information clinics will also be shared on our website/social 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



*Until next month, take care and have a great month ahead from everyone at
Safe Home Ireland*

Important information for passengers flying with Ryanair

Introduction of 100% Digital Boarding Passes from 12th of November 2025

If you are planning to fly Ryanair over the coming weeks, you will need to be aware that from Wednesday 12 November 2025, Ryanair will no longer accept printed or paper boarding passes. From that date onward, all passengers must use a digital boarding pass via the "myRyanair" App.

Tips for intending passengers;

- If you forget your phone or arrive at the airport without access to your digital pass, Ryanair can reissue a boarding card at the check-in desk. However, you will be charged a "reissue" fee.
- Ensure your phone is working and charged properly. Keep the App installed and updated.
- Don't leave boarding pass generation to the last minute. Allow time to check in via the App early (within the allowed check-in window).

Details of Ryanair Help Centres, by country, can be found [HERE](#)

Household Benefits Package – Ireland

What is this? The Household Benefits Package (HBP) helps qualifying applicants who are permanently resident in Ireland with the cost of electricity or gas bills and the TV licence. Applicants do not have to be living alone to get the Household Benefits Package. However, only one person in a household can get the Package.

If you are aged 70 or over - you can qualify even if you are **not** in receipt of an Irish State pension and people in this age category are not required to satisfy a means test.

People under 70 can also get the HBP, but additional rules apply – see [HERE](#) for more information.

How is the Allowance paid? Up until recently (to 8th of September 2025) the Allowance could be paid as a credit against the customer's energy bill or into their bank or post office account. **However, changes came into effect for new applicants, from 8th of September 2025** onwards, that will mean that for those awarded the HBP the option of having a credit applied to their utility bill will no longer be in place. The allowance will only be paid into the customers nominated bank/post office account.

Note! Existing Household Benefits Package customers who are already getting a monthly credit towards their electricity or gas bill, will continue to do so, unless they change their supplier.

For more information, please contact:

Department of Social Protection - Household Benefits Section

Tel: +353 71 915 7100; **Email:** householdbenefits@welfare.ie

Accessing health care providers (Dentists and GPs) in Ireland

One of the less obvious challenges for Irish emigrants returning home is securing access to basic healthcare. Over the past few years, many Dentists across Ireland have stopped taking on new patients, particularly those with medical cards. The issue stems from a number of areas, including outdated State contracts, and rising costs that have made it financially unsustainable for many practices to provide care under the medical card scheme. This has resulted in long waiting lists, limited options as well as significant costs for anyone needing routine or emergency dental treatment. **For a list of dentists in each county please see [HERE](#)**

Unfortunately, the problem is not confined to dentistry. General practice is under similar strain, with a **shortage of GPs** leading to practices operating waiting lists or in some instances closing their lists to new patients.

For returning emigrants, it is important to factor these realities into your plans. Make enquiries early, speak to family or friends to assess availability with doctors in the area you intend moving to. You can also start your research in advance by contacting GP practices for yourself. The Health Service Executive (HSE) in Ireland have provided a listing of **contact information for GPs, on an area by area basis, please see [HERE](#)**.

Finally, before moving it is important to bring your medical records home with you if this is possible (i.e. consultant's letters etc) as this will help your new medical practitioner assess your medical needs. This is particularly important for people who have on-going medical conditions and for those who may need to apply for Disability Allowance when they return to Ireland.

Are you a healthcare worker living abroad and thinking about coming to work in Ireland?

You can register with the Health Service Executive's (HSE) online CareerHub [HERE](#) to get weekly tailored job alerts.

The CareerHub also has information to support your return and explain career development if you are planning on coming back to work at the HSE

Budget 2026 – Ireland

The 2026 Budget was presented in Ireland on the 7th of October. For a full outline of measures announced, including increases announced for certain Social Welfare payments see [HERE](#) for more information

Note most changes/increases 'kick in' from January 2026.

Upcoming Events

We will be back again in **London and Luton** next month and we will also host information sessions on Moving/Returning to Ireland in partnership with the [Irish Cultural Centre, Hammersmith](#) (11th November) and in [Luton Irish Forum](#) on (11th November). We will also meet with some of our housing applicants. On the 13th, one of our Outreach Officer will attend a Survivor's Health and Wellbeing Day (survivors only event) at the London Irish Centre. Further information will be shared on our website/social channels or contact our office directly for more

Thinking of returning or moving to Ireland?

Irish Cultural Centre Hammersmith
in partnership with
Safe Home Ireland will host
a FREE Information Clinic

Tuesday 11th November 2025
10am - 1pm

Follow up one-to-one in-person & online meetings can be offered

For more information or book appointment contact:
☎ +353 98 36036 ✉ karen@safehomeireland.com

5 Black's Road, Hammersmith
London W6 9DT

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Thinking of returning or moving to Ireland?

Luton Irish Forum
in partnership with Safe Home Ireland will host a FREE Information Clinic on Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 11am

Follow up one-to-one in-person & online meetings can be offered

For more information or book appointment contact:
☎ 01582 720447 ✉ info@lutonirishforum.org

Luton Irish Forum, Kathleen Connolly House,
102 Hitchin Rd, Luton, LU2 0ES

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Returned Emigrants Network Meetings, in Co. Laois and Co. Sligo

We are pleased to announce details of upcoming Returned Emigrants Network meetings in Co. Sligo and Co. Laois. Returning to Ireland after many years of living abroad can be both rewarding and challenging. The Network provides a space for returned emigrants to share experiences, highlight the supports that have helped them, and discuss any challenges faced on return. Insights from these meetings help inform our ongoing policy and advocacy work to improve supports for people thinking about returning/moving to Ireland.

Returned Emigrants Network Meeting - Laois

Option to attend in person or on-line

Saturday 15th November 2025
2pm to 4pm
Portlaoise Parish Centre

Station Rd, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 F9K7

Recently returned home to Ireland?
Would you like to meet others who have lived abroad?
If so, come along to our next meeting!

Register on Eventbrite or contact our office as follows:
Contact Karen at Safe Home Ireland
Tel: 098 36036 / 087 977 9885
Email: karen@safehomeireland.com

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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.

www.safehomeireland.com Charity Number: 10042794

Returned Emigrants Network Meeting - Sligo

Option to attend in person or on-line

Saturday 25th October 2025
12pm to 2pm
Southern Hotel (Connaught Room)

Strandhill Rd, Rathfriland, Sligo, F9L K926

Recently returned home to Ireland?
Would you like to meet others who have lived abroad?
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Christmas Concert



Tickets are now available for our Christmas Concert featuring our Ambassador, Seán Keane with special guests Timahoe Male Choir and Kate Dineen; See Eventbrite [HERE](#) for tickets

OR contact the Safe Home Office

Our 2026 Calendar - On sale NOW!



For pricing (incl p&p) and to order online, click the relevant link below;

- Post within [Ireland](#)
- Post to [UK/Europe](#)
- Post to [USA/Canada](#)
- Post to [Australia/Worldwide](#)

OR contact the Safe Home Office
