Safe Home Ireland

Fingal County Council
Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday 22 September 2026



SAFE HOME IRELAND
DIASPORA SUPPORT SERVICE

Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

OUTLINE / WHAT I WILL COVER

- SAFE HOME IRELAND – WHO WE ARE / WHAT WE DO
- HOUSING VIA SAFE HOME - HOW THIS WORKS
- HOUSING APPLICANTS FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL
- QUESTIONS CONTACT DETAILS

SAFE HOME IRELAND
DIASPORA SUPPORT SERVICE

About Safe Home Ireland

Established in 2000
Registered Irish Charity with a Global Remit
Registered Charity Number: 20049119

Patron - PRESIDENT OF IRELAND - Catherine Connolly
Ambassador - Seán Keane (Singer
Life President - Jerry Cowley (Founder)

FUNDED: Core funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade 'Emigrant Support Programme', private donations, planned giving and other smaller project-based funding

Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Vision, Mission & Values

OUR VISION

Our vision is that any Irish person living abroad who wishes to live In Ireland can do so with dignity and respect.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to support Irish people abroad, particularly those who are in crisis and challenging circumstances, to transition and settle into community life in Ireland.

OUR VALUES

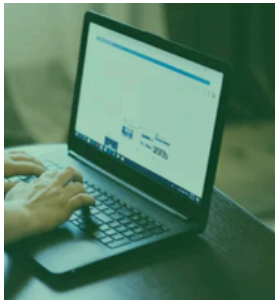
Compassion - We commit to acting with empathy to provide practical and professional support to people and organisations.
Inclusivity - We strive to ensure that our service is non-judgemental and is underpinned by equality and human rights.
Partnership - We are committed to working in partnership with stakeholders in Ireland and abroad.
Accountability - We uphold and promote the principles of good governance and integrity through transparency, effectiveness and strong leadership.

Registered Address: St. Brendan's Village. Mulranny, Westport, Co. Mayo, F28 A386

What We Do

We offer information, guidance, and person-centred support, ensuring that people have access to the help they need, when they need it most.

Our core pillars of work are: Information, Housing, Outreach, Connect and Projects.



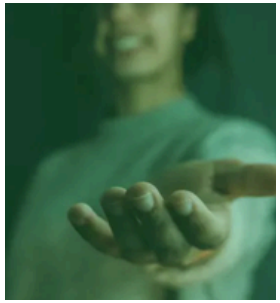
Information

We offer comprehensive free and trusted information and guidance on all aspects of moving and returning to Ireland



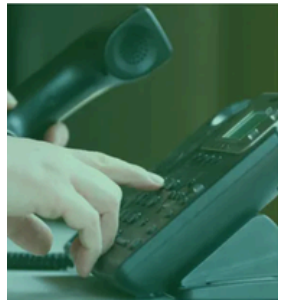
Housing

We assist qualifying Irish born emigrants, living abroad, to explore secure housing options in Ireland



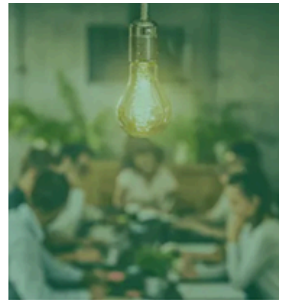
Outreach

We carry out home visits and in-person appointments abroad (primarily UK & US) and outreach support visits to returnees in Ireland



Connect

We act as a link to home for diaspora and agencies that support them globally via social media & monthly Newsletter



Projects

We work on initiatives and campaigns to help address emerging issues affecting diaspora and returnees

SEE OUR WEBSITE:

www.safehomeireland.com

Housing



Housing Assistance Criteria

- Irish-born living abroad
- Aged 57 years and over
- Capable of Independent living
- Living in rented accommodation abroad & unable to provide accommodation from own income/savings on return to Ireland
- Applicants need to be approved on relevant Council housing waiting list
- Income means-testing applies with income limits varying in each Council area

Outreach



- Home Visits and i**n-person appointments** to our Housing Applicants **abroad**, primarily in UK & US
- Moving/Returning to Ireland **Information Clinics,** virtually and in-person in UK and the US
- Home Visits to **Returnees -** to assist with re-integration and resettlement

Following successful lobbying by Safe Home, a key housing policy change in November 2001 allowed older Irish emigrants, still living overseas to be considered for social housing in Ireland for the first time.

The Process – How it works

- Person contacts Safe Home **or** Fingal County Council; check caller meet eligibility criteria (previous slide); If so refer to Safe Home Ireland



- Application will be completed by applicant/Safe Home Ireland and we will then submit with all supporting documentation to Fingal County Council

- Once person is approved on the Fingal County Council housing waiting list the Council can make an offer directly via its own stock or via an AHB



- If/when the person returns home and we then assist with all matters of resettlement/reintegration into the community again.



NOTE: If a person has returned home '**independently**' and requires support, we can offer 'outreach support'. They then might be or might not be eligible to apply for social housing and if so, we can then assist with an application if appropriate

Snapshot of Impact and Current Housing Position

(as of 1st September 2026)

Since our inception in 2000, Safe Home Ireland has directly supported 2,379 older Irish born people return 'home' to live and countless others (of all ages) via our information, outreach and advisory service.

Our applicants have come from all parts of the world and to all 26 counties.

For the majority, their return was a positive lifelong dream and could not have been fulfilled without the intervention and support of Local Authorities and VHA bodies throughout the Country.

Snapshot of our work and impact in 2025

Total Interventions
5,528

Total of
5,296
client interventions

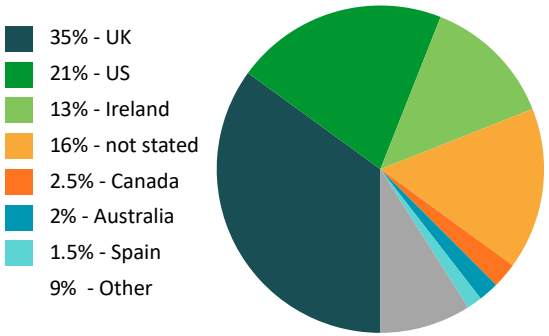
Total of
232
organisation interventions

Information

We support people while still abroad, to make informed choices about moving or returning to Ireland. This includes home visits to housing applicants (UK & US mostly); Information Clinics on Moving/Returning to Ireland as well as peer-support sessions with Irish and other welfare agencies abroad.

New contacts increased by 51% in 2025, rising from 424 in 2024 to 640 in 2025. Of these, 21% were from US-based clients, compared to 14% in 2024.

Location of New Contacts



NEW Contacts/ Information Requests **640**

Connect

We offer a connection to home for those who remain abroad, primarily through our monthly e-bulletin, social media channels and Returning to Ireland Information Clinics.

People in contact **940**

E-Bulletin circulation **2,102**

Social Media **7,657**

www.safehomeireland.com
info@safehomeireland.com

Outreach

We assist returning citizens in feeling socially included during their transition back to Ireland by providing person-centred, holistic outreach support, helping them access essential services and their rights.

Outreach support visits Ireland **78**

Outreach UK **64**

Outreach US **26**

Returning to Ireland Information Clinics **1**

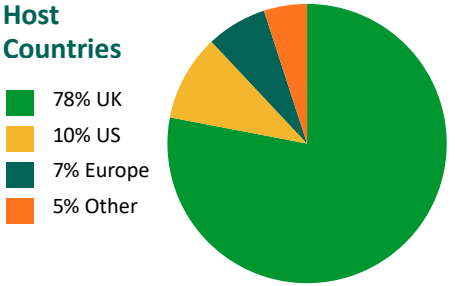
1-to-1 online appointments (worldwide) **20**

Housing

We explore housing options throughout Ireland, for qualifying Irish -born emigrants abroad. This is done primarily in partnership with Local Authorities and Housing Associations throughout Ireland.

Active Housing Applicants **300**

Host Countries



Accommodation Secured **35**

New Housing Applicants **55**

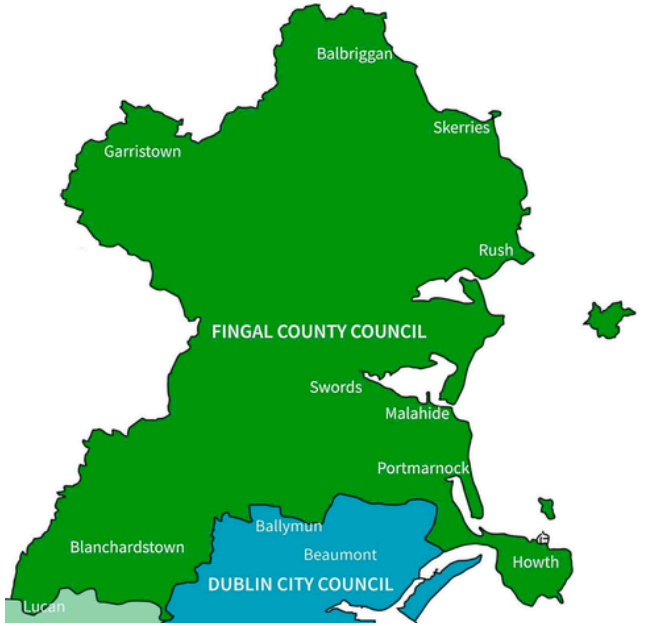
Accommodation Secured
Since inception, accommodation has now been secured for
2,363 people

Fingal County Council Approved Housing Applicants:

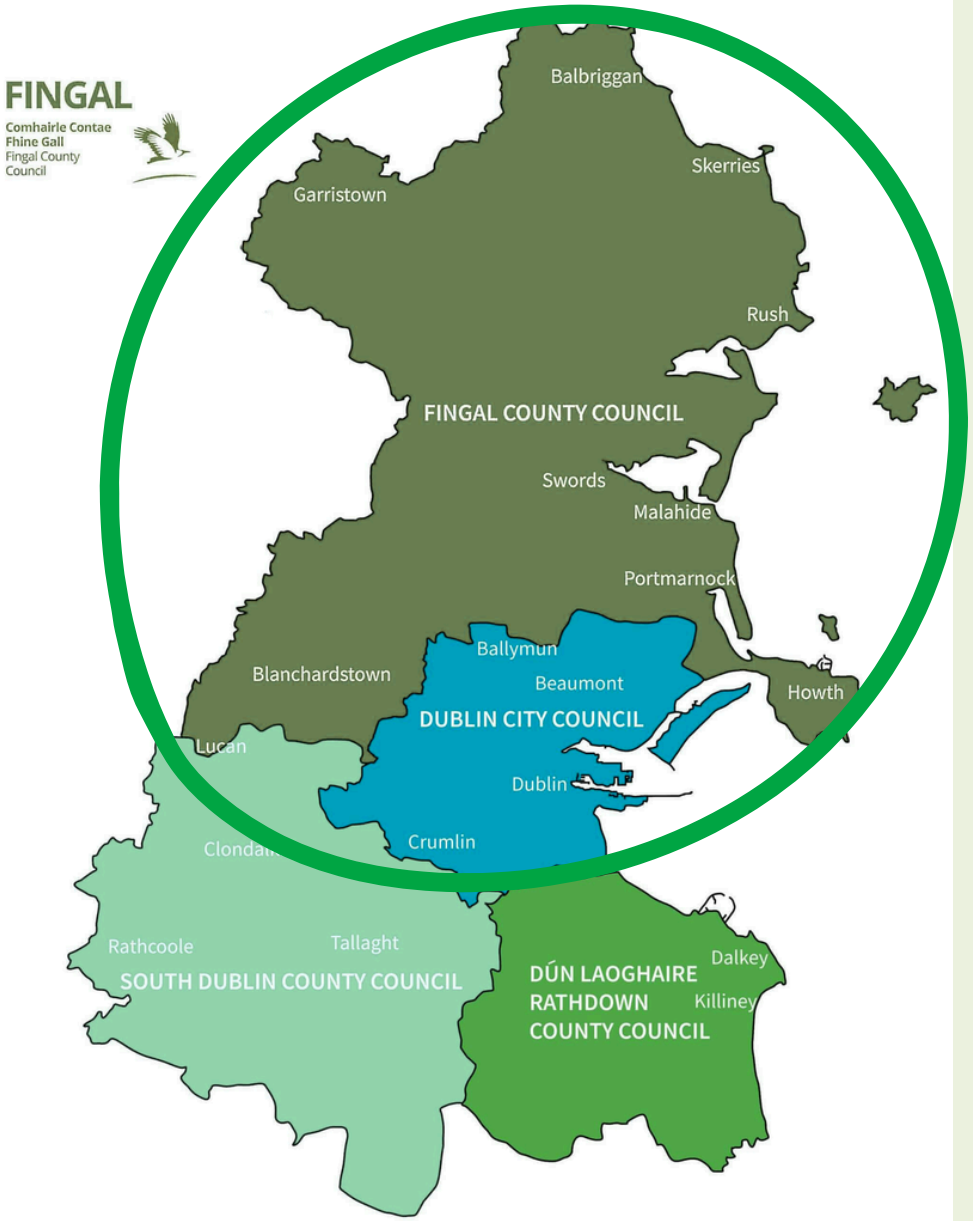
7 applicants approved
Since 2016

1 currently being assessed

5 housed since 2019



Safe Home Ireland Total Housing Applicants - Ireland (26 counties): 253 applicants (covering 279 Individuals)



OUR ASK

(1) Consider allocation of one housing unit/year to a Safe Home Ireland Housing Applicant who have been approved on the Fingal County Council housing waiting List

and/or

(2) Add 'Older Irish born Emigrants' (approved via Safe Home Ireland) in the Council Housing Allocations Policy

GALWAY CO. COUNCIL

JULY 2025

Irish Independent

Galway County Council housing amendment receives high praise



Irish emigrants now considered in Housing Allocation Scheme.

Emma F. Smith
Mon 28 Jul 2025 at 13:37

CONNACHT TRIBUNE

Ex-pats to get break on social housing access

County Council vote levels playing field for emigrants returning to home

BY DARA BRADLEY



Cllr Evelyn Parsons.

"Galway Co. Council acknowledges the unique vulnerabilities and contributions of returning emigrants and aims to ensure equitable access to social housing supports … to formally recognise and support the housing needs of Irish-born emigrants returning to Ireland,"

Galway Co Council amended its Housing Allocation Scheme which now formally recognises older Irish born emigrants living abroad, who meet specific qualifying criteria as a distinct group within the housing allocations policy

Approved at July 2025 Council Meeting

SOUTH DUBLIN CO. COUNCIL

SINCE 2023

The Council Housing Dept currently allocate one housing unit/year to a Safe Home Ireland Housing Applicant who is approved on the Council Housing List. The Council is committed to supporting its emigrants to return home once more

NOTE: All applicants must be approved by Safe Home and South Dublin Co. Council. T**his arrangement is in place since 2023**

SLIGO CO. COUNCIL

APRIL 2024

Call for elderly Sligo emigrants to be helped return home



Clr. Dara Mulvey.

Paul Deering
Sligo Champion
Mon 22 Apr 2024 at 14:00

At the April 2024 Housing SPC meeting of Sligo County Council, Cllr. Mulvey **proposed** that where need has been identified and a qualifying applicant has been approved by Safe Home Ireland that Sligo County Council Housing SPC a**llocate one age-friendly property per year in each of the council's electoral areas to a returning Irish emigrant**" **Approved at April 2024 Housing SPC Meeting and now awaiting FULL Council Approval**

Contact Details – Safe Home Ireland

Address Safe Home Ireland, St. Brendan's Village, Mulranny, Co. Mayo, F28 A386
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Email info@safehomeireland.com
Website www.safehomeireland.com
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/safehomeprogramme
Bluesky @safehomeireland.bsky.social
Twitter https://twitter.com/Safehomeireland
Instagram https://www.instagram.com/safehomeireland/

Newsletter/ E-bulletin https://safehomeireland.com/newsletter-2/

SAFE HOME IRELAND
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SIGN UP TO OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

