



April & May 2019

LUTON IRISH FORUM

Providing social opportunities and welfare advice to everyone

Irish Citizens will keep rights and access to public services

With much uncertainty around the subject of Brexit, the Irish Government have prepared information for Irish citizens and we have picked out some of the most common questions.

The main point is that Irish citizens in the UK, and British citizens in Ireland, can continue to live, work, study, travel freely, access public health and social services after the UK leaves the EU. The Common Travel Area (CTA) enables Irish citizens to access these rights - it was in place before Ireland or the UK ever joined the EU, and it remains in place.

Do I need to do anything?

No, as an Irish person resident in the UK you do not need to do anything to be able to continue to live, work, study, travel freely and access essential health and social services as before.

Do I need to apply for 'settled status'?

Irish citizens will not need to register or take any action under the Settled Status scheme, as CTA rights are not reliant on EU membership. But, as EU citizens, Irish citizens are not excluded from doing so if they so wish.

Will I still be able to access social security benefits, including state pensions?

Yes. Irish citizens and British citizens will still be able to access social security benefits on the same basis as citizens of that state, as now.

Can I still rent a place to live or access social housing supports in the UK as ?

Yes, an Irish citizen you can still rent and continue to have a right to access social housing supports, including supported housing and homeless assistance, on the same basis as British citizens.

Can I access healthcare as an Irish citizen?

Under the CTA, Irish citizens and British citizens who live in, work in, or visit the other state have the right to access healthcare there. Other North South co-operation arrangements will also continue on the island of Ireland.

Can I still travel freely between UK & Ireland?

Yes. Irish citizens can continue to travel freely between the UK and Ireland in the same manner as before.

What if I become ill during a visit to Ireland and don't have an EHIC card?

If you have proof of your address in the UK, you can access health services in Ireland. You should take out travel insurance if travelling to other European Countries.

More information is available at www.dfa.ie



Festival photos







Some of the intergenerational project team members who visited EPIC, the Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin all about the history of the Irish diaspora and emigration to other countries.

Win a £50 Voucher!

We need your help on a research project to find the best ways of working with generations of the Irish community.

Complete our five-minute survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/generationirish> and enter the draw to win a £50 voucher for The Mall. Prize draw takes place on 15th April 2019.

Regular PIP reviews cut for pensioners

In a recent statement the DWP announced that the government will be working to improve and simplify the assessment processes for disabled people.

They will no longer be undertaking regular reviews of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) awards for claimants at or above State Pension age unless they tell the DWP that their needs have changed.

In addition, they have established the Health Transformation Programme to begin the transition of the currently separate Work Capability Assessment (WCA) for Employment and Support Allowance and Universal Credit (UC), and the PIP assessment services into one combined service from 2021.

Diary dates

Events held at LIF unless specified.

Fridays - 12th April, 3rd, 17th & 31st May, 14th June, 5th July, Fridays, 10.30-11.30am

Music Workshops - FREE

Absolute beginners are most welcome!

Wednesday 17th April, 1.30-2.30pm

General Meeting

The Irish In The UK TV episode featuring **Luton St Patrick's Festival** will be shown immediately following the meeting.

Thursday 16th May, leave LIF 9.15am

Coach trip to Clacton, £13

Friday 24th May, 10.00am-12.00noon

St Patrick's Festival 2020 planning meeting

Saturday 15th June, 09.30am-3.30pm

Returning To Ireland Workshop

Saturday 15th June, leave LIF 9.15am

Coach trip to Southend, £13 adult, £5 child

Saturday 22nd June, from 10.00am

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 2nd July, 1.30-2.30pm

LIF Clubs & Activities meeting

Thursday 18th July, leave LIF 9.15am

Coach trip to Great Yarmouth, £13

Other - selected events only:

Thursday 15th August, leave LIF 9.15am

Coach trip to Delapré Abbey £11 + tour

Thursday 12th September, leave LIF 9.15am

Coach trip to Bournemouth, £13

Friday 18th October, 7.00-9.00pm

Literary Society Entertainment Evening

Thursday 28th November, leave LIF 9.15am

Trip to Birmingham Christmas Market, £13

LUTON IRISH FORUM

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