





# INTRODUCTION

*Welcome to the new edition of "Going to the UK" publication. Ireland has a long history of emigration to the UK. As part of Crosscare the Social Care Agency of the Dublin Diocese, Crosscare Migrant Project also has a history of assisting Irish emigrants.*

Our experience of working with intending Irish emigrants has shown us the importance of pre-departure information. Therefore when developing this edition of the booklet we were very conscious of a number of factors.

The new edition of "Going to the UK" provides up-to-date information that you will need to know if you are planning to move to the UK. We are committed to providing up-to-date information in an accessible manner. You will note that beside some numerical figures used in the booklet we have put: (2007 figure). As some of these figures change we will update the "Going to the UK" publication on our website so that you will be able to access the most current, up-to-date information.

Secondly many people who choose to leave Ireland often feel overwhelmed with the amount of issues they have to consider. Our aim was to try to make the information as simple as possible and so we decided to present the information in 'question and answer' format. However in some cases the booklet will not be enough to answer your query. Please contact us, Crosscare Migrant Project so that we can provide you with further information you may need.

This booklet is designed to provide you with accurate information on the UK including the healthcare system, the benefits system as well as give you an insight into the costs involved in moving to the UK, for example, the cost of accommodation. This is to help you to make an informed decision as we feel the more information you have the more prepared you will be. The saying "forewarned is forearmed" applies to any person who is making a decision to emigrate no matter which destination they choose.



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## How to use this guide...

This guide gives details of the majority of options open to people wishing to move to the UK whether for a temporary period or permanently. It is broken into different chapters, some of which may not be relevant to you. Make sure to double-check all information before making a final decision. You can contact Crosscare Migrant Project by calling in person to our office, by phone and by email and we will be able to give you the most up to date information.

## What chapters should I look at?

You should read **Chapter 2** if you are going to the UK on a temporary visit. It contains information on your entitlement to access temporary medical treatment etc.

Everyone should read **Chapters 3, 4 and 5**. These chapters contain essential information about what documents you will need to bring, applying for healthcare in the UK and **most importantly** how to apply for a National Insurance Number, which you will need to find a job or to claim benefits in the UK. Not all the information will necessarily apply to you but make sure you know what you need to do before you leave Ireland.

**Chapter 6** is very important, in this chapter you will find information on how to find accommodation and the price you can expect to pay depending on the area where you are going to stay.

**Chapter 7** gives information on the education system in the UK. While this chapter may not apply to everyone, the information on education would be especially useful for families.

**Chapter 8** has information on finding a job so it would be important for everyone to read this chapter. There is some very useful information on where to look for a job in the UK. In this chapter we have also included a sample CV to give you an idea of what you will need to include when you are applying for a job.

**Chapters 9 and 10** are very important, so read them both to make sure you know what you have to do to get your finances and tax situation organised as soon as possible after arrival.

**Chapters 11 and 12** cover transport in the UK. In chapter 12 you will find information on public transport in some of the major cities. In chapter 11 we also give information on driving in the UK as well as what you will need to know about bringing your car with you.

**Chapter 13 and 14** have all the contact details or organisations mentioned throughout the book, as well as useful Internet sites. Have a look at these before you go as they will give you an idea

of where to contact about housing, homeless accommodation, welfare, and general information.

### **Make sure to read Chapter 15 - Dos and Don'ts**

With so much to organise and remember below is a list of some of the most important things to know before you go.

#### **Important documentation you will need to bring:**

- Your passport, drivers licence or some form of photo ID
- Birth certificate (long version)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Details of your education, courses done etc
- Reference/s from previous employer/s
- Reference/s from previous landlord/s
- Medical Records if needed
- Medical prescription if needed.

**Within the first few weeks you will need to:**

- **Get your National Insurance Number (please see pages 46-51)**
- Open a UK bank account
- Find or have already found temporary accommodation
- Register with a Doctor or Medical Practice
- Apply for the National Health Service
- Get a map of the area and find out about transportation in your area
- Find the contact details for your nearest Irish organisation and contact them for help if you need any information
- Try to find a job
- Register your children in school.