

# IRELAND AND BRITAIN

## The Irish in Britain

### We are connected:

- The Irish and the British are deeply connected peoples. The UK is home to the largest Irish-born community outside of Ireland and to a vast number of people of Irish descent.
- British citizens in Ireland outnumber all other non-Irish nationalities and topped the table for migrant workers registering for PPS numbers in 2013.
- Dublin-London is one of the busiest international air routes in the world. There are almost 2,000 flights per week between Ireland and Britain.

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### The Irish Community Today:

- The State Visit will highlight the contribution of the Irish in Britain and their continued importance to Ireland.
- Millions of people in Britain are of Irish heritage. The exact number is unknown but some estimates indicate that up to one in four people in Britain are of Irish descent.
- In the 2011 Census, more than **530,000** people in England and Wales identified themselves as Irish, more than 400,000 of whom had been born in Ireland (Republic).
- More Irish passport applications are received through our London Embassy than through all Ireland's other Embassies overseas combined.
- The Irish community in Britain is very diverse. Irish people continue to make distinctive, creative contributions to business, politics, public service, the arts, entertainment, sport and other areas of British society.

### Community groups and networks:

- Since 2003, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has provided more than €86 million in funding to more than 200 Irish community and voluntary organisations in Britain. This funding has been directed primarily at organisations working to support the most vulnerable.
- The London Irish Centre celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Irish in Britain (formerly the Federation of Irish Societies) has been active for 40 years. Several other community organisations also mark significant anniversaries this year.
- More than 80 GAA clubs actively promote Irish sport and culture across Britain.
- Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann has 25 branches promoting Irish music and culture in Britain. The World Irish Dancing Championships will take place in London in April of this year.
- From construction to accounting, women in business to Irish university alumni, for recent arrivals and those at the top of their careers, a dedicated Irish network exists in Britain, with a large and vocal membership.

### The Irish in business:

- There are 50,000 Irish-born directors of British companies (more than any other non-British nationality).
- The Irish top the list for the number of companies formed by migrant entrepreneurs in the UK, with more than 56,000 companies formed by Irish citizens. (*Source: Centre for Entrepreneurs*)