

THE SOCIAL SITUATION OF IRISH ELDERLY IN HARINGEY

A Research Report of

The Irish Liaison Unit

Haringey Council



*** HARINGEY COUNCIL ***

CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	3
BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF THE PROJECT.....	4
SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS.....	4
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	5
THE ELDERLY IN CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN.....	7
THE ELDERLY IN HARINGEY	
IRISH ELDERLY IN HARINGEY	
METHODOLOGY OF THE PROJECT	
LIMITATIONS OF THE PROJECT	
ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF MAIN FINDINGS.....	9
(1) EXPERIENCE OF RACISM	
(2) EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS	
(3) HOUSING SITUATION AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	
(4) SOCIAL SERVICES – USAGE AND NEEDS	
(5) LEISURE AND RECREATION	
(6) HEALTH SITUATION	
(7) CONTACT WITH IRELAND TODAY ETC.	
CONCLUSIONS.....	14
APPENDIX 1.....	15
COPY OF THE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE	
APPENDIX 2.....	19
COPY OF THE SURVEY FINDINGS	
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	24

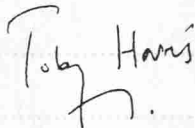
Leader's Office

* HARINGEY COUNCIL *

It gives me pleasure as Leader of Haringey Council to have the opportunity to write the Foreword to this Report, on the social situation of Irish elderly in our borough. This report is another first for Haringey, in that, it is the first research and policy report on the concerns of Irish elderly by any Local Authority in Britain.

The Report that follows reveals some startling facts and experiences. Of particular concern is the respondents very high level of experience of anti-Irish racism whilst living in Britain. Many of those surveyed came to London prior to and just after the last War. Indeed many as the study reveals were directly recruited to work in this country, only to later meet with "No Blacks, No Irish need apply" signs in the 1950's and 60's. Many of these elderly people gave all of their working lives to the post war reconstruction of this society. It is a sad reflection of our society and its value system that so many of those surveyed have been belittled because of their ethnic origin, and that so many after a life's work here state that they face their old age in poverty.

I give my commitment and that of Haringey Council to ensure that the issues raised in this report are fully considered and responded to, and to ensure that Irish elderly in this borough can obtain the most appropriate and best level of services to meet their needs, in the context of our equal opportunities policy.



Councillor TOBY HARRIS
Leader of the Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Irish Unit

* HARINGEY COUNCIL *

This report, on the Social Situation of Irish Elderly in Haringey would not have been possible without the support and assistance of many organisations and individuals in the borough, and beyond. Many people have contributed their time, opinions and varied skills which have all greatly helped in shaping this report. Thanks are due to the management and staff of the Irish Community Care Centre, in particular Joan Kane, Marion Moore and Sharon Whitehead who greatly facilitated us in the conduct of the interviews, the staff of the various social services day centres and other establishments visited in the course of the research, the housing associations who assisted in the research, Adrian Roxan of the Press and Publicity Office for his many useful comments on earlier drafts of the report, George Clark, a public sector Principal Research Officer who in a private capacity read earlier drafts and also provided many useful comments, to the staff of the Councils Graphic Design Section and the Printshop. Finally, a thank you to all those elderly people who contributed so freely to the survey interviews. We trust that this report does justice to their contributions.

Go roimh mile maith agat go leir.

BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF THE PROJECT

Following the establishment of the Irish Liaison Unit in 1987, Haringey Council held a Consultative Conference with the borough's Irish community which explored a range of areas of concern to the community at that point in time. On that occasion a number of recommendations came forward on the need for work to be undertaken on the needs of the Irish elderly in the borough. Subsequent to that conference, the Irish Liaison Unit had further discussions with Irish community representatives on Haringey Irish Consultative Forum as to the best means of addressing these concerns. As a result of those discussions it was agreed to carry out an exploratory survey research project which would seek to profile the concerns of Irish elderly people in Haringey across a range of areas.

The Irish Liaison Unit designed a survey research project with a view to interviewing a sample of 100 Irish elderly in Haringey.

The aims of the project were to

1. obtain a profile of the social situation of Irish elderly in Haringey in the following areas:- Housing, Social

Services usage and needs, Leisure and Recreation, Employment experience, health situation, and experience of racial prejudice in Britain;

2. establish the necessary data base on which both Haringey Council's services, the Irish community voluntary sector and others could better plan their services for Irish elderly in the borough.

Specification of key terms as used in the Project

For the purpose of this project, the working definitions of the key terms used were as follows:-

1. **The term elderly is taken to refer to people aged 60 years and upwards.**
2. **The term Irish is taken to refer to people born in Ireland, both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.**

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

GENERAL SITUATION

One hundred people took part in the survey. The gender split was 60 per cent female and 40 per cent male. Of those surveyed:-

68% lived alone.

48% have lived in Britain for at least 50 years.

69% were between the ages of 65 and 74 years.

79% had previously lived in a rural area in Ireland.

33% had no other relative living in London currently.

61% when working worked in unskilled manual occupations.

EXPERIENCE OF ANTI-IRISH RACISM

66% at some point in their lives in Britain experienced anti-Irish racism.

47% experienced racist behaviour/practices in the workplace.

75% felt that anti-Irish racism is generally prevalent in Britain today.

HOUSING SITUATION

44% lived in Council housing.

19% lived in owner occupied sector.

23% lived in housing association tenancies.

33% have been homeless at some time since coming to London.

57% who lived in Council accommodation felt that Haringey Council provided a good service to them as tenants.

19% felt that their present accommodation was inadequate to meet their housing needs. Of those who would prefer alternative

accommodation to where they live at present

47% stated that their preferred alternative would be sheltered housing.

SOCIAL SERVICES **— usage and needs**

87% were aware of the range of services provided by Haringey Social Services Department.

27% have had contact with Haringey Social Services.

Of the respondents who had contact with Haringey Social Services 40% had used the departments social work service.

89% who had used the Council's meals on wheels service felt that the service was poor or fair.

81% felt that there should be a day centre for Irish elderly in Haringey.

INCOME **— economic situation**

69% stated that their only source of income at present was the state old age pension.

87% felt that their income was insufficient to buy basic necessities.

LEISURE AND RECREATION

29% stated that their main hobby or pastime was reading, the most frequent mentioned.

78% do use at least one of the leisure facilities provided by the Council.

34% use the parks to go for walk and to sit in, making the parks the most used leisure facility by the sample.

82% felt that there should be a library of Irish interest/focus in Haringey.

HEALTH SITUATION

67% stated that they were experiencing some health problem(s) at present.

49% attend their General Practitioner frequently.

39% experienced arthritis, related problems making it, the most common health problem experienced by the sample.

36% used the services of the chiropodist.

31% were visited by their local health visitor.

CONTACTS WITH IRELAND

74% travel to Ireland on holiday.

52% holiday in Ireland every year.

53% are currently interested in retiring to Ireland.

83% felt that they would encounter difficulties in returning to live in Ireland.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO HARINGEY COUNCIL

HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS — That Haringey Housing Service

1. In cooperation with community organisations actively pursues the development of a sheltered housing 'key scheme' for Irish elderly in the borough.
2. Actively supports the development of a specific sheltered housing scheme for Irish elderly within the Irish community in the borough.
3. In direct cooperation with the Irish Liaison Unit and relevant Irish authorities undertake research into the possibility for Irish elderly returning to Ireland and securing appropriate accommodation there.

4. *Seek to ensure*
 - (1) *that elderly Irish owner occupiers are targeted in any future care and repair services,*
 - (2) *that elderly Irish people are provided with advice and assistance on maintenance of their housing in order to allow them to remain living in their own home as appropriate.*

SOCIAL SERVICES — That Haringey Social Services

1. *actively supports the development of Day Care Services for Irish elderly at the Irish Community Care Centre in cooperation with the Centre and the Irish authorities currently part funding the project.*
2. *Funds and makes available an ethnic meals on wheels service through the Irish Community Care Centre and the Haringey Irish Centre for housebound Irish elderly in the borough.*
3. *Through its own existing luncheon clubs and Day Care Centres seeks to cater for the particular cultural needs of Irish elderly and other ethnic minority elderly in the provision of their services.*
4. *Ensures that staff working with the elderly undergo Irish Awareness Training in order that the Services may respond more appropriately to elderly Irish users.*

LEISURE AND RECREATION

1. *That Haringey Library Service in direct cooperation with the Haringey Irish Centre develop a library of particular Irish interest at the Irish Centre.*
2. *That Haringey Irish Centre in direct cooperation with the Council's Community Arts and Entertainments section develop a range of leisure activities for Irish elderly at the Irish Centre.*

TRANSPORT

1. *That Haringey Council provide support and funding to assist with adequate transport services with the Irish community voluntary sector activities in the Borough.*

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IRISH GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

1. *That the Irish Embassy provide a professional advice service for Irish emigrants considering returning to live in Ireland.*
2. *That Irish elderly in Britain when in Ireland on holiday be favourably considered for free travel concessions on public transport facilities as elderly people resident there are at present.*
3. *That the Irish Embassy and other relevant Irish authorities actively cooperate with and contribute to any research undertaken into the possibility of developing initiatives for Irish elderly considering returning to Ireland and securing appropriate accommodation there.*

THE ELDERLY IN CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN

Since the beginning of the 20th Century, the elderly have formed an increasingly large section of the population in Britain. While the total population has also grown during this time, it has been at a much slower rate than that which has occurred among the elderly. The following table from Anthea Tinkers work, "The Elderly in Modern Society", illustrates this trend.

	Total Population of Britain	Elderly Population	% of Total
1901	38.1 million	2.4 million	6
1951	50.5 million	6.9 million	14
1981	56.3 million	10.1 million	18
1991	57.2 million	10.1 million	17
2001	58.3 million	9.5 million	16

It is significant that the total number of the elderly in Britain will not rise appreciably in the near future. What is also worth noting is that demographers generally predict a decline in the number of young elderly (under 75) in Britain and a rise in the number of the very old. This shift will have important consequences for social provision for the elderly on many levels.

These figures hide the internal diversity among the elderly population, and the different sub groups with different social needs and concerns to be found among the elderly. The elderly can in no real sense be said to form a homogenous group — they are as heterogenous in their make up as any other sector of the population, such as the young or middle aged. The elderly are differentiated along class, race, sex and sexuality lines and all of these factors may have very important consequences for the way in which the elderly experience their old age.

Ethnic minority elderly constitute a small but growing percentage of the total elderly and as this report illustrates ethnic minority elderly do have a particular set of life experiences in this country, and particular cultural needs that demand attention over and beyond general provision for the elderly.

The Centre of Policy and Ageing has undertaken a study of ethnic minority elderly in contemporary Britain and entitled it "Triple Jeopardy". The concept of "Triple Jeopardy" captures quite accurately a number of the concerns facing ethnic minority elderly in this country. The CPA explain the concern as follows — "the acuteness of the isolation of these who by reason of language, culture, skin colour or religious belief find themselves unable to gain access to treatment, support and care does justify the title of this report. They are not merely in double jeopardy by reason of age and discrimination, as has often been stated but in triple jeopardy, at risk because they are old, because of the physical conditions and hostility under which they have to live, and because services are not accessible to them". The Report that follows attempts to highlight the life experiences and particular concerns of one such group facing triple jeopardy, that is Irish elderly in Haringey. Indeed as the Centre for Policy on Ageing

state, it might be "thought that although they are by far the largest immigrant group, the Irish do not warrant inclusion in a study of services for elderly members of ethnic minorities because they have no immediately distinctive characteristics. In fact the generation of Irish people who came to work on the building sites and motorways, or as domestics in hotels and hospitals, before and after the Second World War, do have

particular needs and difficulties in their old age". It is to an examination of these needs that we now turn our attention.

Irish elderly in Britain

It is clear from the 1981 Census data, which although now dated, remains the most reliable source of data on the Irish in Britain, that there is a heavy imbalance in the Irish community's population structure.

In 1981 58% of the community was aged over 45 and 22% were of pensionable age. This is in marked contrast to what the census terms 'the New Commonwealth Population' with only 27% aged over 45 and 6% of pensionable age. This marked contrast is, in large part, explained by the differing patterns and waves of immigration in the different immigrant communities. Many of the Irish elderly in Britain today emigrated in earlier high tides of Irish immigration, and as this study indicates, the majority came in the years between 1920-1959. In contrast, the majority of 'New Commonwealth Immigrants' have come to Britain in the post war period, and these communities are now also beginning to have significant numbers entering old age.

The other significant demographic feature of the Irish elderly population in Britain, is that 16% of Irish born males over the age of 45 are single with a 12% level for females. This compares with a national average of 9% for both males and females over 45 years. It has been stated previously (Cara Research Reports) that the 16% unmarried level for Irish males aged over 45 may mask pressing social issues that will increasingly confront the Irish community and local authorities generally, i.e. the problem of the elderly Irish single homeless.

What this demographic data on the Irish elderly in Britain does alert us to, is the need for both local authorities and the Irish community to plan for the likely social services, housing and related needs of this significant ethnic minority population.

Irish elderly have suffered from official neglect and thus we must be vigilant in keeping their concerns to the fore,

whilst also equally concerned with other sectors of the Irish community in this country. As the Centre for Policy on Ageing states, the difficulties facing Irish elderly in Britain may appear less visible even to Irish community itself but there are no less real than those facing other ethnic minority elderly. We must be forever mindful, as Centre for Policy on Ageing states "there is a sizeable group of Irish immigrants who are old and in ill health, living in the inner cities and enduring social and cultural isolation. European physical characteristics do not by themselves guarantee integration into English society, and many of these men and women are as 'Irish now as the day they left home'. Their special needs deserve as much consideration as those of any other ethnic minority group".

The elderly in Haringey

According to the 1981 Census, out of Haringey's total population of 202,650, there were 32,927 persons over pensionable age i.e. 18% of the population. Of these 11,259 (34%) were over the age of 75. In 1981 there were 16,400 pensioner only households in Haringey and of these 10,586 (65%) consisted of pensioners living alone with 4,709 (29%) over the age of 75. 45% of pensioner houses were either rented from the Council or a Housing Association: 31% more owner occupier and 25% were privately rented.

Also in 1981 and using the birthplace of the head of household as the indicator of ethnic origin, out of a total population of 200,247 normally resident in private households, 87,967 people in Haringey were from black and ethnic minority households, that is 44 per cent of the borough's total population.

The total number of elderly people in the borough born outside the United Kingdom was 6,261, (3.1 per cent of the total population). It has been previously highlighted that whilst predictions for Haringey's elderly population suggest that it is likely to decline over the next fifteen years to round about 27,000, there will, at the same time, be a growing number of minority ethnic elderly. This is illustrated in the Table below adapted from "Always at the end of the Queue — Elderly people in Haringey", a study of the leisure needs of elderly people in Haringey.

This compares the 1981 age structure of the four main ethnic groups in the borough. (The categories used in this Table are those of the Census Office, and not those used or recommended by the Council).

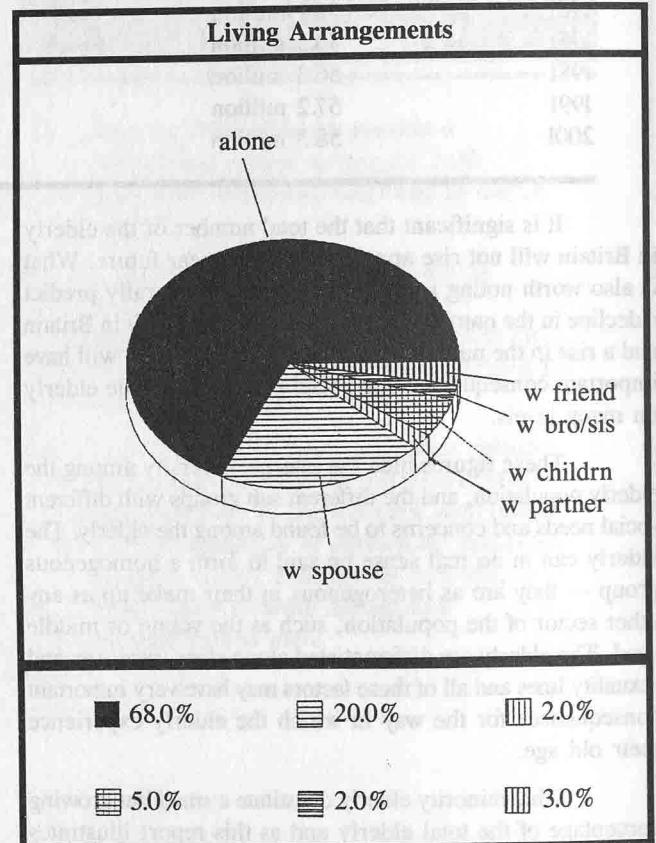
Structure of the Elderly in Haringey: Comparing four Minority 'Ethnic' Groups with U.K. Born Elderly in 1981

Age Range	*Country of Birth*				
	U.K.	Eire	NC Medit	NC Carib.	NC Ind. Pak.
60-64	22.5	36.4	38.5	53.3	38.3
65-75	23.5	32.6	26.2	29.6	26.7
75+	54.0	31.0	35.3	17.1	35.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Irish elderly in Haringey

The 1981 Census show that in Haringey 27% of the Irish community was aged over 45 years and 9% were of pensionable age. It is important to note the difference in age structure between the Irish population in Britain nationally and the situation in Haringey. The Irish in Haringey are a significantly younger population with significant numbers entering middle and old age.

In terms of location within the borough, analysis of census data based on social services areas reveals that Irish born persons are spread throughout the borough; through they

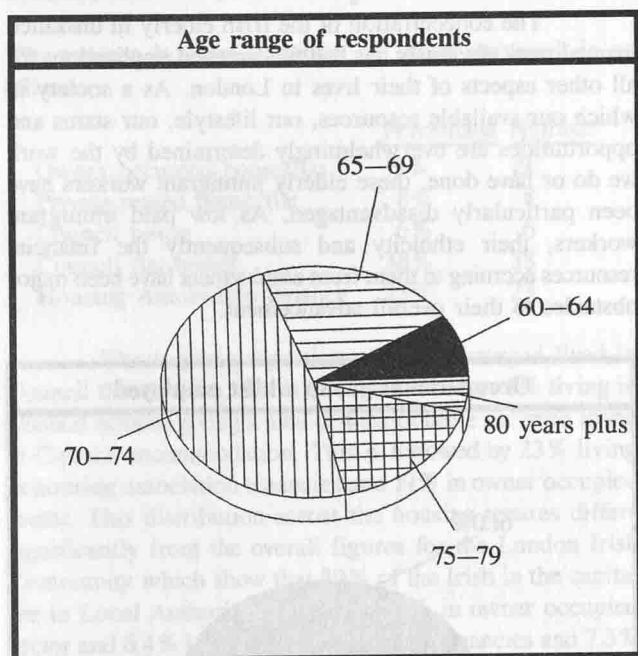


are concentrated around the South of the borough and, in particular, Social Services Area 3 (Hornsey, Stroud Green area) has the highest concentration of the Irish (5.18%) followed by Social Services Area 6 (4.23%) (Turnpike Lane area).

In terms of the survey project on which this report is based 69% of the Irish elderly in Haringey interviewed

in this project were between the ages of 65 and 74 years.

Whilst 68% of the elderly surveyed lived alone, also of significance 69% have no children and over one third had no other family member/relative living in London currently. All of these factors are indicators of a possible high degree of social isolation and potential demands on local authority and voluntary sector services in that informal support networks seem to be significantly absent for many of those people surveyed in this project.



Methodology of the Project

This research project was undertaken by means of a survey questionnaire using indepth personal interviews. The sample interviewed totalled 100 and the interviews took place over an eight month period from October 1988 to May 1989.

As there is no register /directory of elderly people in existence which identifies persons ethnic origin, it was decided to construct the sample as follows:—

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF MAIN FINDINGS

Experience of anti-Irish Racism in Britain

Of significance is the fact that two thirds of these surveyed (66%) stated that they had personally experienced anti-Irish racism, 47% experienced racist behaviour and/or practices in their place of work, with 35% stating that they experienced anti-Irish racism in a variety of social situations whilst living in Britain. During the course of the interviews many of the respondents spoke evocatively of their work experiences in

- (1) through selection of a number of elderly users of the luncheon club at the Irish Community Care Centre, Stroud Green Road.
- (2) through selection of a number of attenders at the monthly Tea Dance held at the Haringey Irish Centre in Tottenham.
- (3) through selection of Irish tenants from Hornsey Housing Trust.
- (4) through selection of Irish tenants of Haringey Council's sheltered housing schemes, together with applicants for such accommodation and
- (5) through selection of a number of elderly Irish users of Statutory provided Day Centres in the borough.

The majority of the survey respondents were obtained through the first three sources listed above. All of these surveyed were Haringey residents.

Obviously the methodology necessitated for this project places a number of limitations on the overall study which are addressed in the next section.

Limitations of the Project

As a result of the way in which the sample in this project was structured there are a number of possible limitations to this project which need to be identified at the outset. The sample of Irish elderly interviewed in this project are not representative of all Irish elderly in Haringey generally. However the study makes a significant qualitative contribution to an understanding of the range of experiences Irish elderly may have living in this area.

It also needs to be borne in mind that the elderly in this study are almost by definition those who are actively participating in the range of statutory and voluntary networks that exist for elderly people in this borough. They have managed over the years to negotiate their situations and have overcome a number of obstacles and hurdles to get to their present situation. In light of this, this study is not likely to be representative of the more socially isolated, the homeless and the housebound.

All of these factors need to be borne in mind when reading the text that follows.

Britain after the war. Initially many felt that they were given a "cautious welcome" as one respondent stated. However a few years later the welcome turned increasingly to hostility. Many of the respondents spoke of the great personal pain they experienced when meeting face to face with "No Blacks, No Irish" signs in many lodging houses and elsewhere in the 1950's. For many of these surveyed, this experience had a lasting impact on their psychological sense of identity, security and well being in Britain. Not surprisingly, 75% of those surveyed fell that anti-Irish racism is generally prevalent in

Britain today. In the words of two of these interviewed.

— *“I came here in 1947. I worked on the buildings for a short while. But as time past I could not find a lodging house, because in these days, many were saying ‘no Irish’. So I gave up the job on the buildings and I then got a job in a hotel living in. This was great, because I did not have to go looking for accommodation and face the possibility of refusal again because I was Irish. However I lost the job in the hotel after a few months. I then was homeless. I found it very hard to get a place to stay. Eventually I got a place in a hostel in Camden Town. I had to work very hard to get myself established here and the attitudes I met with did not make it easier. These same attitudes are there still today, but they pretend they are not”.*

— **Male respondent, aged 72 years of age.**

— *“I came here to nurse just before the war. I gave all my working life in the service of the NHS. I found it hard and rewarding work. I worked with many different groups of people, but as nurses, the Black nurses and Irish nurses in my experience were the bottom on the pile. We had to work doubly hard to be accepted, and any mistakes were seen as our fault. There definitely was a medical hierarchy in many of the hospitals I worked in and Irish and Black nurses were at the bottom. There were very few of us who got matrons jobs despite our hard work, qualifications and experience. In some ways I feel hurt by my work experience here”.*

— **Retired Irish female nurse, aged 71 years.**

When talking about their experiences of anti-Irish racism in Britain, many of the respondents commented that although the racism may not be so obvious today as in earlier periods, it is still there as a real feature of everyday life. A substantial number of respondents felt that much of the British media was fundamentally anti-Irish and an important purveyor of negative images of Irish people throughout this society.

Employment experience in Britain

(socio economic status and income)

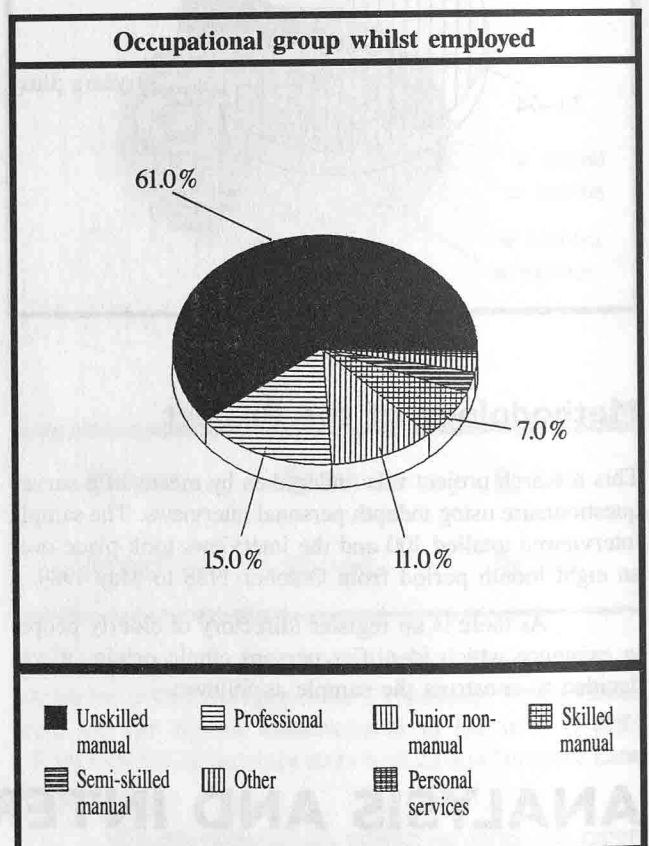
61% of the respondents were unskilled manual workers (as defined by Census classification). In total 71% of those surveyed were in manual sector jobs. This high proportion would seem to indicate significant levels of employment disadvantage amongst those surveyed whilst in employment. It is also interesting to note that 15% were in professional employment. Of these all but 2 were nurses.

The concentration in unskilled manual occupations obviously has had significant implications for the income and other resources available to this group when they retired. This is reflected in the stark fact that 69% stated they had to live on the state old age pension alone, and 87%, felt strongly that their income was insufficient to buy basic necessities to live on. The previous employment opportunities available to these elderly people as Irish immigrants appears to have been a key determinant of their experience of employment disadvantage, poverty and deprivation in old age. One of the respondents to the survey conveyed this linked disadvantage

effectively through his own personal experience. —

“I came to London and took the first job I got on the buildings. It was not great money. But I was glad to get a start, as not everyone would employ the Irish when I first came over. I stayed there so long, that I never really moved on to other areas of work. I have always worked on the buildings —’ it was the job for the Irish. But I suppose if I got more secure work I might be a little better off now”.

The concentration of the Irish elderly in unskilled manual work obviously has had fundamental implications for all other aspects of their lives in London. As a society in which our available resources, our lifestyle, our status and opportunities are overwhelmingly determined by the work we do or have done, these elderly immigrant workers have been particularly disadvantaged. As low paid immigrant workers, their ethnicity and subsequently the financial resources accruing to them from employment have been major obstacles to their overall advancement.



These findings of linked disadvantage among the elderly in this study gives weight to the previous studies which found that there is a hierarchy of employment in which certain groups are susceptible to low paid low status jobs, poor working conditions and a greater risk of unemployment (Lonsdale et al). Research has found that women, younger and older workers, workers with disabilities and immigrant and ethnic minority workers are particularly vulnerable because of the positions they are ascribed in the value framework of this society. This is framework which accepts that certain groups are inferior or dependent by virtue of their age, sex, disability racial or ethnic origin. These attitudes are often related to assumed levels of productivity, capability and indeed

linked to particular areas of work. We have seen above how this has particularly affected the experience of Irish elderly in this study.

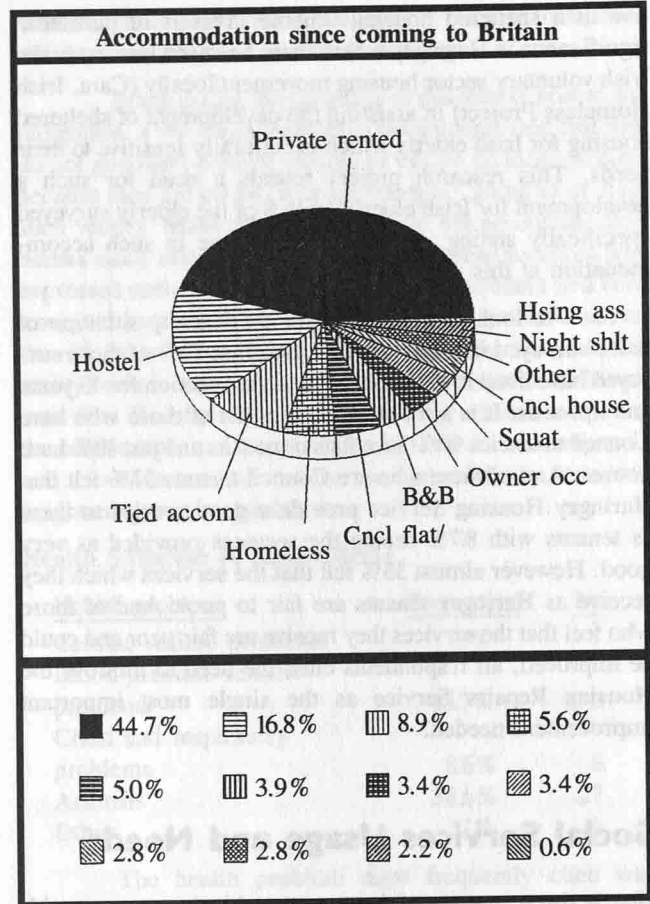
We will now see what impact this linked disadvantage has had on their housing experiences.

The Housing experience and present situation of the sample

The present housing situation of those surveyed is as follows:—

	Percentage	Number
Owner occupied house/flat	19%	19
Private rented house/flat	8%	8
Council house	6%	6
Council flat/bedsit	38%	38
Housing Association tenancy	23%	23

The largest proportion of those surveyed lived in Council flats/bedsits, that is 38% with another 6% living in Council houses, giving a total of 44% of those surveyed living in Council accommodation. This is followed by 23% living in housing association tenancies and 19% in owner occupied sector. This distribution across the housing tenures differs significantly from the overall figures for the London Irish Community which show that 39% of the Irish in the capital are in Local Authority housing, 34.5% in owner occupied sector and 6.4% in Housing Association tenancies and 7.3% in the private rented sector. The reason for the significant variation between the findings in those surveyed and the overall London figures are probably best explained by the

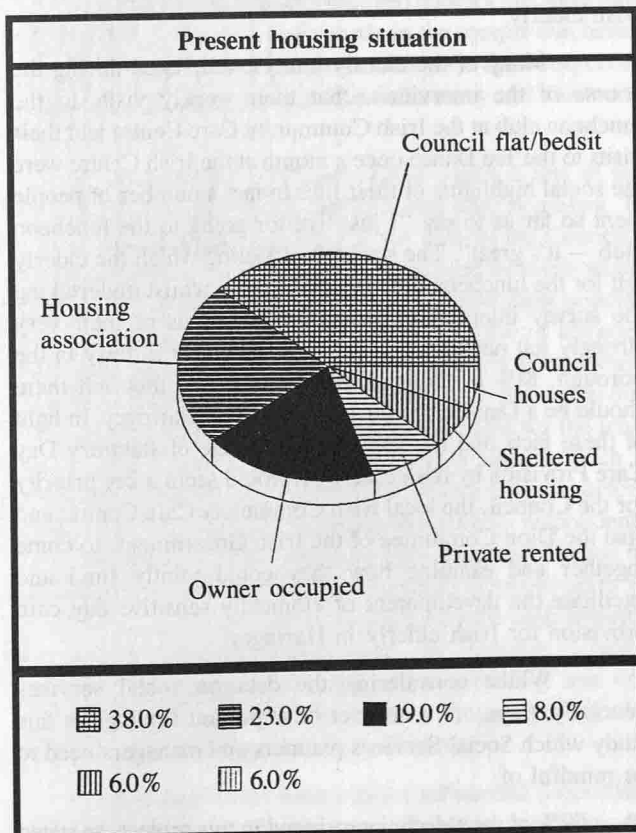


structure of the sample on which the study was based. The study specifically interviewed a sample of Irish tenants of a Haringey based Housing Association, which would explain the over representation of Housing Association tenants in the sample.

Looking at the data on the range of accommodation that respondents have lived in since coming to Britain, 32% of those have been homeless at some time since coming to live in Britain. This is a very high proportion and far higher than national figures for the experience of homelessness. This highlights the difficulty that this sample of Irish elderly have faced in securing adequate affordable accommodation in London.

In spite of their unsatisfactory housing experience and experience of homelessness 81% of those surveyed feel that their present accommodation is adequate to meet their housing need. However 10 respondents feel that it is inadequate in some respect. Of those who feel that their present accommodation is inadequate, 4 cited mobility problems as the main reason.

This was followed by 2 who said their accommodation was too big and 1 who said that their accommodation was too small. The majority of those who experienced mobility problems lived in Council or Housing Association tenancies on higher floors, and with experience of increasing old age, and lack of personal ease with mobility, they felt that they need to move to ground floor secure accommodation. On this issue it is significant that of those who would prefer alternative accommodation to their present type, 47% stated that their preferred alternative would be to



live in a sheltered housing scheme. This is of particular significance in Haringey where there has been interest in the Irish voluntary sector housing movement locally (Cara, Irish Homeless Project) in assisting the development of sheltered housing for Irish elderly which is culturally sensitive to their needs. This research project reveals a need for such a development for Irish elderly, with 8 of the elderly surveyed specifically stating that they wish to live in such accommodation at this point in time.

In looking at the data on the housing situation of those surveyed it is also worth noting that 77% of those surveyed have lived in their present accommodation for 10 years and upwards. It is also worth noting that of those who have Council tenancies 90% have flats or bedsits and just 10% have houses. And of these who are Council tenants 57% felt that Haringey Housing Service provide a good service to them as tenants with 8.7% seeing the services provided as very good. However almost 33% felt that the services which they receive as Haringey tenants are fair to poor. And of those who feel that the services they receive are fair/poor and could be improved, all respondents cited the need to improve the Housing Repairs Service as the single most important improvement needed.

Social Services Usage and Needs

Nearly three quarters of those surveyed had no contact with the services provided by Haringey Social Services, (73%). However the majority of respondents were aware of the range of services provided by the Social Services Department for elderly people as the table shows:—

Awareness of Social Service Provision

Service	Aware	Unware
Home Help Service	97%	3%
Meals on Wheels	95%	5%
Social Work Service	94%	6%
Day Care	87%	13%
Occupational Therapy	76%	24%
Luncheon Club	95%	5%
Residential Care	79%	21%

The Service of which the highest percentage of respondents were aware was the Home Help Service, and that of which they were least aware was occupational therapy. Of those who had contact with specific Social Services provided by Haringey Council, the following are the Services with which these respondents had contact:—

Specific Social Services with which respondents had contact

Service	Percentage	No
Home Help Service	26%	13
Meals on wheels	20%	10
Social Work Service	37%	19
Day Care	4%	2
Occupational Therapy	6%	3
Luncheon Club	8%	4
Residential Care	0%	0

It is interesting to note that the service with which most respondents had contact was the social work service i.e. 37% and also of significance is the fact that so few of the respondents had contact with any of Haringey's luncheon clubs. In choosing the sample for this project, it was intended to equally survey both statutory and voluntary sector luncheon clubs. But in total we found only 8 Irish users across all Haringey's statutory luncheon clubs. In marked contrast to this 50% (approximately) of the respondents attend an Irish luncheon club regularly at the Irish Community Care Centre in Stroud Green. The usage of this luncheon club by respondents and the non usage of Council based luncheon clubs highlights the need for social service provision for Irish elderly that is ethnically appropriate to their wishes and needs. It is equally significant that the vast majority of the respondents stated that they do not use any of Haringey's Day Centres for the elderly or disabled, whilst at the same 81% state that there is a need for a Day Centre for Irish elderly in Haringey. The respondents further identify the range of activities that they feel should be provided in any Day Centre for Irish elderly in this borough. Their views are as follows:—

Activities wanted in Day Care for Irish Elderly

Activity	%	NO
Irish cultural activities	32.6%	57
Food	17.1%	30
Health care facilities	7.4%	13
Advice and Information	2.9%	5
Games	23.4%	5
Other	1.7%	3

Almost one third of the respondents, specifically expressed a view that Irish cultural activities such as dancing, music, arts and crafts should be provided in a day centre for Irish elderly.

Many of the elderly interviewed stated during the course of the interviews, that their weekly visits to the luncheon club at the Irish Community Care Centre and their visits to the Tea Dance once a month at the Irish Centre were the social highlights of their life. In fact a number of people went so far as to say "I just live for going to the luncheon club — it's great". The strength of feeling which the elderly felt for the luncheon club struck forcibly whilst undertaking the survey interviews. It also convinced us of their very strongly felt need for a Day Centre for Irish Elderly in the borough. 81% of those surveyed stated that they felt there should be a Day Centre for Irish elderly in Haringey. In light of these facts and the apparent non usage of statutory Day Care Provision by Irish elderly, it would seem a key priority for the Council, the local Irish Community Care Centre, and also the Dion Committee of the Irish Government, to come together and examine how they could jointly fund and facilitate the development of ethnically sensitive day care provision for Irish elderly in Haringey.

Whilst considering the data on social services generally, there are a number of important findings in this study which Social Services planners and managers need to be mindful of.

(1) 69% of the elderly interviewed in this project, as stated

earlier, were between the ages of 65 and 74 years, and 22% were in the 75 years plus age bracket.

- (2) 68% of the Irish elderly surveyed lived alone.
- (3) 60% of those surveyed have no children and family.
- (4) Over one third of those surveyed had no other family member/relative living in London currently.

All of these facts are possible indicators of significant demand on Social Services resources by this elderly population. Much debate in recent time on care for the elderly has focussed on community care provision that supplements informal care networks. Such supplementary provision it seems would be inappropriate for many of the Irish elderly in this study. They simply do not have the informal care network to draw upon that other elderly may have. Therefore Social Services need to examine how they can provide professional care for these elderly people that is adequate and ethnically appropriate. There may be a possibility for partnership in the provision of such care with the Irish Community/Voluntary Sector in the borough.

Leisure and Recreation

Just over half of those surveyed, stated that they have a specific hobby or pasttime at present. The following are the range of hobbies cited by the respondents.

Hobbies, Pasttimes at Present

Hobby	Percentage	No
Reading	28.9%	22
Dancing	7.9%	6
Gardening	3.9%	3
Knitting, Sewing	18.4%	14
Drinking	5.3%	4
Other	35.5%	27

Many of the respondents cited hobbies that were only pursued by just one/two individuals in the sample and hence were not classified into a separate category. Such responses ranged from poetry writing to Russian history and much else besides.

Respondents were also asked which if any of the Council's leisure/recreation facilities they used at present. In response it was found that 22.4% use none of the Council's leisure facilities, while the facility most used by respondents was the parks (34% approximately). The next most popular service was the libraries (16.4%). On the issue of libraries it is worth noting that 82% stated that they felt there should be a library of Irish interest/focus in Haringey. Related to this it should be noted that in the development plans for the Irish Centre, there is a proposal to develop a library. Such a development would be an invaluable resource to all sectors of the Irish Community, including the elderly respondents of this survey, and would make an important contribution to the multicultural context of this borough. It would seem to us to be an issue that should be pursued with high priority by the Irish Centre's Management, the Haringey Library Service, and perhaps also with some assistance and co-operation from the Cultural Affairs Committee of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin.

It is also worth noting that a substantial proportion of those surveyed felt that there was a need for specific leisure

facilities for Irish elderly in Haringey — in particular, Irish music classes/sessions and Irish dancing.

When asking the questions in this area of leisure and recreation, a very high number of respondents said that they do not go to any evening classes or leisure facilities at night because they are afraid of being 'mugged' going to or from such venues. Many stated that they do not go outside their homes alone after dark. However of all those surveyed who expressed such a fear only one elderly respondent had been 'mugged' and left permanently disabled as a result. Whatever the risk factor in them being 'mugged', we were struck by the reality of their fear, and its paralysis of the respondents leisure activities. We could not establish exactly where so many of the respondents had acquired this fear, but local newspapers and television seemed to have been contributory factors in heightening and sustaining it.

Health Situation of Respondents

Health problem	Percentage	No
Cardiac related problems	10%	7
Blood pressure related problems	15.7%	11
Chest and respiratory problems	8.6%	6
Arthritis	38.6%	27
Other	27%	19

The health problem most frequently cited was arthritis followed by blood pressure and cardiac related problems.

Overall the results indicated that the respondents were in a state of reasonable physical well being, and they who appeared to experience in the main long term low level chronic health problems rather than acute conditions. In terms of contact with other health care professionals, 37% of respondents used the services of the chiropodist and 31% those of the health visitor.

Respondents contacts with Ireland at present

From the data on respondents' trips to Ireland it was found that 73.7% of respondents continue to travel to Ireland on holiday, and 52% of those surveyed travel there each year. This appears to be a very high level of contact with their homeland when considering both the age of the respondents, and the fact that the majority have lived in this country for over 35 years.

It is also interesting to note the data on these who do not make trips to Ireland now, i.e. 26.3% of the sample. Of this group, 28% stated that they do not go because they cannot afford the cost of travel and holidays in Ireland, 37.5% say they do not go because they have lost contact with family in Ireland, whilst 28% say that they do not go because they have no family or friends left in Ireland.

On the issue of cost of travel to Ireland, and the cost of holidays in Ireland being prohibitive, a majority of the

elderly surveyed mentioned these factors even amongst those who regularly travel there. A majority of those surveyed felt very strongly that they should have free travel in public transport in Ireland as pensioners resident in Ireland do at present, and a substantial number felt that they should receive special reduced air and sea fares when travelling to and from Ireland.

On the issue of retiring to live in Ireland it is significant that 61% of the respondents have, at some time, considered returning to Ireland. Of even greater significance is the fact that 51.1% of the respondents are currently interested in retiring to Ireland. However 83% of respondents feel that they would encounter difficulty in moving back to live in Ireland. In terms of the difficulties they feel they may encounter, 46% feel that they would have difficulty in securing adequate affordable accommodation, whilst others anticipate difficulties ranging from loneliness to problems with the transfer of social security benefits to Ireland. In terms of their perceived requirements when considering retiring to

CONCLUSION

In this study we have looked at the social situation of a sample of Irish elderly in Haringey across the following areas:— Housing, Social Services, Health, Leisure and Recreation, Employment histories, the experience of racism in Britain, and contacts with Ireland today. What we found was that there are clear links between the racial disadvantage experience by these surveyed, their experience of employment disadvantage in Britain and deprivation in old age. In sum, their ethnicity appear to be a significant contributing factor to their life experiences in Britain and for the majority of those surveyed this has been a life of employment disadvantage followed by deprivation in their old age. Also we have found a situation where the majority of those surveyed live alone, have no children, and one third have no family or relatives in London

Ireland, the highest proportion of respondents i.e. 55% felt they needed accurate information about the situation they would face in Ireland. Others stated that there should be financial grants towards the re-settlement of Irish elderly emigrants made available to those considering this option, whilst others cited the need for housing provision either by the Irish authorities or through a system of exchange of tenancies between Britain and Ireland. This idea of tenancy exchanges has been cited before and seems a course of action worth pursuing.

On the issue of the information needed before deciding to return to Ireland, it would seem appropriate for the Irish Government through the Irish Embassy in London to provide adequate and appropriate information on all aspects of retiring to Ireland for elderly Irish emigrants considering this option. In the course of the study we got a very strong impression from those surveyed that they felt there was nowhere for them to turn to, in order to obtain this necessary information.

today. All of these factors should urgently draw the attention of service planners and providers to the particular needs of Irish elderly in our borough.

Looking to the future the challenge that a study such as this of an ethnic minority elderly group highlights for a local authority is how can the statutory services both provide basic services for all elderly whilst at the same time catering appropriately for and supplementing provision for specific minorities within its client group. The real challenge is actually making the Council's Equal Opportunities policies work in meeting the needs of Irish elderly as identified throughout this report.

APPENDIX I

Survey of Irish elderly in Haringey: 1988 — A Copy of the Survey Questionnaire

GENERAL INFORMATION

Q.1 Sex of respondent

Female _____ Male _____

2. Can I start by asking you how old you are?

60-64 _____ 75-79 _____
65-69 _____ 80 yrs plus _____
70-74 _____

3. Can you tell me with whom do you live, if anyone?

alone _____ with sibling(s) _____
with husband/
wife _____ with friend(s) _____
with partner _____ in residential
care _____
with children _____ other _____

4. Do you or have you had any children, and if yes, how many?

None, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, more than 10

5. When did you emigrate from Ireland?

6. In which county were you born?

7. How would you describe where you lived? Was it?

In a city or city suburb _____
In a town _____
In a village or elsewhere in a rural area _____
Did you travel from place to place _____

8. Have any other members of your family ever lived in Britain, and if yes, which members have lived here?

None _____ Aunt(s) _____
Parent(s) _____ Cousins _____
Brother(s) _____ Spouse _____
Sister(s) _____ Other blood
relatives _____
Grandparent(s) _____ Don't know _____

9. Do any of your family live in Britain now, and if yes, which members live here now?

None _____ Aunt(s) _____
Parent(s) _____ Cousin(s) _____
Brother(s) _____ Spouse _____
Sister(s) _____ Other blood
relatives _____
Grandparent(s) _____ Don't know _____

10. Do you have contact with your family at present, and if yes, how often are you in contact with them?

No contact _____ Every few
months _____

Daily contact _____ Very infrequent _____
Weekly _____ Yearly _____
Monthly _____

Work life in Britain

11. Do you mind if I ask you, what work you have done since coming to Britain, if any?

12. Is this the type of work you wanted when you came to Britain and if no, what type of work would you like to have obtained.

Yes _____ No _____
If no, specify other work wanted.

13. Do you have a pension from your work in Britain?

Yes _____ No _____

14. Do you have a work pension from Ireland?

Yes _____ No _____

15. Have you ever suffered from what could be termed a work related illness or injury, and if yes, can you give details of any work related illness or injuries you have experienced?

Yes _____ No _____
If yes, details of illness/injuries
experienced (specify)

16. How often if ever, have you been unemployed since coming to Britain?

Never _____ Other (specify) _____

17. Have you ever been unable to work due to long term sickness in this country?

Yes _____ No _____

18. When you were working did you work mainly with

(a) other Irish _____ (c) a range of
people _____ ethnic groups _____
(b) British _____ (d) other _____
people _____

19. With whom did you find it easiest to work? please specify.

FEELINGS ABOUT BEING IRISH IN BRITAIN, EXPERIENCES OF DISCRIMINATION

20. Do you feel that Irish people get on well with other ethnic groups in Britain?

21. Can you tell me a little about what it feels to you to be Irish in Britain?

22. Have you ever experienced anti-Irish racism, feelings or prejudice as an Irish person in Britain?

Yes _____ No _____

23. If yes, to question 22, can you give details of your experiences?

24. Do you feel that anti-Irish racism, feelings or

prejudices are prevalent in Britain today?

HOUSING EXPERIENCES IN BRITAIN

25. What type of accommodation do you live in at present? Is it _____
- An owner occupied house/flat _____
 - Private rented house/flat _____
 - A Council house _____
 - A Council flat/bedsit _____
 - A housing association tenancy _____
 - A hostel _____
 - Bed and breakfast accommodation _____
 - Squat _____
 - Homeless/sleeping rough _____
 - Night shelter _____
 - Caravan _____
 - Sheltered housing _____
 - Part III accommodation _____
 - Other _____
26. How long have you lived in this type of accommodation? (Specify number of years). _____
27. Do you feel that the accommodation in which you are living is adequate for your housing needs? Yes _____ No _____
28. If no, then in what ways do you feel that your accommodation does not meet your housing needs?
- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| too small _____ | too old _____ |
| too big _____ | mobility problems _____ |
| overcrowded _____ | accessibility problems _____ |
| inadequate basic amenities _____ | other _____ |
29. What type of accommodation would you most like to live in now? _____
30. What if any different types of accommodation have you lived in since coming to Britain?
- owner occupied house/flat _____
 - private rented house/flat _____
 - a Council house _____
 - Council flat/bedsit _____
 - housing association tenancy _____
 - a hostel _____
 - bed and breakfast accommodation _____
 - squat _____
 - homeless/sleeping rough _____
 - night shelter _____
 - caravan _____
 - sheltered housing _____
 - Part III accommodation _____
 - other _____
31. Looking to the future, do you feel that your present accommodation is adequate to meet your housing needs for the rest of your life? _____

Yes _____ No _____

32. If no, in what ways do you feel that your present accommodation may prove to be inadequate to meet your possibly changing housing needs? _____
33. How did you obtain your present Council tenancy?
- through the Council waiting list _____
 - through transfer scheme _____
 - through homelessness legislation _____
 - through decant _____
 - through major repairs _____
 - through take over of property from private sector _____
34. Is your Council tenancy a _____
- House _____ Flat _____
 - Bedsit _____
35. What is your view of the services provided to you as a Council tenant by Haringey's Housing Service? _____
36. For those who feel the service could/should be improved — How do you feel the services provided by the Housing Service to you as a Council tenant should/might be improved? _____

SOCIAL SERVICE AWARENESS AND CONTACTS

37. Are you aware of any of the following services provided by Haringey Social Services?
- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Home Help Service _____ | Occupational therapy _____ |
| Meals on wheels _____ | Luncheon club _____ |
| Social Work Service _____ | Residential care _____ |
| Day Care _____ | |
38. Have you had any contact with Haringey Social Services, and if yes, what services have you had contact with? Yes _____ No _____
- If yes, specify services _____
39. If you have had contact with Haringey Social Services, what is your view of the services provided, based on your experience.
- (1) Home Help Service
Very good Good Fair Poor
 - (2) Meals on Wheels Service
Very good Good Fair Poor
 - (3) Social Work Service
Very good Good Fair Poor
 - (4) Occupational therapy
Very good Good Fair Poor
 - (5) Day care/Day centres
Very good Good Fair Poor
 - (6) Residential care
Very good Good Fair Poor
40. If you have had contact with Haringey Social Services, do you feel that the services you had _____

contact with were sensitive and responsive to your needs as an Irish person?

DAY CARE

41. Do you attend any of Haringey Social Services day centres for the elderly and or disabled?
42. Do you think that there is a need for a day centre for Irish elderly in Haringey?
43. If yes, what type of activities would you like to see provided at such a day centre for Irish elderly?

RESIDENTIAL CARE

44. Have you ever been in Residential care provided by or through Social Services?
Yes _____ No _____
45. If yes to 44, what type of residential care were you in?
46. If yes to 44, what did you think of this residential placement?
47. If yes to 44, do you think that the Residential placement was appropriate to your needs as an Irish person?

EDUCATION, LEISURE AND RECREATION

48. Do you have any particular hobbies, pasttimes or leisure time interests at present?
Yes _____ No _____
49. If yes to 48, what are these hobbies which you have?
50. Which if any of the leisure and recreational facilities provided by the Council do you use?
None _____ Parks _____
Libraries _____ Community Centres _____
Baths _____ Museum _____
Sports centres _____
51. Do you think it would be beneficial to have library of Irish interest in Haringey?
52. Are you aware of the home library service provided by the Council and is it a facility you would be interested in using?
Yes _____ No _____
53. Do you feel that there is a need to provide leisure facilities specially for Irish elderly in Haringey, and if yes, what type of facility do you think should be provided?
Yes _____ No _____
If yes please specify the facility _____
54. Do you attend any evening classes or education courses at present?
Yes _____ No _____
55. If yes to 54, what classes or courses do you attend?

56. Do you feel that there is a need for evening classes or education courses focussed on issues of Irish interest?
Yes _____ No _____

MONEY, SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS ETC

57. Do you mind if I ask you what are your sources of income at present?
58. Do you find that your income is adequate to meet your needs?
59. If no, can you elaborate on how it is inadequate to meet your needs?
60. Have you had any difficulties in claiming your benefits/pension from the DHSS.
61. Do you or have your received any professional advice in relation to your welfare entitlements and if yes, where?
Yes _____ No _____
if Yes, state where advice received _____

HEALTH CARE

62. Do you have a Doctor/GP?
Yes _____ No _____
63. Do you attend your doctor regularly or does she/he regularly attend you?
Yes _____ No _____
64. Do you mind if I ask you, are you suffering from any health problem/illness at present that you are aware of and if yes, can you tell me what that illness is?
Yes _____ No _____
If yes, please specify nature of illness _____
65. Do you have regular contact with any other health care professional apart from your doctor/GP and if yes, with what other health care service do your have contact?
Yes _____ No _____
If yes, specify service in contact with _____

SECTION ON IRELAND AND CONTACTS WITH IRELAND

66. Do you ever go to Ireland on holiday or for a visit now?
Yes _____ No _____
67. If yes to 66, how often do you go to Ireland?
68. If no to 66, can you tell for what reason you do not go there now?
69. Have you ever thought of returning to live and retire in Ireland?
Yes _____ No _____
70. If yes to 69, do you think at present that you would like to return and live there?
Yes _____ No _____

- 71. If yes to 70, where would you like to live if you were to return to Ireland?
- 72. Do you think that you would experience any difficulties in moving back to live in Ireland?
Yes _____ No _____
- 73. If yes to 72, what difficulties do you think you might experience?

- 74. If yes to 72, what if anything do you think could/should be done to make it easier for people like yourself to return to live in Ireland?

AND FINALLY

- 75. Is there anything else that you would like to say about your experiences living here?

76. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

77. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

78. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

79. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

80. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

81. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

82. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

83. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

84. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

85. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

86. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

87. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

88. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

89. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

90. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

91. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

92. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

93. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

94. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

95. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

96. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

97. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

98. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

99. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

100. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

101. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

102. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

103. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

104. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

105. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

106. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

107. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

108. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

109. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

110. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

111. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

112. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

113. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

114. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

115. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

116. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

117. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

118. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

119. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

120. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

121. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

122. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

123. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

124. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

125. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

126. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

127. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

128. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

129. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

130. Do you think that your doctor is satisfied with your health?
Yes _____ No _____

APPENDIX 2

The Survey Findings

Q1 V1

Sex

59.0%	59	Female
41.0%	41	Male

Q2 V2

Age range

9.0%	9	60-64
21.0%	21	65-69
48.0%	17	75-79
5.0%	5	80 years plus

Q3 V3

Living arrangements

68.0%	68	alone
20.0%	20	with husband/wife
2.0%	2	with partner
5.0%	5	with children
2.0%	2	with sibling(s)
0.0%	0	with friend(s)
0.0%	0	in residential care
3.0%	3	other

Q4 V4

Number of children

60.0%	60	none
9.0%	9	one
15.0%	15	two
9.0%	9	three
5.0%	5	four
0.0%	0	five
1.0%	1	six
0.0%	0	seven
1.0%	1	eight
0.0%	0	nine
0.0%	0	ten
0.0%	0	more than ten

Q5 V5

Date of emigration from Ireland

2.0%	2	1910-1919
46.0%	46	1920-1939
47.0%	47	1940-1059
5.0%	5	1960-1979
0.0%	0	1980 onwards

Q6 V6

County of birth

2.0%	2	Antrim
0.0%	0	Armagh
2.0%	2	Carlow
2.0%	2	Cavan
3.0%	3	Clare
10.0%	10	Limerick
8.0%	8	Cork
2.0%	2	Donegal

0.0%	0	Down
6.0%	6	Dublin
1.0%	1	Fermanagh
9.0%	9	Galway
6.0%	6	Kerry
0.0%	0	Kildare
6.0%	6	Kilkenny
2.0%	2	Laois
5.0%	5	Leitrim
3.0%	3	Longford
1.0%	1	Louth
5.0%	5	Mayo
0.0%	0	Meath
0.0%	0	Monaghan
0.0%	0	Offaly
2.0%	2	Roscommon
6.0%	6	Sligo
6.0%	6	Tipperary
0.0%	0	Tyrone
2.0%	2	Waterford
3.0%	3	Westmeath
3.0%	3	Wexford
4.0%	4	Wicklow
0.0%	0	Derry
1.0%	1	Other

Q7 V7

Area of residence prior to emigration

15.0%	15	In a city or city suburb
6.0%	6	In a town
79.0%	79	In a village or elsewhere in a rural area
0.0%	0	Travelling from place to place
0.0%	0	Other

Q8 V8

Members of respondent's family who lived in London

22.6%	33	None
2.7%	4	Parent(s)
28.8%	42	Brother(s)
37.7%	55	Sister(s)
0.0%	0	Grandparent(s)
2.1%	3	Uncle(s)
0.0%	0	Aunt(s)
4.8%	7	Cousin(s)
0.0%	0	Spouse
1.4%	2	Other blood relatives
0.0%	0	Don't know

Q9 V9

Members of family who live in London currently

24.8%	33	None
-------	----	------

0.0%	0	Parent(s)
22.6%	30	Brother(s)
31.6%	42	Sister(s)
0.0%	0	Grandparent(s)
0.0%	0	Uncle(s)
0.0%	0	Aunt(s)
6.8%	9	Cousin(s)
0.8%	1	Spouse
13.5%	18	Other blood relatives
0.0%	0	Don't know

Q10 V10

Frequency of contact with family and relatives

4.0%	4	No contact
15.0%	15	Daily contact
32.0%	32	Weekly
18.0%	18	Monthly
20.0%	20	Every few months
9.0%	9	Yearly
2.0%	2	Very infrequent

Q11 V11

Occupational group

0.0%	0	Employers/Managers (large establishments)
0.0%	0	Employers/Managers (small establishments)
0.0%	0	Professional workers, self employed
15.0%	15	Professional workers, employees
0.0%	0	Intermediate non-manual aux and artisans
0.0%	0	Intermediate non-manual Int. foremen and supervisors
11.0%	11	Junior non-manual
1.0%	1	Personal service workers
0.0%	0	Foreman/supervisors manual
7.0%	7	Skilled manual
3.0%	3	Semi skilled manual
61.0%	61	Unskilled manual
0.0%	0	Own account workers.

0.0%	0	Farmers/farm managers
0.0%	0	Farmers, own account
0.0%	0	Agricultural workers
0.0%	0	Armed forces
2.0%	2	Other

Q13 V13
Respondents with occupational pension

30.3%	30	Yes
69.7%	69	No

Q14 V14
Respondents with occupational pension from Ireland

4.1%	4	Yes
95.9%	94	No

Q15 V15
Experience of work related illness

7.1%	7	Yes
92.9%	91	No

Q16 V16
Experience of unemployment since coming to Britain

80.6%	79	Never
1.0%	1	Permanent unemployment
16.3%	16	Periodic unemployment
2.0%	2	Infrequent

Q17 V17
Experience of long term illness working in Britain

19.9%	19	Yes
80.6%	79	No

Q18 V18
Ethnic composition of work colleagues when working

5.2%	5	Only other Irish people
9.3%	9	English people
85.6%	83	A range of ethnic groups
0.0%	0	Other

Q19 V19
Ethnic groups with whom found it easiest to work

15.5%	15	English people
17.5%	17	Black people
6.2%	6	Jewish people
13.4%	13	Other Irish people
0.0%	0	All ethnic groups
47.4%	46	Other

Q20 V20
How well Irish relate with other ethnic groups

89.8%	88	Very well
8.2%	8	Well
1.0%	1	Do not relate well
1.0%	1	Relate badly
0.0%	0	Do not relate at all

Q21 V21
Feelings as an Irish person in Britain

56.0%	56	Feel pride in Irish background
35.0%	35	Feel an outsider, marginal in Britain
9.0%	9	Other

Q22 V22
Experience of anti-Irish racism in Britain

66.0%	66	Yes
34.0%	34	No

Q23 V23
Range of personal experiences of anti-Irish racism

47.1%	32	Racist behaviour/practices in workplace
13.2%	9	Racist comments in other settings
35.3%	24	Pervasive experience of racism in various settings
4.4%	3	Other

Q24 V24
Prevalence of anti-Irish racism in Britain today

75.0%	75	Generally prevalent
17.0%	17	Apparent on certain occasions
5.0%	5	Not prevalent
3.0%	3	Don't know

Q25 V25
Housing situation at present

19.0%	19	Owner occupied house/flat
8.0%	8	Private rented house/flat
6.0%	6	Council house
38.0%	38	Council flat/bedsit
23.0%	23	Housing association tenancy
0.0%	0	Hostel

0.0%	0	Bed and breakfast accommodation
0.0%	0	Squat
0.0%	0	Homeless/sleeping rough
0.0%	0	Night shelter
0.0%	0	Caravan
6.0%	6	Sheltered housing
0.0%	0	Part III accommodation
0.0%	0	Other

Q26 V26
Length of time resident in present accommodation

9.0%	9	Under 5 years
14.0%	14	5-10 years
32.0%	32	10-15 years
15.0%	15	15-20 years
30.0%	30	20 years plus

Q27 V27
Adequacy of existing accommodation for housing need

81.0%	81	Yes
19.0%	19	No

Q28 V28
Reasons for inadequacy of existing accommodation

13.6%	3	Too small
18.2%	4	Too big
4.5%	1	Overcrowded
0.0%	0	Inadequate basic amenities
4.5%	1	Too old
36.4%	8	Mobility problems
9.1%	2	Accessibility problems
13.6%	3	Other

Q29 V29
Type of accommodation most favoured at present

47.1%	8	Sheltered housing scheme
11.8%	2	Smaller flat/house
11.8%	2	Ground floor flat
29.4%	5	Other

Q30 V30
Range of accommodation lived in since coming to Britain

3.4%	6	Owner occupied house/flat
44.7%	80	Private rented house/flat
2.8%	5	Council house
5.0%	9	Council flat/bedsit

0.6%	1	Housing association tenancy
16.8%	30	Hostel
3.9%	7	Squat
5.6%	10	Homeless/sleeping rough
2.2%	4	Night shelter
0.0%	0	Caravan
0.0%	0	Sheltered housing
0.0%	0	Part III accommodation
8.9%	16	Tied accommodation
2.8%	5	Other
Q31 V31 Adequacy of present accommodation for rest of life		
73.0%	73	Yes
27.0%	27	No
Q32 V32 How existing accommodation may prove inadequate in future		
26.7%	8	Accessibility problems
6.7%	2	Too big
50.0%	15	Mobility problems
13.3%	4	Security problems
3.3%	1	Too old
Q33 V33 Route by which obtained present Council tenancy		
62.0%	31	Through Council waiting list
10.0%	5	Through transfer scheme
8.0%	4	Through homelessness legislation
0.0%	0	Through decant
8.0%	4	Through major repairs
10.0%	5	Through take over of property
2.0%	1	From private sector
Q34 V34 Nature of Council tenancy		
10.0%	5	House
88.0%	44	Flat
2.0%	1	Bedsit
Q35 V35 Views on Haringey Housing's services to tenants		
8.3%	4	Very good
57.1%	28	Good
26.5%	13	Fair

6.1%	3	Poor
2.0%	1	Very poor
Q36 V36 Views on improvements needed in H/Housing services		
100.0%	23	Housing repairs service should respond more promptly
0.0%	0	Other
Q37 V37 P1 Awareness of Home Help Service		
97.0%	Yes	
3.0%	3	No
Q38 V38 P2 Awareness of Meals on Wheels Service		
95.0%	95	Yes
5.0%	5	No
Q37 V39 P3 Awareness of Social Work Service		
94.0%	94	Yes
6.0%	6	No
Q37 V40 P4 Awareness of day care		
87.0%	87	Yes
13.0%	13	No
Q37 V41 P5 Awareness of occupational therapy		
76.0%	76	Yes
24.0%	24	No
Q37 V42 P6 Awareness of luncheon club		
95.0%	95	Yes
5.0%	5	No
Q37 V43 P7 Awareness of residential care		
79.0%	79	Yes
21.0%	21	No
Q38 V44 Contact with Haringey Social Services		
27.3%	27	Yes
72.7%	72	No
Q38 V45 Specific Social Services with which had contact		
27.7%	13	Home help service
21.3%	10	Meals on wheels
40.4%	19	Social work service
4.3%	2	Day care
6.4%	3	Occupational therapy
0.0%	0	Luncheon club
0.0%	0	Residential care

Q39 V46 P1 Views on Home Help Service		
46.2%	6	Very good
46.2%	6	Good
7.7%	1	Fair
0.0%	0	Poor
Q39 V47 P2 Views on Meals on Wheels Service		
0.0%	0	Very good
11.1%	1	Good
44.4%	4	Fair
44.4%	4	Poor
Q39 V48 P3 Views on Social Work Service		
31.6%	6	Very Good
31.6%	6	Good
21.1%	4	Fair
15.8%	3	Poor
Q39 V49 P4 Views on Occupational Therapy		
0.0%	0	Very good
50.0%	2	Good
50.0%	2	Fair
0.0%	0	Poor
Q39 V50 P5 Views on Day Care/Day Centres		
0.0%	0	Very good
100.0%	1	Good
0.0%	0	Fair
0.0%	0	Poor
Q39 V51 P6 Views on residential care		
0.0%	0	Very good
0.0%	0	Good
0.0%	0	Fair
0.0%	0	Poor
Q40 V52 Views on sensitivity of services to Irish peoples needs		
38.5%	10	Very sensitive
42.3%	11	Sensitive
15.4%	4	Inappropriate
3.8%	1	Other
Q41 V53 Usage of Social Services Day Centres		
2.0%	2	Yes
98.0%	96	No
Q42 V54 Need for Day Centres for Irish elderly in Haringey		
80.8%	80	Yes
19.2%	19	No

Q43 V55
Activities wanted in Day Centres for Irish elderly

32.6%	57	Irish cultural activities (dancing, music, arts/crafts)
17.1%	30	Food
7.4%	13	Health care facilities
2.9%	5	Advice and information
23.4%	41	Games
14.9%	26	General entertainments
1.7%	3	Other

Q44 V56
Those who have been in Social Services residential care

0.0%	0	Yes
100.0%	99	No

Q48 V57
Any hobbies or pasttimes at present

51.0%	51	Yes
49.0%	49	No

Q49 V58
Hobbies, pasttimes at present

28.9%	22	Reading
7.9%	6	Dancing
3.9%	3	Gardning
18.4%	14	Knitting, sewing
5.3%	4	Drinking
35.3%	27	Other

Q50 V59
Usage of Council's leisure/recreation facilities

22.4%	34	None
16.4%	25	Libraries
3.3%	5	Baths
2.0%	3	Sports centres
34.2%	52	Parks
21.1%	32	Community centres
0.7%	1	Museums

Q51 V60
Views on having a Haringey Irish interest library

82.0%	82	Yes
18.0%	18	No

Q52 V61
Awareness of Council's home library service

68.7%	68	Yes
31.3%	31	No

Q53 V62
Special leisure facilities for Haringey's Irish elderly

65.0%	65	Yes
35.0%	35	No

Q53 V63
Leisure facilities felt to be needed for Irish elderly in Haringey

1.0%	1	Yes
99.0%	99	No

Q56 V65
Views on need for Irish interest evening classes or education courses

51.0%	50	Yes
49.0%	48	No

Q57 V66
Sources of Income of respondents

69.0%	69	Old age pension
1.0%	1	Old age pension plus personal savings
28.0%	28	Old age pension plus occupational pension
0.0%	0	Old age pension plus occupational pension plus personal savings
2.0%	2	Other

Q58 V67
Views on adequacy of present income to meet needs

31.0%	31	Have adequate income
69.0%	69	Income is inadequate

Q59 V68
Ways in which income is inadequate

86.6%	58	Insufficient to buy basic necessities
10.4%	7	Insufficient to buy any extras
3.0%	2	Inadequate to meet emergencies/ demands for extra expenditure

Q60 V69
Any difficulties experienced in claiming Social Security entitlements

4.1%	4	Yes
95.9%	94	No

Q61 V70
Use of professional advice in relation to Social Security entitlements

11.6%	11	Yes
88.4%		No

Q61 V71
Where advice on Social Security received

20.0%	2	Irish advice agency
20.0%	2	Council's advice bureaux
10.0%	1	Social Security area office
0.0%	0	Other voluntary sector project
50.0%	5	Other

Q62 V72
Registration with General Practitioner

100.0%	100	Yes
0.0%	0	No

Q63 V73
Frequency of attendance at doctor's surgery

49.0%	49	Frequently
51.0%	51	Infrequently

Q64 V74
Health status at present

67.0%	67	Experiencing health problems
33.0%	33	In good health

Q64 V75
Range of health problems experienced at present

10.0%	7	Cardiac related problems
15.7%	11	Blood pressure related problems
8.6%	6	Chest and respiratory problems
38.6%	27	Arthritis
27.1%	19	Other

Q65 V76
Contact with other health care professional

36.0%	36	Chiroprapist
31.0%	31	Health visitor
1.0%	1	Community psychiatric nurse
1.0%	1	Other
31.0%	31	No other health care professional

Q66 V77
Respondents trips to Ireland now
 73.7% 73 Yes
 26.3% 26 No

Q67 V78
Frequency of respondents trips to Ireland
 52.1% 38 Every year
 5.5% 4 Every second year
 34.2% 25 Every third year
 2.7% 2 Once every 5 years
 2.7% 2 Once every 10 years
 2.7% 2 Infrequently

Q68 V79
Reasons given for not travelling to Ireland now
 28.1% 9 Cannot afford the cost of travel and holiday there
 37.5% 12 Lost contact with family in Ireland
 28.1% 9 No family/friends left in Ireland
 0.0% 0 Choose not to travel there
 6.3% 2 Other

Q69 V80
Respondents who have considered retiring to Ireland
 61.2% 60 Yes (have considered)
 38.8% 38 No (have not considered)

Q70 V81
Respondents currently interested in retiring to Ireland
 53.11% 34 Yes
 46.9% 30 No

Q71 V82
Area of Ireland respondents would like to return to
 0.0% 0 Antrim
 0.0% 0 Armagh
 2.9% 1 Carlow
 0.0% 0 Cavan
 2.9% 1 Clare
 14.3% 5 Cork
 2.9% 1 Donegal
 0.0% 0 Down
 14.3% 5 Dublin
 0.0% 0 Fermanagh
 8.6% 3 Galway
 0.0% 0 Kerry

0.0% 0 Kildare
 5.7% 2 Kilkenny
 0.0% 0 Laois
 2.9% 1 Leitrim
 8.6% 3 Limerick
 2.9% 1 Longford
 2.9% 1 Louth
 0.0% 0 Mayo
 0.0% 0 Meath
 0.0% 0 Monaghan
 0.0% 0 Offaly
 2.9% 1 Roscommon
 8.6% 3 Sligo
 5.7% 2 Tipperary
 0.0% 0 Tyrone
 2.9% 1 Waterford
 0.0% 0 Westmeath
 5.7% 2 Wexford
 2.9% 1 Wicklow
 0.0% 0 Derry
 2.9% 0 Other

Q72 V83
Views on any likely difficulties in moving back to Ireland
 82.9% 29 Yes (would experience difficulties)
 17.1% 6 No

Q73 V84
Specific difficulties likely to be experienced in returning to Ireland
 46.2% 18 Securing adequate affordable accommodation
 10.3% 4 Loneliness
 23.1% 9 Fear of not settling down again in Ireland
 10.3% 4 Problems with transfer of Social Security benefits to Ireland
 10.3% 4 Other

Q74 V85
Initiative to be taken to facilitate any wishing to return to Ireland
 55.0% 22 Information
 20.0% 8 Grants towards returning to Ireland
 7.5% 3 Facility for mutual exchange of tenancies between Britain and Ireland
 17.5% 7 Housing provision by Irish Government

0.0% 0 for returning elderly emigrants
 0.0% 0 Other

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