

SG PAC Note on Public Services Card

- Over 2.67 million Public Services Cards have been issued to date, covering approximately 66% of the adult population in the country. The card, and its online equivalent, MyGovID, is based on the SAFE 2 registration process, which is designed as a pan Government process in establishing the state’s highest level of assurance for personal identity. The process includes a face to face registration process, carried out by trained officials and operated by the Department of Employment and Social Protection.
- The State has a contractual commitment to issue 3 million PSCs by the end of December 2017. It is expected that this target may not be met, though the adoption of the card by PSBs, other than DESP, will result in a production figure of close to target.
- A Government Decision in 2013 requires all Public Bodies to use the PSC for access to public services where appropriate. A new Government Decision is being sought in the coming weeks to reaffirm this commitment, including a scheduled list of adoption rollouts in many public bodies.
- The Passport application process will be based on a requirement to undergo the SAFE 2 registration process for adult new and renewals, and is expected to be introduced in December of this year.
- The rationale for introducing this as a requirement, for the Passport, and all other processes that require proof of identification, is to ensure that the highest level of authentication available to the state is applied where possible. The reasons for this are:
 - Reduction in fraud and impersonation
 - Alignment with the EU in cross-border access to digital services (Digital Single Market)
 - Protection of personal data – consistent personal identification at a high level of assurance supports the processing of the correct persons data in the correct manner. Sharing data between bodies currently occurs, and will continue to occur, to provide public services - this is made more accurate when different PSBs use the same means of authentication.
 - Gives greater efficiencies - as sharing can be made more accurate with **trusted** identifiers, it can then be relied on more in the provision of services, thus allowing for sharing to replace the need for re-collecting data, or sending citizens to different bodies to gather data from different arms of Government.
 - The use of SAFE 2 to underpin MyGovID, allows for high value transactions to be offered online – for example renewal of drivers licence, health portal (access to personal health records), passport, welfare benefits, grants, etc.

For reference, the list of scheduled adoptions of the PSC/MyGovID is included below.

Department/Office	Service	Note	Date
Office of the Revenue Commissioners	Online PAYE Anytime Service	Access to the online PAYE Anytime service will be possible via MyGovID	Jun-17

Road Safety Authority	Drivers Theory Test	Access to the Drivers Theory Test will require service users to be SAFE 2 registered	Jun-17
Dept. Education and Skills	School Transport Appeal	Submission of a school transport appeal will require submitter to be SAFE 2 registered; Online submission of appeal will be possible via MyGovID	Sep-17
Dept. Social Protection	Treatment Benefit	Checking eligibility for treatment benefits (dental/optical/aural) via MyWelfare using MyGovID	Nov-17
Dept. Foreign Affairs and Trade	Passport Application	All adult passport applications, new and renewals, for residents in Ireland will require applicants to be SAFE 2 registered; Online renewal of adult passports will use MyGovID	*Dec-17
Road Safety Authority	Drivers Licence Application	Driver licence applications will require applicants to be SAFE 2 registered; Online renewal of drivers licences to be introduced and use MyGovID	Mar-18
Dept. Justice and Equality; Dept. Social Protection	Proof of Age	Introduce the optional use of the PSC as an Age Card for use as a Proof of Age service	**Mar-18

Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)	Student Grant Application	MyGovID will be used as the authentication mechanism to provide access to the student grant scheme for the 2018/19 academic year. Applicants will have to be SAFE 2 registered in order to make an application	Apr-18
Dept. Education and Skills	School Grant Appeal	Submission of a school grant appeal will require submitter to be SAFE 2 registered; Online submission of appeal will be possible via MyGovID	Sep-18
Health Service Executive	Online Health Portal	MyGovID will be used as the authentication mechanism to provide access to a new online Health portal being launch in 2018 - this portal is to provide access to a growing number of health related services online.	Sep-18
Dept. Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Agfood.ie	Support for individual access to the Agfood.ie set of services via MyGovID	Sep-18

* Note: the introduction of the requirement for SAFE 2 registration for passport applications in Ireland, and the use of MyGovID as the means of authentication for online renewals, is subject to further operational analysis and may have a resourcing impact. Note also that passport applications made from abroad will continue using the existing processes, without the requirement for SAFE 2 registration. Further work is being carried out to investigate options regarding ways to introduce SAFE 2 registration for those abroad.

** Note: the introduction of the Public Services Card as an option for use as an Age Card, as per the Intoxicating Liquor Acts, will require legislative amendments to both the Intoxicating Liquor Acts and the Social Welfare and Pensions Acts. As such the timeframe associated with this commitment is dependent on the timing of the legislative process.