

Dear Taoiseach and Colleagues,

I am an Irish Citizen living abroad in the UK.

One risk to Ireland I would like to discuss is the rising degree of nationalism across Europe and how this could impact the safety, security and prosperity of Ireland. This nationalism is present even in the European Parliament. At the moment, I would characterise this risk as: high hazard, low risk.

There is a great deal of concern in the UK with how the Brexit vote was procured, how it was funded and the network of people backing it. This is already causing British jobs to be relocated to elsewhere in Europe, its impact on a range of industries is likely to be very negative and it is also leading to an increase in far right activity, with rising levels of both racism and xenophobia. So it is for these reasons that I describe this as high hazard.

It is, however, low risk: I am aware that Ireland's membership of the EU has 92% popular support, up from about 88%, probably due to several month's worth of engagement and consultation with the Citizenry by the Europe Minister on Ireland's future in Europe. That, and as my Ma says, unlike the British, the Irish never gave up on education. Even as a school girl, she was encouraged to think her future was whatever she wanted it to be, even if sadly it meant leaving Ireland.

However, this low risk is not something I think can be taken for granted. One of the people behind Brexit, Hermann Kelly (Nigel Farage's press secretary), is on record as considering trying to start an irexit movement and party in Ireland.

Other risks to Ireland include: housing is too expensive, so needs to be cheaper and the cost of third level education is also high. It would be of great benefit to the young, the country and the future if the young can feel they can create a bright and prosperous life for themselves at home in Ireland. A quick search for keywords such as "Linux" or "Java" on irishjobs.ie shows that Ireland is already a computing powerhouse (and not just in Dublin), and other sectors are also doing well, so the opportunities are there at home, we just need to reduce the height of the barriers to the young securing them.

Best wishes,