



# HOMEBIRDS NOT FLYING THE NEST

■ Laura COLGAN

**FIRST-TIME buyers are waiting on average five years longer than they would like to get on the housing ladder.**

New research also shows people believe offspring should fly the nest by the age of 30.

Despite this, the average age a first-time buyer gets a home is now 34.

Most people believe the ideal age to become a homeowner is between 25 and 29.

An overwhelming 95 per cent of Irish people say you should be out of the family home before you're 30.

**However, the housing crisis and changing lifestyles mean many "boomerang" kids are still living at home well beyond that.**

The ideal scenario according to a survey is to move out of home before you're 24 and have your first house bought before you're 29.

## Opinion

Royal London commissioned an iReach survey of 1,000 people throughout Ireland to gauge opinion on what's the right age to fly the family nest.

**Spokesman Barry**

**McCutcheon said: "As the age of first-time buyers in Ireland continues to rise, it would appear that moving out and buying your first property at the most 'desirable' age is beyond reach for most people.**

"As society evolves, family situations and living arrangements change. What would have been once considered the traditional sequence of events, get married, buy a house and then have

## Housing crisis keeps kids at home into 30s

children, in that order, is becoming less common.

**"A period of renting at some point is usually the case for many individuals nowadays and current house prices and Central Bank lending restrictions mean that, on average, people have to wait well into their 30s before they can afford their first home."**

The Royal London survey found that the majority (68 per cent) of respondents believe the ideal age to move out of the family home is under 25 years old.

## Study

Only 10 per cent agree that the best time was 20 years of age or younger.

Yet the actual average age at which young Irish people now leave the family home is just after

they turn 26 years of age, according to a 2018 Eurostat study.

**"The vast majority of people believe that you should be in your early 20s when moving out of your family home," Mr McCutcheon added.**

The latest figures from the 2016 Census also revealed that almost 460,000 adults are currently cohabiting with their parents.



**BOOMERANG KIDS: Still at home with folks**