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SHANE BOURKE

Irish Office Space



Shane Bourke has used his experience in the London property scene to set up a unique business in Ireland helping companies find flexible office space.

Originally from Dublin, Shane left Ireland in June 2008 with the intention of staying a couple of years to gain experience. However, when the financial crisis hit and jobs were scarce back home, he made a go of things in London and ended up staying 10 years.

“I started working in gyms and, after two years, I went for a job in a property company which I completely blagged but managed to get — that was the start of my career in property.”

He lived all over London, eventually settling in Twickenham where he bought a house, before coming home to Dublin in 2018.

“I have a two-year old daughter so I wanted to be closer to family. The economy was also booming and I spotted a gap in the market for this service so I went for it. My friends joke that I bailed when things were not great in Ireland and have only come back now that’s things are better economically — maybe they’re right”

Shane set up Irish Office Space in July 2018. The commercial office agency has access to hundreds of properties across the country and assists clients in finding everything from co-working spaces to company HQs.

Irish Office Space does not charge client fees (the landlord pays a ‘finder’s fee’), helping clients — many of whom are at an early stage of business — with cash flow.

Shane is delighted with his move back to Ireland. “The work-life balance in London is challenging. I have a better quality of life since moving home. Although I still work hard and put in long hours, I find it more rewarding.”

Although it was not all plain sailing.

“Setting up a business is daunting but setting up in a country where you have never really worked before is extra daunting. Things like registering with Revenue and setting up bank accounts are never straight forward. Like with any business, it takes time to build a client base and generate revenue — cash flow in the first few months is always a struggle.”

But Shane’s deals to date have proved that his model works and he has already helped some companies find their European HQs, for more than 70 staff each. “To do this in my first year is a great sense of pride.”

Shane feels that Back for Business was a help for him both personally and professionally.

“I learnt a huge amount both through my mentor and the workshops. I made great contacts in our round table sessions. Getting access to companies such as EY and Beauchamps was amazing. Those seminars were especially helpful as they gave insights and advice from accounting to taxation to legal advice.

Shane currently employs two people and is applying for an expansion grant with his local LEO. He plans to double his head count year-on-year and is focused on growing the brand.

“I want to be that company where if companies are getting started or looking for a change of office, they pick up the phone to Irish Office Space. I also want to help clients expand internationally. The goal is to be their long-time global property partner.”



POSITION

Founder

WHAT WE DO

We help companies of all sizes find flexible office space across the Irish market, with no charge to the client.

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