

years on the Government has produced a Strategy that we feel provides the framework that will guide the future of caring in the community and help to support a fair and equitable system for Family Carers in challenging times".

Engineering projects wanted for awards

ENGINEERS Ireland has called for Limerick entries from all disciplines of engineering to allow the Irish public to vote online for this year's Engineering Project of the Year as part of the third Engineers Ireland Excellence Awards, in association with ESB.

The body is also looking for entries into the new category of this year's competition, the Technology of the Year Award. The Engineering Project of the Year award, sponsored by the NRA, is intended to highlight the particular influence or benefit a specific engineering project has had on society. Once entries are short-listed by Engineers Ireland, an online public vote will decide the winner.

The winner will be announced at a ceremony on November 9. Last year's winner was Cork County Council for the Mizen Head Footbridge.

In addition to the Engineering Project of the Year competition and the Technology of the Year award, the third Engineers Ireland Excellence Awards will also include awards for: Chartered Engineer of the Year, Engineering Education Award, Environmental Infrastructure Award, Best Paper or Presentation of the Year and the Volunteer or Volunteer Group of the Year award.

Limerick talent sought for RTE show

YOUNG Limerick talent is being sought to take part in the second series of RTE's hit programme 'Show Off or Get Off'. The production team will be at Studio 21, O'Connell Street, Limerick on August 18 from 4pm to 7pm, and talented eight to 13 year olds are invited to attend. Five acts from each set of auditions around the country will be selected as finalists and will face a public vote. The two acts with the most votes will progress to the next round.

The eventual winner will perform live on RTE's elev8 and will get to co-host the programme for a day. Any acts that require props, material or extra time or space are asked to contact producers ahead of the auditions.

Entrants with backing music must provide a CD copy of their chosen track. All auditions are held on a first come first served basis and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

local community centre to take part in an employment scheme that would see him working in environmental cleanups and security and earning an additional €20 per week on top of his social welfare allowance.

It is necessary for all future employees on the scheme to undergo a vetting process, which Mr. Sherlock was glad to complete. As he had lived and worked in the UK for 10 years, he was required to fill in a form under the vetting process that would be sent to England.

However, the forms that he was given were for a visa application to travel to Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other foreign countries.

€20 a week, I had to pay €51".

Mr. Sherlock said he had no problem whatsoever with being vetted, but was baffled at being charged so much and having to fill out such an extensive form as a visa application. "If I had committed a crime here and they wanted to see if I had a record in the UK, I'm sure there would be a simple way to check that, so I don't see why they can't do the same for this".

Mr. Sherlock claimed that Social Welfare, nor any of the employment organisations involved, were willing to cover the charge.

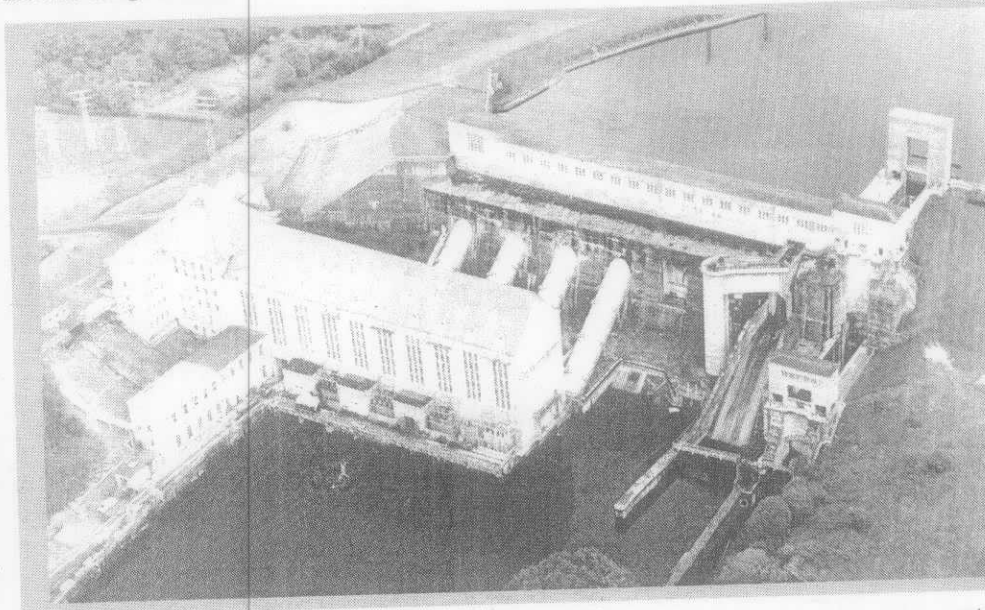
"Everyone is passing the book and I end up out of pocket; I just wanted to highlight this so others will be

to ensuring the protection of children and/or vulnerable adults.

"It is Community Employment policy that participants on any scheme that gives individuals substantive unsupervised access to children and/or vulnerable adults are subject to Garda Vetting.

"For individuals who lived outside the island of Ireland for one or more continuous years since the age of 16, international Garda vetting is a requirement.

"The cost of procuring police vetting is a matter for the jurisdiction concerned and varies from state to state".



The day Ardnacrusha powered the nation....

85th birthday of ESB celebrated

ON the occasion of the historic 85th anniversary of the founding of the ESB in 1927, celebrated at a special event in Ardnacrusha last week, Minister Pat Rabbitte emphasised the enormity of the Shannon Scheme and the development of the power station, which involved the construction and roll-out of an electricity network system across the length and breadth of Ireland in 1929.

Former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave, now aged 92, and who travelled for the occasion, recalled, that in the company of his father, WT Cosgrave, he attended the official switching on of the power station.

His recollection was that upwards of 5,000 men, including 1,000 Germans, were employed in the construction work, where the internationally known German company Siemens, were the main contractors. The cost was in the region of €5 million.

Mr Cosgrave addressed the gathering for quarter-of-an

hour, and reminded all that the scheme was created without the assistance of any outside money and that the gigantic undertaking was funded within the country.

The record books show that almost 30 men died over the four year building period, in what was one of the biggest projects ever undertaken in Ireland,

Minister Rabbitte emphasised the importance of the vast body of work that has been undertaken over recent years in strengthening the network.

He said "The fact that Ireland has now one of the leading electricity systems worldwide in terms of safety and reliability is no accident – it is part of careful and strategic planning over the past decade or so to ensure development and maintenance of the networks in the national interest".

The minister noted that it was a timely opportunity to highlight the importance of energy infrastructure and referenced the publication just last week of a major Government Policy Statement on Energy Infrastructure.

"Energy is the lifeblood of Ireland's economy and society. Our ability to rebuild the economy, deliver regional development, create jobs and growth and ensure the well-being of everyone as well as realising the economic potential of Ireland's own renewable energy resources requires significant energy infrastructure.

"Today Ireland's energy networks compare most favourably with other countries in terms of safety and resilience, owing to a period of important investment programmes successfully delivered by ESB Networks, EirGrid and Bord Gáis Éireann.

"Continuing the steady level of development and renewal of the networks is essential to ensure that Ireland's energy system is fit for purpose, safe and secure, and ready to meet increased demand as economic conditions improve".

Also in attendance were Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Ministers Michael Noonan and Jan O'Sullivan, and German ambassador, Dr. Eckhard Lubkemeier.