



BRIDGING THE GAP - IRELAND'S DIGITAL DIVIDE

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

The digital divide in Ireland is real...

That's the gap between those who have the confidence, skills and ability to engage with digital services, and those who don't.

When you're not involved with computers, you're just lost.

Before we started the digital training, I suppose we were all afraid.

At least 25% of the Irish population are excluded from an increasingly digital society.

When I came here, using computers was difficult.

I couldn't use Word at all, so I ended up having to write it rather than type it.

Over 40% rate their digital skills as below average and nearly a third of our population don't feel confident that they will be able to learn.

We're doing a bit of farming here. In most of the form-filling now, it has to be done online.

You'd just be left behind.

Our latest report, 'Bridging the Gap: Ireland's Digital Divide', highlights the significant gap between the 'haves' and the 'have nots'. And it suggests that if we come together to tackle the divide, digital skills could become a real equaliser in Ireland, supporting efforts to tackle societal challenges such as loneliness and inequality, and help create more opportunities for many more of our citizens.

It gives us the courage to try things out that we wouldn't normally. Hopefully now, we can move a step further.

I want to go and get a degree.

I can apply for college now. I can do online shopping... In some ways, I feel powerful.

It just makes you feel really good.

Everybody deserves to be in the picture.

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