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I'm outta here!



HELLO, GOODBYE:
One of the favourite destinations for Wirral people seeking a new life abroad is Australia

7,500 quit Wirral for a life abroad ... but it's a sign of our prosperity

By KEVIN CORE

WIRRAL is top of the country's emigration league. In the past five years 7,500 people left the area to start a new life abroad – more than anywhere else in the UK.

The Office of National Statistics figures have only affluent areas like Cambridge, Christchurch and West Dorset coming close.

And rather than dissatisfaction with home, a high emigration rate does suggest a good income, professional qualifications and a successful job.

The results are supported by the Emigration Group which offers a foreign resettlement service including visas, new bank accounts and job searches.

Director Paul Arthur, said: "We rank areas by how many inquiries we receive; Liverpool gave us the fifth most enquiries and Chester third – but not all of these result in emigration."

"Wirral is the top location for people who actually leave."

Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and France are among the favourite destinations.

Mr Arthur added: "In New Zealand one in four households have a boat, and you don't spend six months of the year going to and from work



STEVE FOULKES: Well-qualified population



MIKE MCCARTNEY: Cultural ambassador

in the dark. Many of the clients I advise are looking for a better life both for themselves and their children and they see emigration as a way of achieving this."

Cllr Steve Foulkes, leader of Wirral Council, said: "Wirral's emigration levels in the last five years amount to 1% of our population."

"This healthy level of emigration shows that Wirral people's talents are being sought worldwide."

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"However, many international businesses, such as Unilever Research and Development choose to base themselves in Wirral because we have a highly qualified population who enjoy a superb quality of life thanks to our excellent schools, housing and enviable countryside and coast."

"One of the key aims of our new investment strategy is to provide more highly paid professional jobs within Wirral."

However Wirral's cultural ambassador Mike McCartney, said: "I think the reality is the other way round – people in Australia and France are flooding to Wirral for the constant sunshine and beautiful beaches – recognising that it's actually the centre of the universe."

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