



by Daragh Whooley

I have spent the last 25 years working in Senior Management roles in Banking, Wealth Management and HR and a brief spell with a large pharmaceutical in Cork. My career choices have involved driving throughout Munster daily and commuting a round trip of 650kms to Dublin weekly from my home in Clonakilty, West Cork.

I have had a varied and exciting career journey so far and am looking forward to the next step. It had been a difficult decision career wise initially to decide between Dublin (where I was spending a considerable amount of my time) and where my career trajectory was heading versus West Cork where I live.

I have chosen West Cork to work and have recently joined the team here in Ludgate, Skibbereen. I am adjusting to my new life, both personally and professionally. From COVID-19 related restrictions, a fantastic reduced scenic commute and the 'space' to see clearer.





My new working and home life

I believe that I am not the only one who has in the last nine months reassessed what is important in one's life! The fundamental requirements are a regular income, providing for one's family and ensuring we are healthy and safe. This 'new' world has made us take stock of what is truly important, the question is will we hang on to these core values when and if the old norm returns? I am one of the lucky ones to be able to work remotely as I know many are not. My new working life is giving me more time, precious time. Time to get more involved in my sons after school activities, more time to myself and family due to my reduced commute, more time to think and more time for me to be truly present.



New working landscapes

There are new emerging names for different types of workers from Digital Nomads, to hot deskers to smart workers, the list goes on. For quite a while there have been many different studies of how we work, where we work and how much we work. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has fast tracked our new virtual world. Some have adapted, some haven't and some still are. Many larger companies are now communicating blended present and future working options. A blend of options in which employees can work from home when needed, but also have access to a co working space, where they can collaborate, socialise and build healthy relationships, whatever option suits employee and employer best .





Remote working, Office working, Hybrid working!

Remote work used to be an option for employees who could convince their manager that it was a good idea. All that has changed with the arrival of COVID-19. The technologies that have made remote working possible have also created a more permeable boundary between work and family roles. Working from home for many happened 'overnight' rather than a thought-out plan that everyone could prepare for or opt into at their discretion. This creates I believe a need to actively manage boundaries between work and family time. A recent survey carried out by NUI Galway and the Western Development commission shows that 94% of workers would like to work remotely some or all the time when the COVID-19 pandemic comes to an end. 5,600 responses have been collated since the beginning of October following on from the initial survey in April. Among those that can work remotely 94% favour working remotely on an ongoing basis some or all the time, which is up from 83% in April. Just over half (54%) would like to work remotely several times per week. The future of work I believe will in time become clearer.

What I know about me and what we are creating

I thrive on interaction, love meeting people, am at my best when I am up and at it and out and about. That's just me ... and I fully understand that might not be you. I am not the work from home long-term person, I need a balance. If I could afford a state of the art 'POD' that I could drop into my garden maybe ... but alas no. It still does not solve my inner need to be satisfied which is the need to feel connected. This new world has taught me a lot about me and clarified what I like and need I am still as ambitious as ever and want to 'succeed' I am hugely grateful to be given the opportunity to join the team here in Ludgate Skibbereen to continue to build on the phenomenal work that has already been done, and to work and live in such a truly amazing place that West Cork is. Never have I felt more connected to West than now. My ambition is to continue to build our community and make our facilities available to all. From companies both large and small, hot desks, meeting rooms and private office spaces I want to expand on what has already been achieved and to drive on our plans to create sustainable jobs in the West Cork area. Fundamentally at the core of our new reality is the basic need to feel connected which to me is more important now than it ever was.

REMOTE WORKING

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