



National
College *of*
Ireland

NCI Honey!

But where does it come from?





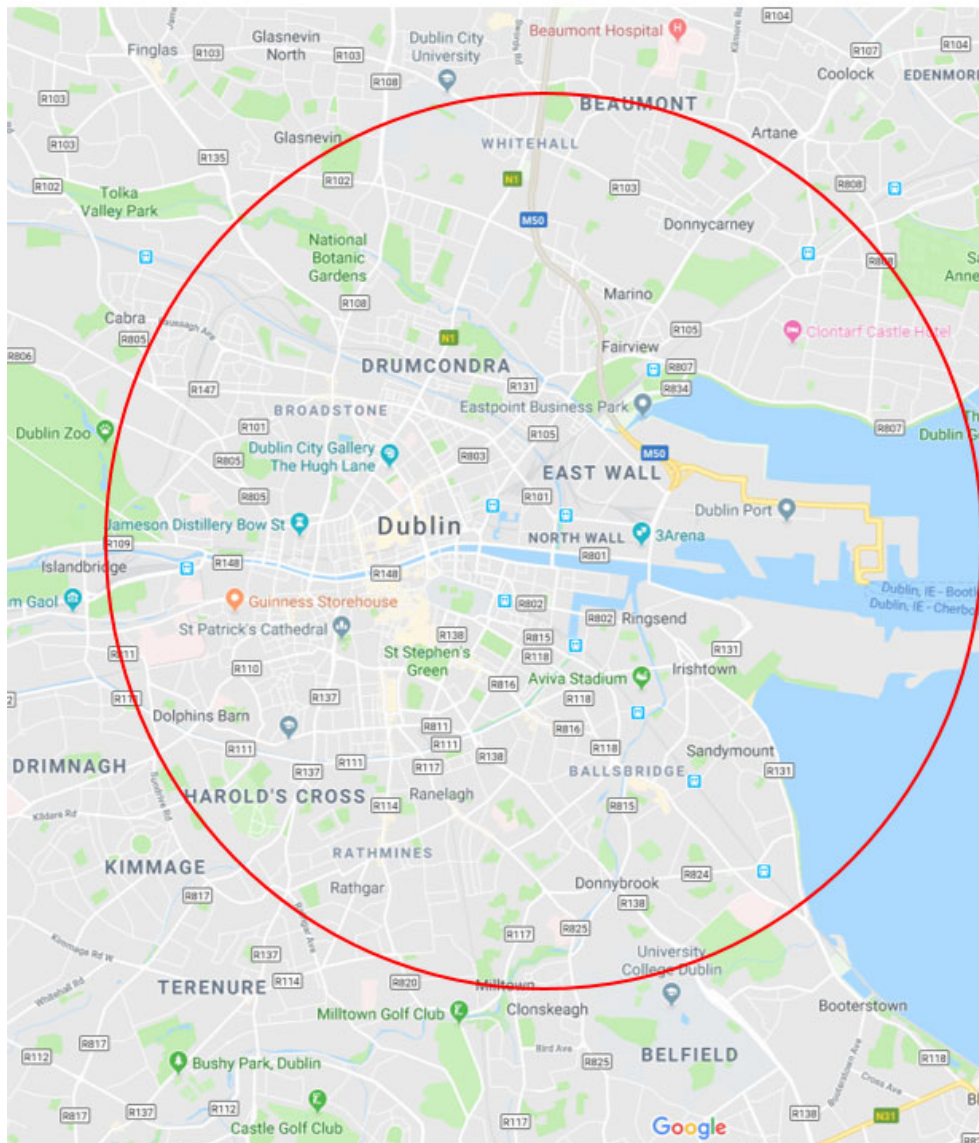
Two hives on the roof of Paris student residence since Summer 2019.

The bees are free to come and go as they like. Lots out flying in this photo.

Is weather OK for flying?

- warm 😊
- dry 😊

The roof is a bit windy, but they manage well.



The bees will fly up to 5k* from their hive in search of nectar and pollen.

The red circle shows the range for NCI's bees – plenty of parks, canal banks, roadside trees, and of course balconies and gardens.

There are hives on quite a few other buildings in the IFSC and I'm sure on many more throughout the city.

*is that where Govt got the 5k idea?



NCI's bees are looked after by an experienced beekeeper, who manages many hives throughout Dublin - Kieran Harnett.

Kieran had 15 hives in his own back garden when I visited him last year!

He visits our hives regularly to make sure they are healthy and have enough space.

He wears PPE - wouldn't you?? Also essential are the hive tool in his hand, and a smoker to calm the bees.



The frame that Kieran is holding is well stocked with honey.

The bees use nectar to make honey.

When they are happy that it is ready they cap the cells with wax.

The honey is intended (by the bees) to be their food store for the winter, when there are no flowers and it's too cold to fly.



Honey bees don't actually hibernate in the true sense. But when the weather is cold they stay in and form a cluster to keep warm.

The queen bee stays in the centre of the cluster; the rest of the bees takes turns being on the outside.

On warm days (even in winter) they will come out briefly to relieve themselves. Best not to have your hive too close to the washing line....



Honey colour and texture will vary depending on the kind of flowers the bees use. These are two different honeys from bees managed by Kieran in Dublin.



Honey from NCI bees.

In their first season on the roof of NCI in 2019, which was only about 8 weeks of honey making, our bees produced 120 jars of this lovely golden honey.

The bees have continued to work through the pandemic, and Kieran keeps a close eye on them. Beekeeping is accepted as essential work.



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Thanks!

**Feel free to post questions
– I will do my best to
answer them.**

Donnchadh.

