

Mobility: Immigration alert

March 2023



Hong Kong

Talent Admission Scheme applicants must now declare prior criminal convictions

Executive summary

Effective 27 February 2023, individuals who seek to enter Hong Kong pursuant to certain Talent Admission Schemes (TASs) must declare any prior criminal convictions during the application process.

Key developments

On 27 February 2023, the Hong Kong authorities extended the requirement for applicants to declare prior criminal convictions when filing entry visa applications under the following TASs: General Employment Policy, Admission Scheme for Mainland Talents and Professionals, Technology TAS, Immigration Arrangements for Non-local Graduates, and Admission Scheme for the Second Generation of Chinese Hong Kong Permanent Residents. Previously, applicants were not required to provide details of prior criminal convictions when applying under the schemes above.

On 22 February 2023, the authorities initially introduced the requirement to declare prior criminal convictions during the application process for individuals who sought to apply under the Top Talent Pass Scheme.

Impact on employers

Employers that hire individuals who have prior criminal convictions may face challenges or delays in deploying them to Hong Kong for assignment or employment under the impacted TASs.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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EYG no. 002023-23Gbl

2101-3682263
ED None

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