

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2022



Ireland

Travel, work and residence exemptions for non-EEA nationals holding expired Irish Residence Permits

Executive summary

The Irish immigration authorities recently announced that effective 9 December 2022, non-EEA nationals who hold expired Irish Residence Permits (IRPs) and submitted applications to renew their permits prior to their expiry may use their expired permits to travel to Ireland until 31 January 2023. They also recently announced that, until further notice, individuals may reside and work in Ireland for up to eight weeks using their expired permits, provided they submitted a renewal application prior to their permits' expiry.

Travel exemption

Non-EEA nationals who hold expired IRPs, are outside Ireland and seek to enter the country on or before 31 January 2023 must submit the following documents to airline personnel (if requested) and the Irish immigration authorities (upon arrival) to be admitted:

- ▶ Their physical, expired IRPs.
- ▶ A printed copy of the [announcement](#) that exempts them from the requirement to hold renewed IRPs during the exemption period.
- ▶ A printed copy of the acknowledgment email from the Irish immigration authorities confirming that they submitted their renewal application (and containing their date of application and application number).
- ▶ Where applicable, valid entry visas (for individuals who require visas to enter Ireland on the basis of their nationality). Travelers who hold multi-entry visas may use their existing visas for travel, while those who hold single-entry visas and have used them previously to enter Ireland must apply [online](#) for re-entry visas prior to travel.

Non-EEA nationals holding expired IRPs who submitted renewal applications after their permits' expiry, or seek to return to Ireland after 31 January 2023, must renew their IRPs prior to travel. Individuals who hold expired IRPs but do not meet all applicable requirements may be admitted at the discretion of the Irish authorities.

Residence and work exemption

In general, IRP renewal applications are processed in four to eight weeks, and renewed permits are sent to applicants by mail, which may take two to three additional weeks. The Irish Immigration Service Delivery Unit recently reported an increase in the volume of immigration applications and related processing times. The new work, residence and travel exemptions are intended to mitigate the impact of these delays on applicants and enable qualifying individuals to continue to reside and work in, or return to, Ireland during the busy Christmas season.

Impact on employers

Irish companies that employ individuals who hold expired IRPs will face business disruptions if these employees did not submit renewal applications before their permits' expiry, as these individuals' right to work will be void without a valid employment permit or IRP.

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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