

# Tax alert

Ireland

## Irish Immigration and COVID-19:

### Irish Residence Permission & Public Health Passenger Locator Form

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On 22 May 2020, the Irish Immigration Service Delivery Unit (ISD, formerly INIS) within the Department of Justice and Equality (DJE) announced a new procedure for those seeking to register their residency and obtain Irish Residence Permission for the first time.

In addition to the changes in the Residency Permission procedure (and further to EY's alert 02/2020 [Irish Immigration and COVID-19](#) issued on 19 May 2020), the authorities have imposed a mandatory obligation to complete a Public Health Passenger Locator Form on anyone travelling into Ireland effective from 28 May 2020.

EY's guidance in this alert is to update you on the temporary measures that have been introduced for Irish immigration and travel to Ireland during this current pandemic that may impact your non-EEA employee population in the coming months.

## **What is the application procedure for Irish Residency Permission for First Time Registrants?**

The Registration Office at Burgh Quay and local Registration offices remain closed until further notice. The ISD Unit acknowledges that difficulties may arise for those awaiting their first registration following arrival into Ireland and therefore do not hold an IRP residence card. From a practical perspective this would apply to a scenario where the spouse of a Critical Skills Permit holder, who is seeking employment in the State, does hold proof of a Stamp 1G IRP card permitting them to commence work.

From 22 May 2020 until 20 July 2020, anyone who has a current, valid permission to remain in Ireland, but does not have a current permission letter or residence card, can apply to the Registration Office by email to request a letter confirming their permission to remain in the State. This letter of confirmation will state the relevant conditions applying to the permission. Those seeking the following permissions can avail of this new process:

- Stamp 1: Employment Permit Stamp 1 (General or Critical Skills) / Hosting Agreements
- Stamp 1A: Trainee Accountant
- Stamp 1G: Spouse / Partner of Critical Skills/ Employment Permit holder
- Stamp 2: Student
- Stamp 4: Spouse of Irish National / Family Reunification Beneficiaries

All required documentation should be scanned and included in the application. All current eligibility criteria will continue to apply.

Please note that where permission has been granted, applicants will still be required to attend and register with the Registration Office in Burgh Quay or their local Registration Office once they reopen.

When the Registration Offices reopen, priority will be given to those seeking to register for the first time where they were unable to complete this process since entering Ireland due to COVID-19. Those applying for first time registration who had previous appointments cancelled will have their appointments rescheduled automatically.

## **What new requirements are there for those entering Ireland through airports, sea ports etc.?**

The Irish Government has formalised the self-isolation protocol for those arriving into the State to limit the potential of spreading COVID-19 through imported cases.

Individuals arriving into Ireland (via sea ports and airports) are required to complete a 14-day period of self-isolation regardless of nationality (including Irish citizens). On entering, individuals are asked to complete a Public Health Passenger Locator Form detailing where they plan to isolate. This form is collected by the Border Management Unit/Garda National Immigration Bureau at the port of entry to facilitate follow up checks/monitoring by the Irish Police.

A self-isolation requirement has been in place for several weeks, however effective from 28 May 2020, new regulations will now make the refusal to complete or provide false/misleading information on the form a statutory offence resulting in a fine of up to €2,500 and/or imprisonment for up to six months. It will also be an offence if an individual fails to update the authorities of a change in address or contact details during the 14-day period. This statutory obligation will be in place until at least 18 June 2020 and will remain under review. Passengers who disembark in Ireland with immediate onwards travel to Northern Ireland will be required to fill out a portion of the form indicating this. The purpose of the form is to facilitate contact tracing.

The Irish authorities continue to advise Irish citizens and residents against all non-essential international travel.

The following are exempted from completing the form and self-isolation:

- Essential supply chain workers such as pilots, hauliers and maritime staff members
- Those transitioning through an Irish airport while in transit to another jurisdiction
- Individuals travelling from Northern Ireland

## **Conclusion**

The EY Immigration Team in Ireland is continuing to monitor guidance and announcements from the Irish Government and immigration authorities. We will continue to issue updated alerts outlining any further changes.

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119393.temp 04/20. Produced by Creative (Ireland). ED none.

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