

What's new for corporate immigration in Ireland

Insights - 30/04/2019

| Updates in corporate immigration in Ireland

Improved time frame for employment permits

With Ireland experiencing a booming economy, it is inevitable that the demands for employment permits would also increase. Applications for employment permits were probably at an all time high towards the end of 2018 with most standard employment permits taking up to 16 weeks to be processed. Fortunately, this time frame has improved with most standard employment permits now being processed within eleven weeks.

Expansion of the Highly Skilled Occupations List

A further welcomed development with employment permits was the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) recent announcement to expand the Highly Skilled Occupations List to include the following roles from 22 April 2019:

- Civil engineers
- Quantity surveyors
- Construction project managers
- Mechanical and electrical engineers with BIM expertise
- High performance directors and coaches for high-level sports organisations (where employment as a High Performance Director or coach is in a national or high profile sports organisations engaging in international competition).

Updates to the Ineligible Occupations List

Changes have also been made to the Ineligible Occupations List for employment permits, with the following roles now being eligible for a general employment permit:

- Sheet metal workers
- Welding trades
- Pipefitters
- Air-conditioning and refrigeration engineers
- Shuttering carpenters
- Glaziers, window fabricators & fitters
- Scaffolders, stagers & riggers
- Crane drivers
- Transport and distribution clerks and assistants (freight forwarders; cargo and freight agents; brokerage clerks) **subject to a quota of 300**
- Plasterers **subject to a quota of 250;** and
- Bricklayers **subject to a quota of 250**

In order for an individual to apply for a general employment permit in relation to one of the above roles, the sponsoring employer would first have to satisfy the Labour Market Needs Test. This means that the earliest possible date an application for a general employment permit could be made under one of these new approved occupations is 6 May 2019.

Removing the re-entry visa system

Separately, from 13 May 2019 Ireland's re-entry visa system will be abolished. Under the current system any visa required national who is living in Ireland had to apply for a re-entry visa in order for him/her to be able to travel to and from Ireland. The application for a re-entry visa could only be done when the person was in the country and could take a number of weeks to obtain.

The announcement to abolish this requirement is long over due and will hopefully assist by reducing demands on INIS. The Department of Justice and Equality has confirmed that the introduction of the new IRP (Irish Residence Permit) card has helped improve security, eliminating the need for a re-entry visa so that people can move more freely without compromising the country's safety and security of its current immigration system.

For advice on corporate immigration, please contact Bláthnaid by emailing blathnaid.evans@ogier.com

About Ogier

Ogier is a professional services firm with the knowledge and expertise to handle the most demanding and complex transactions and provide expert, efficient and cost-effective services to all our clients. We regularly win awards for the quality of our client service, our work and our people.

Disclaimer

This client briefing has been prepared for clients and professional associates of Ogier. The information and expressions of opinion which it contains are not intended to be a comprehensive study or to provide legal advice and should not be treated as a substitute for specific advice concerning individual situations.

Regulatory information can be found under [Legal Notice](#)

Meet the Author



[Bláthnaid Evans](#)

Head of Employment and Corporate Immigration

[Ireland](#)

E: blathnaid.evans@ogier.com

T: [+353 1 632 3113](tel:+35316323113)

Related Services

[Employment law](#)