

GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

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Ireland - COVID-19: Extension of Immigration Permissions, Closure of Registration Offices

The Irish Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) has recently announced the temporary closure of the Burgh Quay Registration Office from 23 December 2020, and the further temporary extension of Irish residence permission.¹

Irish residence permissions that were due to expire between 21 January 2021 and 20 April 2021, are automatically maintained until 20 April 2021, thereby maintaining the residency status of individuals with Irish residence permission expiring during this period.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Employers should note that if the expiry date of their employees' residence permission falls within the period of 21 January 2021 and 20 April 2021, the employees' residence status in Ireland will be maintained as a result of this extension.

Further Extension of Immigration Permissions

The ISD announced that residence permissions which are due to expire between 21 January 2021 and 20 April 2021 will be maintained until 20 April 2021. Residence permissions renewed by the previous ISD notices of 20 March 2020, 13 May 2020, 16 July, 18 August and 18 September 2020 and which therefore have new expiry dates between 21 January 2021 and 20 April 2021 will also be maintained. (For related coverage, see GMS [Flash Alert 2020-373](#), 27 August 2020.)

Who Does This Temporary Extension Apply to?

- (i) Employees who hold a valid IRP that is due to expire between 21 January 2021 and 20 April 2021, and/or has already been extended under previous notice(s);
- (ii) Employees who have entered Ireland and are waiting to attend their first IRP registration appointment with the Burgh Quay Registration Office; and

- (iii) Employees who are currently in Ireland on the basis of a short-stay visa (e.g., visitor / business trip) and who are unable to depart Ireland due to uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note that employees who required an entry-visa to enter Ireland and whose residence permission is the subject of a temporary extension, will need to apply for a re-entry visa if travelling outside of Ireland to facilitate their re-entry pending receipt of a valid IRP card.

Temporary Closure of Registration Offices

The Burgh Quay Registration Office will close temporarily on 23 December 2020, following the announcement of new Irish government restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Registration Offices outside of Dublin, which are operated by An Garda Síochána, will also close temporarily.

All Irish Residence Permit (IRP) appointments scheduled for first-time registration on or after 23 December 2020 have been cancelled and will be rescheduled.

All IRP online renewal applications for Dublin residents will continue to be processed via the online system (see GMS [Flash Alert 2020-307](#) (20 July 2020)) throughout the closure of the Burgh Quay Registration Office.

KPMG NOTE

Organisations and their mobile employees should be aware of these changes as new policies maintain the legal residency status of current Non-European Economic Area (EEA) employees with residency permissions expiring between 21 January 2021 and 20 April 2021. It will however delay the first-time registration of employees who have recently arrived or are due to arrive in Ireland.

For advice on this changing situation, please contact your local qualified immigration counsel or the Corporate Immigration and Employment Law Team with KPMG in Ireland

FOOTNOTE:

1 See: <http://justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/PR20000324> .

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Contact us

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** Please note that KPMG LLP (U.S.) does not provide any immigration services. However, KPMG Law LLP in Canada can assist clients with U.S. immigration matters.*

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