

**May 2009**

## **Information Update on Immigration Matters**

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This Information update outlines changes and developments in relation to immigration matters and procedures in the previous months, and provides notice on imminent changes to the system.

The content/topics within these updates are chosen on the basis of recent changes in immigration policy and also on the basis of the type of queries to the ICI's Information & Referral Service.

## 1. Registration fee increase

People residing in Ireland who are originally from outside the European Economic Area\* (EEA) and intending to stay in Ireland for more than three months must register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) to receive a GNIB registration card. If the person resides in Dublin they should register at the GNIB offices in Burgh Quay, Dublin 2. If residing outside of Dublin, they should register with their local immigration officer, located in some Garda stations around the country.

**The fee to be paid when registering is €150.** This has increased from €100 and coincides with the introduction of fingerprinting of all migrants who register. Payments must be made using a specific bank giro form which can be obtained at all registration offices or by credit/debit card at a number of Garda stations.

Applicants will **not need to pay** if they: are a convention refugee or have been granted refugee status in Ireland; are the family member of a refugee; are under 18 years of age; are the spouse, widow or widower of an Irish citizen; or if they are the spouse or dependant of an EU citizen who has received a residence permit under EU Directive 38/04.

## 2. Visa application process goes online

A person applying for a visa (from abroad) to come to Ireland, who lives in a country with access to the online visa facility, **must now make the visa application via the internet** through the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) website: <http://www.inis.gov.ie> To find out if a service user needs to do this, please check the following first:

- 1) *If the individual needs to apply for a visa or not.* People from some countries do not need a visa to enter Ireland, while others do. For more information see the Department of Justice's information at: [http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Do\\_I\\_need\\_a\\_Visa](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Do_I_need_a_Visa)
- 2) *If the applicant is required to submit an application through the internet or by printing out the application form and filling it in by hand.* For a list of countries from which an applicant needs to apply online go to: [http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Supported\\_Countries](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Supported_Countries)

For information on **how to make an online visa application** and what supporting documents are needed, go to:

[http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Information\\_on\\_completing\\_your\\_online\\_application](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Information_on_completing_your_online_application)

Information notes can be downloaded from this page in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Turkish and Urdu.

To make a visa application online go to: <https://www.visas.inis.gov.ie/avats/OnlineHome.aspx>

If you are applying for a visa from a country where the online application facility is not yet available you can download the application form from:

[http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/If\\_country\\_Online\\_not\\_avail](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/If_country_Online_not_avail)

For a list of **frequently asked questions** on applying for visas go to:

<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/WP07000118>

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### 3. Rules when applying for student visas

If an individual is making an application for a student visa, the application must now contain proof of payment to the relevant college in the form of a copy of an **Electronic Transfer of Funds** from the applicant to the Irish bank of the college. This should show details of the school/college's name, address, bank details and also the same details for the applicant.

### 4. Regulations regarding children of international students from outside the EEA\*

The following are current **immigration regulations regarding the children of students from outside the EEA\***:

a) **First-time students from outside the EEA with children:** If a person is a first time student from outside the EEA registering with GNIB, they will be asked to confirm that they are not accompanied by children and do not intend to have their children join them later on.

b) **Unaccompanied Students:** If a child is an unaccompanied minor from outside the EEA, and was studying in Ireland during the 2007-2008 school year in a State school, they will be allowed to continue their schooling for the 2008-2009 year. Extension of permission to stay after this will only be allowed with the written approval of the Department of Education and Science.

c) **Children of non-EEA students already in State schools:** If a parent is a student from outside the EEA whose children were in education for some or all of the 2007-2008 school year, and the parent can demonstrate that they have partially completed their own course, their child/ren will be permitted to remain in education until the completion of the parent's own course, provided that the parent's course is finished on or before **July 2010**. Parents may not enrol in new courses or transfer between courses. Where the parent's course ends in the middle of a school year, the parent's registration cannot be extended solely for the purpose of allowing the child to finish the school year.

For more information on this issue go to: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/WP08000025>

### 5. Update on Family Reunification

#### A) Residency rights of migrants from outside EU who are family members of EEA\* nationals

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2008, the European Court of Justice ruled that a non-EU spouse of a European Union citizen **does not need to have lived in another EU member state** before qualifying for residency in Ireland. Also, **it does not matter where the marriage took place or how the non-EU spouse entered the country**. In response to this ruling the Irish Government has changed its regulations. Now, if you are a non-EU family member of an EEA national and you apply for residency in Ireland, the Government no longer needs you to show evidence that you have lived in another EU country before coming to Ireland. While you are waiting for a decision (applications can take up to six months) you (the non-EU family member) will most likely be granted a temporary residence card with the right to work (Stamp 4). For more information see the INIS website section on EU Treaty rights:

<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/EU%20Treaty%20Rights%20FAQs>

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## **B) Applying for residency on basis of relationship with a) non-EEA, b) Irish or c) EU partner in Ireland**

- a) If a person **from outside the EEA\*** wants to apply to live in Ireland on the basis of their (unmarried) relationship with their **non-EEA partner** who is already living in Ireland, the applicant needs to provide evidence of the relationship lasting at least **four** years. If they are given permission to stay in Ireland and need to work, the applicant will need to have a valid work permit or green card. For more information see residency section of INIS website: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/WP07000278>
- b) If a person **from outside the EEA\*** wants to live in Ireland on the basis of their (unmarried) relationship with their **Irish partner**, they will need to provide evidence of the relationship lasting at least **two** years (generally with a minimum of two years proven cohabitation). If the applicant is given permission to stay in Ireland, they may be initially granted a dependency status (Stamp 3) by the Garda National Immigration Bureau, but will be informed that to attain full residency rights (Stamp 4) they must make a written application to the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS). For more information see the residency section of INIS website: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/WP07000278>
- c) If a person **from outside the EEA** is in a durable (unmarried) relationship with **an EU national** they are entitled to make an application to live with their (unmarried) partner in Ireland. If the non-EEA national is already in the country, they can apply for a residence card by submitting the EU1 form (available on [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie) ) along with evidence that the partnership has existed for at least **two** years. If the applicant is currently outside Ireland and needs a visa to enter the country, they are required make a D-Visa application in order to come to Ireland (if they are from a country whose nationals require a visa to enter Ireland). Applicants should state in their visa application that they wish to join their EU partner who is living and working in Ireland.

Applications for residency (using EU1) should include: Current passports of both partners, evidence of finances of both partners, as well as evidence that their relationship has lasted the required period (i.e. tenancy agreement, utility bills, bank statements, etc). When applying with the EU1 form, original documents are requested. Please see the form for further information.

## **6. Update on Residency & Citizenship Rights**

### **A) Citizenship Applications**

- **Waiting times:** In our experience, the processing time at the moment for a general application for naturalisation is between 18 months and two years. However, the ICI are aware that some applications are taking longer to process. For more information on making citizenship applications and waiting times see: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Contact%20Details%20for%20Citizenship%20Section>
- **Change of Address:** The new address and contact details for citizenship applications or related correspondence is:

Citizenship Division,  
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform,  
Dundrum Road, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary.

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The email address is: [Citizenship\\_Mail@Justice.ie](mailto:Citizenship_Mail@Justice.ie).  
Telephone (within Ireland) is: 062 - 32500 or Lo-call 1890 252 854.  
Telephone (from outside Ireland) is: +353 62 32500.  
Helpline open: 10:00 am - 12:30pm. Tuesday and Thursday

- **Citizenship application forms are now available online:**  
<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/WP07000108>

## **B) Non-Economically Active People Applying for Residency**

If a person does not need a visa to enter Ireland and is not earning an income (not economically active) (and not a student) but wants to stay in Ireland for longer than three months, then he or she must be able to prove that they are self sufficient in the country. To do this, they will need to provide the local Immigration Officer (or the GNIB in Dublin) with: 1) evidence of sufficient money to cover their stay in the country without the need to apply for State financial support, services or State benefits, and 2) evidence of private medical insurance to cover their stay in the country. For more information please call the ICI's support line on the number listed at the end of this update.

At present, it is government policy that people who need a visa to travel to Ireland and who are allowed to enter the country on a 'C Visa' are not allowed to stay longer than 90 days. Applicants who wants to stay longer than 3 months should apply for a 'D-visa'.

## **7. Changes to the Employment Permit arrangements (taking effect June 1<sup>st</sup> 2009)**

In April 2009, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment published changes to the processes covering employment permit arrangements in the State. These changes will take effect from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, and are summarised below from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment website ([www.entemp.ie](http://www.entemp.ie)):

### **Background**

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has implemented revised eligibility requirements for new work permits, which apply to prospective first-time entrants to the Irish labour market from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.

These measures are intended to strengthen the qualifying conditions for granting new work permits to non-EEA nationals for occupations requiring lower skills/qualifications and for vacancies for which could increasingly be filled by Irish or EU citizens. In addition, the Department has introduced new procedures for dealing with work permits holders placed on short-time working, as well as in the case of the redundancy of an employment permit holder, which take effect immediately. These notes explain the scheme changes and new procedures in question and answer format:

***The following text is taken from the website of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment:***

(Source: <http://www.entemp.ie/labour/workpermits/revisedworkpermitarrangements%20-%20june%202009.htm>)

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The revised eligibility requirements will not apply to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals. The conditions that currently govern work permit applications from Bulgarian and Romanian nationals will continue unchanged after 1 June 2009.

**Q. 1) I am an employment permit holder, or 2) I have already applied for an employment permit, am I affected by the changed eligibility requirements for new permits?**

A. The changed eligibility requirements do not affect you – they apply only to first-time permit applicants who apply on or after 1 June 2009. (However, the new procedures for permit holders placed on short-time working, or made redundant, apply immediately in respect of all current or future permit holders).

**Q. What's different about the new arrangements?**

A. While work permits will continue to be made available for jobs in eligible job categories, there are revised conditions for applying for new work permits, the future renewal of these permits (including revised fees), work permits for spouses/dependants of new-entrant permit holders, work permit holders placed on short-term working, and for permit holders who become redundant.

**Q. Have changes been made to the job categories eligible for new work permits?**

A. Yes – the occupations of work riders (horse racing), domestic workers and heavy goods vehicle (HGV) drivers are no longer eligible for new work permits. Existing permits for jobs in these categories will continue to be eligible for renewal.

**Q. Are there revised fees for new work permits?**

A. No - the fee for new work permit applications received on and from 1 June 2009 will remain unchanged at €500 for up to six months and €1,000 for 6 to 24 months.

**Q. Are there new conditions and fees for the renewal of work permits?**

A. Yes - New work permits granted for job vacancies will be subject to labour market needs tests at both first application and permit renewal stages. The renewal of any work permit granted after 1 June 2009 will be subject to a renewal fee of **€1,500** for up to a 24-month permit (€2,250 for up to 36 months).

**Q. I am an existing work permit holder, or I submitted my work permit application before 1 June 2009. Am I affected by fee changes?**

A. No – fees will remain unchanged at €1,000 for a new work permit for up to 24 months, and €1,000 for the renewal of a work permit for up to 24 months (€1,500 for up to 36 months).

**Q. Will work permits continue to be granted for jobs paying less than €30,000 per annum?**

A. No - only in exceptional cases will the Department consider applications for new permits for jobs paying under €30,000 per annum.

**Q. Has the labour market needs test been changed?**

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A. Yes - the labour market needs test now requires advertisement of the job vacancy for 8 weeks with FÁS/EURES plus 6 days advertising in the national media, so as to allow the maximum opportunity for the position to be filled from within the Irish labour market and wider EEA.

**Q. I was granted a work permit before 1 June 2009. Does my job have to be advertised at the time my permit is due for renewal?**

A. No – those who were permit holders before 1 June 2009 will not have a labour market needs test applied when seeking to renew permits for the positions they currently hold.

**Q. I am a Work Permit holder. Can my Spouse and Dependants work?**

A. Yes once they **are legally resident in the State** on the basis of being your Spouse or Dependant, and you applied for your first Work Permit before 1 June 2009, they are free to seek employment and to apply for a Spousal/Dependant work permit.

However, if you applied for your first Work Permit on or after 1 June 2009, your Spouse or Dependant will be required to apply for an Employment Permit in their own right according to standard employment permit eligibility criteria. In the case of a Work Permit application, this would include a labour market needs test, restriction to vacancies in eligible job categories and payment of the standard application fee.

**Q. I am work permit holder who has been placed on short-time working. Am I eligible to have my permit renewed even though I am working fewer hours?**

A. The Department will consider applications for the renewal of work permits received in respect of employees placed on short-time working during the currency of their work permit. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**Q. What happens if I am made redundant while I am a work permit holder?**

A. You should notify the Employment Permits Section of the Department when you are informed of your redundancy. If your permission to remain in Ireland allows, you will have up to three months from the date of your redundancy to seek alternative employment. From the 1 June 2009 a labour market needs test will be required in respect of any subsequent work permit application you make. If the job from which you were made redundant was among the list of ineligible job categories, you will be entitled to apply for a new work permit for a position from that ineligible list, if you so wish.

**Q. What happens if I cannot get another job within three months of being made redundant?**

A. If you cannot get another job within three months of being made redundant you should contact the immigration authorities to establish your immigration status beyond that period. Should you opt to leave the country, and are later successful in getting another job offer in Ireland, you are free to apply for a new employment permit.

**Employment Permits Section  
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment  
April 2009**

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## 8. Changes to the Green Card Scheme

*The following text is taken from the website of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment:*

(Source: <http://www.entemp.ie/labour/workpermits/revise greencard.htm>)

### Revised arrangements for the Green Card Scheme, April 2009

#### REVISION OF THE LIST OF OCCUPATIONS ELIGIBLE FOR GREEN CARDS IN THE SALARY RANGE €30,000-€59,999

The Green Card list is reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains relevant to the needs of the Irish labour market. A recent review has shown that skills shortages no longer exist in respect of the occupations listed by industrial sector below. **On that basis the following occupations are being removed, with immediate effect, from the Green Card eligible list where the salary payable for the job is in the range €30,000-€59,999 per annum:**

- **Healthcare:** Registered midwives; physiotherapists; psychologists; social workers; medical physicists; and speech and language therapists.

- **Financial Services:** Economists; statisticians; underwriters; claims assessors and analysts; securities specialists; fund and investment management specialists; common law jurisdiction lawyers; investment fund professionals; fund accountants; fund valuations professionals; fund administrators; custody specialists; transfer agents; and hedge fund specialists.

- **Industry/Services:** Marketing Managers.

These occupations continue to be eligible for Green Cards where the salary payable to the jobholder is €60,000 or more per annum.

#### POLICY FOR GREEN CARD HOLDERS WHO ARE MADE REDUNDANT

You should notify the Employment Permits Section of the Department when you are informed of your redundancy. You will have up to three months from the date of your redundancy to seek alternative employment. New Green Cards will be issued in accordance with the Green Card scheme salary requirement and for jobs where there is strategic skills shortage.

If you cannot get another job within three months of being made redundant you should contact the immigration authorities to establish your immigration status beyond that period. Should you opt to leave the country, and are later successful in getting another job offer in Ireland, you are free to apply for a new employment permit.

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For further information on all of the above changes to the Employment Permit arrangements, please visit <http://www.entemp.ie/labour/workpermits/> (Date of access May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009)

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## 9. Update on Immigration, Residency and Protection Bill

### Overview

The *Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill 2008* was published in 2008 by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The Bill **has not yet been passed into law** and is expected to become law in the near future, possibly by the end of 2009. The Bill, as it exists currently, contains many provisions which may be of interest or concern for people accessing the services of the information providers. Set out below is a general overview of the provisions of the Bill, including a brief analysis of what the ICI feels are omissions from the legislation as it stands.

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform has indicated that there are to be approximately 200 amendments to the Bill before it is enacted into law. The nature, substance and extent of these changes are currently unknown.

### Summary of the ICI's Concerns:

#### Summary deportations

The *Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill*, as currently drafted, would allow authorities to deport any person who is 'unlawfully present' in Ireland without prior notification. The Bill does not make any provision for exceptional circumstances, for example, a woman who is the victim of domestic violence and has become undocumented because her husband controlled her documents.

#### **Limitation of access to benefits and services for persons who are 'unlawfully present' in the State**

The Bill seeks to limit access to State-funded services for migrants who are 'unlawfully present' in Ireland. However, it makes no provision for migrants who have become 'unlawfully present' through no fault of their own. For example, using the example of the victim of domestic violence above, this woman would not be able to access Legal Aid for an application for a barring or protection order if this part of the Bill is not amended.

#### **Long-term residence**

The Bill provides a statutory footing for the status of long-term residence, a move welcomed by the ICI. However, the conditions for granting this status, and the rights attached to it, are not in line with the practice in other EU Member States.

#### **Limitation of access to justice for migrants**

The Bill restricts access to justice for migrants in a number of ways. One example is the requirement that a High Court challenge to any type of immigration decision must be made within 14 days. The Bill also seeks to restrict the High Court's ability to allow an extension of that time limit.

#### **Need for an independent appeals mechanism for the review of immigration decisions**

The Government promised, in its Programme for Government, to introduce a '*visibly independent appeals process*' for immigration decisions. However, it made no provision for this in the Bill. The ICI believes an independent appeals tribunal for immigration decisions would make the process

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more transparent and could be more cost efficient than the current system, with its reliance on the courts. Setting up such an appeals mechanism would help address problems currently experienced - for example inconsistency in decision-making, as well as protecting the rights of migrants and their families.

### **Lack of provision of a right to family reunification**

The Bill does not spell out in primary law migrants' rights to family life in Ireland. If the Bill is passed as is, Ireland will be the only EU Member State not to have national rules regarding family reunification enshrined in primary legislation. Family reunification is one of the main types of migration flows in Europe. Given the fundamental importance of family life, it is the ICI's view that the Bill should provide a clear entitlement for Irish citizens and legal residents to be joined by immediate family members (provided they fulfil certain conditions) and there should be discretionary provision to allow for the admission of other family members.

### **Fees and excessive ministerial discretion**

The Bill allows for a regime of creeping charges at every stage of the immigration process, for example, to enter the State, to register and renew residence permits and for work permits and green cards etc. The Bill also allows the Minister to require a migrant to lodge a bond or deposit with their visa application. We believe the circumstances under which a bond or deposit is required should be spelt out clearly in the legislation and that the amounts required should be proportional to the migrant's circumstances and should reflect the administrative costs of the relevant application.

### **Failure to provide legal safeguards against refusal of entry**

The ICI believes there is an oversight in the Bill in that, while people who are refused a visa to enter Ireland have the opportunity to appeal that decision, people who do not require an entry visa but find themselves refused entry when they arrive at the border do not have any opportunity to appeal the decision. By not providing an avenue for appeal against the refusal of entry even where this decision affects the Constitutional and/or human rights of the person concerned, Ireland would be out of step with developments in most other EU Member States.

### **Insufficient protection for victims of trafficking**

The Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill provides some protection for victims of trafficking but the ICI believes it does not go far enough and falls short of Ireland's obligations under the Council of Europe Convention on Actions to Combat Human Trafficking. For example, the protections afforded victims of trafficking would not, under this legislation, be available to EU citizens who are trafficked to Ireland. A simple amendment could overcome this difficulty.

## **10. Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment information on the position of Romanians and Bulgarian nationals in the State**

The Government announced in October 2006 that it would restrict access to the Irish labour market for nationals of Bulgaria and Romania following their accession to the EU on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. These restrictions have been renewed in 2009, continuing the current policy of restricting access to the labour market for nationals of these countries (with some exceptions).

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Accordingly, many Bulgarian and Romanian nationals will continue to require a permit to take up employment in Ireland and the job will continue to be subject to the current requirement for a labour market test.

Employers will be expected to satisfy their labour market requirements from within the European Economic Area (EEA) in the first instance and, if this is not possible, it will be necessary for them to give preference to Bulgarian and Romanian nationals ahead of non-EEA nationals.

It should be noted that the revised arrangements for issuing employment permits as set out above and which will take effect from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, do not apply to nationals of Romania and Bulgaria.

It is very important, however, to take note of the situations in which a national of Romania or Bulgaria **does not require a work permit**. These are:

- When on or after December 31<sup>st</sup> 2006, they have had 12 months of legal (reckonable) residency in the State.
- If they have arrived after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007, upon completing 12 months on a valid work permit, they then become exempt from the requirements.
- If they are married to an Irish citizen they are exempt from the requirements.
- If they are married to nationals of other EU member states (other than Romania and Bulgaria) who are themselves residing and working in the Republic of Ireland.
- If a person is self employed.

For further information please see:

<http://www.entemp.ie/labour/workpermits/bulgariaromania.htm>

## **11. Changes to the operation of the ICI's Information and Referral Service**

The ICI has changed the way its public Information and Referral Service works in recent months in order to provide a more efficient and timely service to people who seek information and support on immigration matters.

The ICI's Information and Referral Service now takes enquiries from the general public via telephone only **on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays from 10am to 12.30 pm and from 2pm to 4.30pm**. The phone number for this service is still: **+353 1 6740200**.

People with general information enquiries who contact us by telephone may be referred to other organisations or sources of information. People with more complex enquiries may be offered a consultation with ICI staff by appointment, depending on the nature of the query.

These changes do not affect the operation of the ICI's CIC information line which is still open to all CIC staff and volunteers.

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## Useful Contacts

### **Citizen Information Service**

Website: [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie)

Phone line: Lo-call: 1890 777 121

### **INIS**

Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service,  
Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform,  
13/14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 616 7700

Website: [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie)

### **Visa Office**

Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service,  
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform  
13/14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2

Tel within Ireland Lo-call: 1890 551 500

Tel from outside Ireland: +353 1 616 7700

Website: [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie)

### **Passport Office Dublin**

Setanta House,  
Molesworth Street, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 671 1633

Tel: Lo-call (from outside Dublin, in Ireland) 1890 426 888

### **Passport Office Cork**

1a South Mall,  
Cork

Tel: +353 21 494 4700

Tel: Lo-call: 1890 426 900

Fax: + 353 21 4275770

Email: [passportcork@iveagh.gov.ie](mailto:passportcork@iveagh.gov.ie)

### **Garda National Immigration Bureau**

13/14 Burgh Quay, Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 666 9100

Email: [gnib@iol.ie](mailto:gnib@iol.ie)

Website: [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

### **Refugee Information Service**

Dublin Tel: +353 1 838 2740

Galway Tel: + 353 91 532850

Website: [www.ris.ie](http://www.ris.ie)

### **European Commission**

18 Dawson Street,  
Dublin 2.

Tel: +353 1 634 1111

Website: [http://ec.europa.eu/ireland/welcome/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/ireland/welcome/index_en.htm)

\* In this Information note, the EEA (European Economic Area) includes the countries of the European Union as well as Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. Swiss nationals (while not members of the EU or EEA) are also afforded many of the same rights as EEA citizens, e.g. freedom of movement for employment purposes.