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**Ireland – Registration
Function to Transfer from
Police to Immigration
Authority**

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Irish Minister for Justice and Equality Frances Fitzgerald announced on 17 September 2014, plans for a major reform of the delivery of immigration services, to be introduced shortly.¹ Amongst other things, this reform will entail the transfer of the registration function for non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals from the police authorities – currently with statutory responsibility for this function – to the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS).

Why This Matters

Global mobility professionals responsible for immigration will need to acquaint themselves with the change in roles and functions and the new procedures with respect to registration of newly-arrived migrants from non-EEA member countries. As noted, the responsibility for registration of non-EEA persons' permission to be in the country will now be with INIS, and thus new procedures in respect of obtaining residence permission are to be instituted. This will likely involve the replacement of the current residence permission card issued to non-EEA nationals, known as a "GNIB Card," with some other form of permission document.

To foster compliance when this change takes place, the new steps to be followed should be communicated clearly to affected employees.

Background

Currently, non-EEA nationals who come to perform duties in Ireland under an Irish employment permit are required to present themselves at the offices of the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) within 90 days of arrival and be issued with a residence permit, known as a GNIB card. The GNIB card is renewed annually and effectively grants permission to reside in Ireland.

Changes Announced

Under the announcement, the responsibility for residence permission will now be with INIS – thus, new procedures for obtaining residence permission will be required. This will replace the current arrangements whereby the immigration registration function is carried out by the police authorities at the immigration HQ in Dublin or other regional locations.

The details have yet to be made public, but they are anticipated shortly. The required legislative changes will likely be introduced in the Employment Permits (Amendment) Act 2014 (covered recently in [Flash International Executive Alert 2014-081](#), 8 August 2014) which is now set to commence with effect from 1 October 2014.

Footnote:

1 For a news release on this development, see:

<http://www.merrionstreet.ie/index.php/2014/09/minister-fitzgerald-announces-major-immigration-civilianisation-initiative/?cat=12> .

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The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in Ireland. The information contained herein is of a general nature and based on authorities that are subject to change. Applicability of the information to specific situations should be determined through consultation with your tax adviser.

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