KPMG GMS Flash Alert



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Ireland - COVID-19: Burgh Quay Registration Office Re-opens, New Online Renewal

The Burgh Quay Registration Office in Dublin will re-open from 20 July 2020, to facilitate first time registrations for Irish Residence Permits (IRP). In addition, a new online registration renewal system for all non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals based in Dublin seeking to renew their IRP will be available from 20 July 2020.¹ Registration offices outside of Dublin will be re-opening subject to public health guidelines.

For prior coverage, see GMS Flash Alert 2020-235 (15 May 2020).

WHY THIS MATTERS

Employers should note that their employees, both those awaiting their first registration and those seeking to renew their IRP, can now do so. Individuals awaiting first time registration and who had an appointment cancelled due to the office closures, can expect to receive an email from Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) in the coming days to arrange a new appointment.

Re-opening of Burgh Quay Registration Office

The Burgh Quay Registration Office in Dublin will reopen on 20 July in line with the Irish government roadmap.² Priority will be given initially to those who had appointments booked to apply for their first IRP and whose appointments were cancelled when the offices closed as a result of COVID-19.

Applicants for first-time registration who had their appointments previously cancelled will be contacted directly by ISD with a new appointment. Anyone who did not previously have an appointment but is also awaiting his or her first-time registration should contact ISD and request an appointment.

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The Burgh Quay Registration Office processes applications in Dublin and the Garda Naturalisation and Immigration Bureau (GNIB) processes applications outside of Dublin. The GNIB is currently considering how they can re-open registration offices to accommodate applicants outside of Dublin.

Expansion of Online Registration Renewal System

A new online registration renewal system for all non-EEA nationals who are Dublin based will be available from 20 July. This means that anyone looking to renew his or her IRP will no longer have to book an appointment and attend at the Burgh Quay Registration Office in person. The online system is only available for Dublin-based applicants who are renewing their IRP.

Applicants seeking to renew their IRP will be required to complete an application form online, upload copies of supporting documents, pay the applicable fee and then submit their passport and current IRP via registered post. On approval, the passport will be stamped and returned by registered post and their IRP will issue by express post.

For individuals with urgent travel needs, the online system is currently available to facilitate those who require their IRP before they travel.

KPMG NOTE

Companies should be aware of these changes as their non-EEA employees can now renew their IRP online and firsttime applicants will now be able to attend an in-person appointment and provide their biometric data.

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.

FOOTNOTES:

1 For additional information and the announcement, see: <u>http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/PR20000136</u> and <u>http://www.inis.gov.ie/</u>.

2 Ireland's Department of Health, "Easing the COVID-19 restrictions on 20 July (Phase 4)".

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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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