



# GMS Flash Alert

## Immigration Edition

2021-146 | May 24, 2021

# Ireland - COVID-19: Changes to Emergency/Priority Visa Processing

Further to the announcement earlier in the year of a temporary suspension of the processing of visa/preclearance applications, with the exception of a specified group of priority/emergency applications (see [GMS Flash Alert 2021-139](#), 10 May 2021), Ireland's Immigration Service Delivery has announced<sup>1</sup> that two new categories have been added to the priority/emergency list of visas being processed at this time.

## WHY THIS MATTERS

Employers should note that visa-required employees awaiting their visas to Ireland may be able to process their visa applications if they fall under one of the two newly-announced additional categories of emergency/priority visas. The two new emergency/priority categories are as follows: (i) travel to Ireland for essential family reunification and (ii) those who have been granted an employment permit and are travelling for essential business or employment purposes.

## Additional Categories of Emergency/Priority Visas

This update will affect employees who are visa-required nationals of the listed countries<sup>2</sup> and fall into one of the two below categories:

- Visa-required national employees who are due to commence employment in Ireland and are travelling for essential business or employment purposes and have been issued with an employment permit by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

- Visa-required nationals seeking to join family members in Ireland, which will include all Long Stay 'D' Visa join family applications (including visa-required family members of Irish nationals and persons exercising free movement under the EU Directive), and pre-clearance applications for: De Facto Partners of an Irish National; De Facto Partners of a Critical Skills Employment Permit Holder, or of a non-EEA Researcher on a Hosting Agreement; and non-EEA family members looking to join a U.K. national in Ireland.

Visa applications will continue to be processed for visa-required nationals who fall into the other categories of priority/emergency group per guidance issued by the Immigration Service Delivery, which includes workers exercising certain occupations including health-care workers, frontier workers, and posted workers.

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## KPMG NOTE

Individuals and their employers should be aware of these changes as employees that fall within the new emergency/priority visa group will now be able to proceed with their visa applications for travel to 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 (see the Contact Us section).

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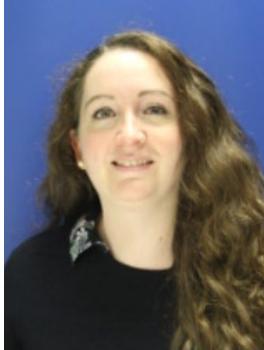
## FOOTNOTES:

- 1 For further information, see: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/visas-updates> .
- 2 See: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/visa-required-countries>.

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## Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional\* or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in Ireland:



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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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