

GMS Flash Alert

Immigration

2025-263 | 11 December 2025



Ireland – Christmas Travel Update

Ireland's Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) has announced an initiative to help individuals travelling at Christmas who are affected by a backlog causing longer than usual Irish Residence Permit (IRP) renewal timeframes.¹

For previous coverage on the update, [see GMS Flash Alert 2025-189, Ireland – Christmas Travel Update](#) (10 October 2025).

WHY THIS MATTERS

ISD is experiencing a backlog in processing IRP applications that is causing a further two-week lead in time to receive the IRP card by post once the applications have been processed.

With regard to non-European Economic Area/non-UK/non-Swiss nationals (non-EEA nationals) legally resident in Ireland, who are required to renew their IRP and who need to travel internationally over the Christmas period, the Minister has issued a Travel Confirmation Notice² and an FAQ document.

The Travel Confirmation Notice requests that transport carriers allow non-EEA nationals to travel on their expired IRP cards. This exemption only applies to legally resident non-EEA nationals who submitted a renewal of their IRP before its expiry.

Key Highlights

- Generally, IRPs can be renewed 12 weeks prior to expiry, and this notice is for those legally resident non-EEA nationals who submitted an IRP renewal application before its expiry.
- Non-EEA nationals should carry with them a printed copy of the Travel Confirmation Notice, their expired IRP card, and proof of the renewal date.
- Non-EEA nationals in Ireland who are required to apply for an IRP renewal can use their existing expired IRP card to allow them to travel from 08 December 2025 to 31 January 2026.
- ISD will advise all airlines and foreign missions of this initiative.

Steps to Consider

- Employers and/or their immigration services providers may wish to communicate news of the Travel Confirmation Notice to affected employees as soon as possible and encourage timely online application via the ISD portal as well as recommending affected employees to print and carry the correct documentation with them when travelling.
- HR and mobility teams may wish to audit upcoming travel plans and expiry dates for non-EEA staff to identify and mitigate potential risks.
- It may also be advisable to monitor further updates from ISD regarding processing times or alternative arrangements.

If employers have any questions or concerns about this update and appropriate next steps, they should consult with their qualified immigration adviser or a member of the immigration team with KPMG Law in Ireland (see the Contacts section).

FOOTNOTES:

1 Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, "[ISD announces initiative to facilitate customers travelling at Christmas](#)" (2 December 2025).

2 Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, "[Travel Confirmation Notice](#)" (2 December 2025).

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Contact Us

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



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