

# Mobility: Immigration alert

November 2021



## Ireland

### Relaxed entry measures for the Christmas period and reduced document requirements for citizenship applications

#### Executive summary

On 15 November 2021, the Irish Government announced that certain holders of Irish Residence Permit (IRP) cards may travel to Ireland during the Christmas period using only their expired card and a copy of a notice posted to the website of the Irish Government. The Government also announced that, starting on 1 January 2022, individuals who apply to obtain Irish citizenship may submit color copies of their passports in lieu of their original passports.

#### Travel during Christmas 2021

The Irish Government recently announced that holders of IRP cards that expired in or after March 2020 may enter into Ireland until 15 January 2022 without a re-entry visa, using only their expired IRP card and a copy of a [notice](#) posted to the website of the Irish Immigration Service. In addition, children under the age of 16 who ordinarily require a re-entry visa may enter into Ireland without one until 15 January 2022. The Irish immigration authorities have temporarily suspended the issuance of re-entry visas for children under the age of 16 and are expected to resume the processing of these visas starting on 15 January 2022. The Irish authorities are in the process of communicating these changes to all airlines and Irish Consulates and Embassies worldwide.

Individuals with expired IRP cards who seek to enter into Ireland after 15 January 2022 will be required to obtain an Irish re-entry visa prior to their travel. The Irish Government has stated that holders of expired IRP cards should make every effort to renew their IRP cards as soon as possible.

#### Citizenship applications

Individuals who submit applications to obtain Irish citizenship on or after 1 January 2022 may include a color copy of all pages in their passports (including front and back covers) in lieu of their original passports. This change is designed to accelerate the citizenship application process and enable applicants to retain their passports in the event they require them for travel during the processing of their applications.

#### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

## EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via [ey.com/privacy](https://ey.com/privacy). EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit [ey.com](https://ey.com).

Ernst & Young LLP is a client-serving member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited operating in the US.

© 2021 Ernst & Young LLP.  
All Rights Reserved.

EYG no. 009918-21Gbl

2101-3682263  
ED None

**[ey.com](https://ey.com)**

**Michael Rooney**  
Partner - People Advisory Services  
Tel: +353 1 221 2857  
Email: [michael.rooney@ie.ey.com](mailto:michael.rooney@ie.ey.com)

**Jim Ryan**  
Partner - People Advisory Services  
Tel: + 353 1 221 2434  
Email: [jim.ryan@ie.ey.com](mailto:jim.ryan@ie.ey.com)

**Sinead Langan**  
Director - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel +353 1 221 2443  
Email: [sinead.langan@ie.ey.com](mailto:sinead.langan@ie.ey.com)

**Aislinn Stanton**  
Manager - People Advisory Services, Global Immigration  
Tel: +353 1 221 1602  
Email: [aislinn.stanton@ie.ey.com](mailto:aislinn.stanton@ie.ey.com)