

Mobility: Immigration alert

November 2023

Ireland

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to stop accepting applications for Stamp 4 Support Letters

Executive summary

Effective 30 November 2023, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) will stop accepting applications for Stamp 4 Support Letters. As of this date, all new relevant applications to transition from Stamp 1 to Stamp 4 must be submitted to the Irish Immigration Services Registration Office.

Background

Holders of Stamp 4 IRP Cards are permitted to work in Ireland without the need to hold an Employment Permit. Currently, Critical Skills Employment Permit holders, Researchers on a Hosting Agreement, and Non-Consultant Hospital Doctor (NCHD) Multi-Site General Employment Permit holders need to apply to the DETE for a Stamp 4 Support Letter as part of the transition to a Stamp 4 Irish Residence Permit (IRP) Card. These individuals can currently submit Stamp 4 Support Letter applications only after completing 20 months of employment in Ireland and provided they meet relevant conditions, and approval is granted only after 21 months of employment.

Key developments

Starting 30 November 2023, Stamp 4 Support Letter applications will no longer be accepted by the DETE. Instead, holders of the permissions listed above can apply for Stamp 4 IRP Cards directly at the Immigration Services Registration Office. Stamp 4 Support Letter applications received by the DETE on or before 30 November 2023 will continue to be processed.

To apply for a Stamp 4 IRP Card at the Immigration Services Registration Office, eligible applicants must demonstrate

that they have been registered with the Registration Office and employed in Ireland for a minimum of 21 months under a Stamp 1 Critical Skills Employment Permit and/or Researchers on a Hosting Agreement, or a Stamp 1H Non-Consultant Hospital Doctor (NCHD) Multi-Site General Employment Permit. Those who do not meet these criteria will not qualify for Stamp 4 IRP Card and will need to obtain a new Employment Permit before their current IRP Card expires to maintain their right to work in Ireland.

Impact on employers

The new policy is expected to benefit employers by significantly streamlining the process of transitioning to a Stamp 4 IRP Card in cases where conditions have been met.

Key steps

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

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