

Global Immigration alert

May 2024

Ireland

Ireland confirms plans to introduce single permits

Executive summary

On 15 May 2024, Ireland's Minister for Justice and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment confirmed the introduction of a new single permit that will allow holders to work and reside in Ireland without obtaining separate work and residence permits.

Background

On 13 December 2022, the Irish government approved, in principle, the creation of a single permit that would confer work and residence rights on holders. The government set up an Inter-Departmental Working Group (IDWG) to examine the implications of a single permit and develop an implementation plan. The IDWG confirmed in May 2024 that it has submitted its report to the government, concluding it is feasible to begin implementing single permits and to opt in to the EU's [Single Permit Directive](#).

Key developments

Currently, third-country nationals who seek to work in Ireland must apply to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) for a work permit, and then to the Department of Justice for a residence permit, with a total processing time of more than five months. The single permit will streamline this process by transferring the authority to issue, amend, renew or reject single permit applications to a single authority, with an expected processing time of 90 days.

The single permit scheme is expected to be implemented over the course of the next three years. A program management team will be established, which will include members of the Department of Justice and the DETE. The team will work on implementing the single permit scheme, including developing

a new application platform. The authorities will issue further updates in due course.

Impact on employers

The single permit system will reduce the time and costs associated with separately obtaining work and residence permits and enable employers to further attract skilled workers and mitigate the skills gaps in Ireland.

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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EYG no. 004634-24Gbl

2101-3682263
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