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Global Immigration alert

March 2026

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Ireland

Irish business travel impacted by Middle East conflict

Executive summary

Escalating conflict across multiple Middle East countries has resulted in significant airspace closures, flight cancellations and heightened mobility restrictions, which directly impact business visitors with travel plans to or from Ireland.

Key developments

Local authorities in the region have instructed residents and visitors to remain indoors, resulting in reduced or closed immigration, labor and regulatory offices.

The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has issued elevated [travel advisories](#), including "Avoid Non-Essential Travel" and "Do-Not-Travel" warnings across much of the region. Disruptions to airline operations continue to impact mobility planning for employers with internationally mobile talent.

For travel to Ireland, Irish residents, including non-European Economic Area (EEA) nationals, must hold valid entry permissions, while non-EEA spouses of Irish citizens who are visa-exempt may travel and complete registration after arrival. Those who have urgent visa-required cases should contact the nearest Irish embassy or visa office.

Irish, EU and EEA, and UK nationals can work in Ireland without additional permission, while non-EEA nationals will require authorization, with processing times typically several weeks.

Impact on employers

Employers with globally mobile staff may wish to:

- Map employee populations in impacted areas and agree clear emergency provisions for different nationalities and categories of mobile employees (e.g., assignees, business travelers, local hires).

- Review and update business continuity plans, including remote working arrangements, emergency travel protocols and communication pathways. Organizations may also carry out scenario modeling for potential redeployment of staff to alternative corporate office locations that can provide safe harbor while reducing exposure to immigration, tax and regulatory risks.
- Plan proactively for delays, particularly where immigration outcomes are tied to project start dates or statutory deadlines, as authorities across the region may be operating at reduced capacity.
- Encourage employees to rely only on verified government or consular sources for updates and official guidance.
- Review policy provisions for assignees and localized employees, and clearly communicate the organization's position on emergency shelter, travel and relocation support, assistance for families and dependents, adjustments to hardship or danger allowances, responsibility for tax liabilities arising in temporary jurisdictions and policies governing temporary remote work or relocation.

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. 001687-26Gbl

2101-3682263

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