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# Global Immigration alert

June 2026

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## Ireland

### Ireland tightens short-stay visa rules and expands workforce pathways through updated permits and Ukraine transition measures

#### Executive summary

Ireland recently announced several immigration changes. From 1 June 2026, applicants can no longer appeal short-stay visa refusals and must instead submit a new application. Secondly, a transition pathway for Ukrainian nationals under Temporary Protection, including a Stamp 4-based permission, is expected to launch in September 2026 to support longer-term residence. In addition, updates to the Employment Permits Occupations Lists following the 2025 review, expand eligibility for key roles across sectors experiencing labor shortages.

#### Background

Ireland continues to refine its immigration system to manage processing efficiency and respond to migration developments, including displacement arising from the war in Ukraine. Recent announcements reflect both short-term operational changes to visa processing and longer-term structural adjustments to employment and protection-based migration routes.

#### Key developments

Key developments include:

- **Removal of appeals for short-stay visa refusals (effective 1 June 2026):** Applicants refused a short-stay (Type C) visa will no longer have the right to appeal. Instead, individuals must submit a new application addressing the refusal reasons. This change applies broadly for those submitting short-stay visa applications, including holiday, family visits or event purposes. It will not apply to individuals covered by EU Free Movement rights. The Minister of State for Migration has indicated that this measure is intended to improve system efficiency and allow resources to be reallocated to long-stay visa processing, where appeal rights remain unchanged.
- **New transition framework for Ukrainian nationals with Temporary Protection:** The government has approved a series of measures to transition beneficiaries of Temporary Protection ahead of its expected expiry on 4 March 2027. Key elements include:

- Introduction of a new Temporary Protection Transition Scheme (Stamp 4 permission), expected to open for applications in September 2026
- A requirement for applicants to meet employment and residency criteria, including minimum income thresholds

The new permission is intended to support long-term integration and allow the time that applicants spent on the Temporary Protection scheme to count towards naturalization.

- **Report on Employment Permits Occupations Lists following 2025 Review:** The Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment has published the Report of the Review of the Occupations Lists for Employment Permits (2025), announcing measures to support sectors experiencing acute employee shortages including: construction, healthcare, transportation and agri-food. This includes:
  - Six roles made eligible for Critical Skills Employment Permits
  - Nine roles made eligible for General Employment Permits (without quota)
  - Two roles made eligible for General Employment Permits subject to newly established quotas
  - 15 roles are recommended to have existing General Employment Permits quotas renewed

These reviews take place on a regular basis, with the next one expected within the next two years. The published report highlights the government's commitment to put in place sector-specific action plans and increase awareness of eligible roles.

Employers should anticipate potential changes to roles that are eligible for employment permits and salary or skills thresholds.

## Impact on employers

These developments are expected to have both immediate and longer-term implications:

- *Business travel disruption risk:* The removal of appeal rights for short-term visits increases the consequences of visa refusals. Employers will need to ensure stronger upfront documentation and contingency planning for business travelers and short-term travelers.
- *Operational changes to visa strategy:* Re-application will replace appeals as the primary remedy, potentially requiring faster turnaround but also increasing administrative burden and costs.
- *Workforce planning for Ukrainian nationals:* Employers relying on individuals currently in Ireland under the Temporary Protection Directive should plan for the transition to the new Stamp 4-based permission and monitor eligibility requirements, particularly employment and salary thresholds.
- *Recruitment strategy alignment:* Updates to the Occupations Lists may affect which roles qualify for employment permits. Employers should review hiring pipelines and ensure roles remain eligible under evolving criteria.

Overall, these changes reinforce the need for proactive immigration planning, particularly in sectors reliant on international talent and cross-border mobility.

## 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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