

Mobility: Immigration alert

January 2023



Ireland

Early notification, refunds for invalid General Employment Permit applications

Executive summary

Effective 16 January 2023, the Irish immigration authorities began conducting initial screenings of General Employment Permit applications to confirm whether they meet certain requirements and issuing full refunds to applicants if their applications are rejected during the initial screening.

Background

Since the introduction of the online application process in 2016, General Employment Permit applications were not subject to initial screenings, and the immigration authorities informed applicants of the application outcome only after the full application was assessed. Individuals whose applications were rejected were required to submit electronic funds transfer forms to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) to receive the refund of the application processing fee and wait up to 12 weeks for the refund to be transferred to their accounts.

Key developments

On 16 January 2023, the DETE implemented the Return and Refund process for all General Employment Permit applications (new and extensions) as part of its efforts to streamline the online Employment Permits System. Under this new process, the DETE will conduct initial screenings for all General Employment Permit applications to verify whether they are supported by the mandatory documentation.

Applications that pass the initial screening will be cleared for processing. Individuals whose applications do not meet the

initial screening requirements will be notified, and they will receive:

- ▶ Full refund of the processing fees that they paid at the time of application submission (to the credit card used for payment)
- ▶ Detailed list of the issues noted in the application
- ▶ Instructions regarding how to correct these issues

Individuals whose applications do not pass the initial screening must submit another application after correcting all issues noted by the DETE.

Impact on employers

Employers that sponsor General Employment Permit applicants are expected to benefit from faster notifications regarding invalid applications, which may shorten overall immigration processing times for their employees.

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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