

Global Immigration alert

June 2026

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Ireland

Ireland amends Policy Document on Non-EEA Family Reunification

Executive summary

On 12 June 2026, Ireland announced amendments to the [Policy Document on Non-European Economic Area \(EEA\) Family Reunification](#) that was implemented in November 2025. The changes include increased financial thresholds, new accommodation criteria and new criteria for international protection.

Key developments

Ireland's revised family reunification policy outlines the eligibility criteria for non-EEA nationals, Irish citizens and International Protection beneficiaries to sponsor dependents to join them in the country. The latest amendments reflect a tightening of eligibility conditions, particularly in response to ongoing housing constraints and to ensure self-sufficiency of sponsors.

- **Increased income thresholds for Irish citizen sponsors:** The minimum gross income requirement has increased from €40,000 over three years (€13,333 annually) to €75,000 over three years (€25,000 annually) for those sponsoring spouses and children.
- **New accommodation requirements:** General Employment Permit holders and other Category C sponsors must now demonstrate that they can provide suitable accommodation for family members by considering the size of the property in relation to the number of dependents applied for and any other financial or housing obligations. The updated [policy](#) outlines what may be deemed suitable accommodation and acceptable proof of accommodation. Sponsors residing in certain types of supported accommodation are ineligible.
- **Changes for International Protection beneficiaries:**
 - A two-year waiting period from the date protection was granted now applies before these individuals become eligible to apply for family reunification.
 - Sponsors must provide evidence to demonstrate sufficient financial resources, must not rely on specified social protection or housing support, and

must not owe a debt to the State for a defined period prior to filing their application.

- Other financial obligation thresholds will also increase in line with indexation.

Impact on employers

These changes represent a tightened immigration framework that may impact employers relying on international talent:

- **Reduced attractiveness of Ireland for foreign workers:** Stricter family reunification requirements may impact competitiveness in attracting international talent.
- **Talent retention challenges:** Employees who are already in Ireland may reconsider their long-term plans if they are unable to reunite with family members under the revised conditions.
- **Increased administrative burden:** Employers may need to support employees in demonstrating compliance with accommodation and financial requirements, particularly for General Employment Permit holders.

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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ey.com

Sinead Langan

Director, Head of Immigration
Tel: +353 1 221 2443
Email: sinead.langan@ie.ey.com

Aislinn Stanton

Director, Immigration
Tel: +353 1 221 1602
Email: aislinn.stanton@ie.ey.com

Michael Rooney

Partner, People Advisory Services
Tel: +353 1 221 2857
Email: michael.rooney@ie.ey.com

Rachel Dillon

Partner, People Advisory Services
Tel: +353 1 221 2554
Email: rachel.dillon@ie.ey.com

Sarah Connellan

Partner, People Advisory Services
Tel: +353 1 221 1514
Email: sarah.connellan@ie.ey.com

Ben Willis

Partner, EY Global Immigration Competency Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 9589
Email: ben.willis@uk.ey.com