

Irish Immigration Alert

January 2012

Overseas Investors & Entrepreneurs Welcome

As part of their key priorities for 2012, the government plans to implement immigration programmes which will attract investors and entrepreneurs to Ireland. The aim is to significantly increase inward investment and provide job creation. Details of the programmes have not yet been made available but are expected in the coming months.

Green Card Check Up

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation (DJEI) are contacting employers in respect of randomly selected employees who were issued Green Card Permits and seeking up to date information in relation to the individual's employment status, salary level etc. Employers should consider if action is needed to avoid any unpleasant surprises in the event of a review by the DJEI.

PwC secure DJEI agreement not to continue to impose tax registration requirement

The DJEI implemented a new on-line tracking system which identified employers by their Employer's Registered Number for PAYE. As a result, a foreign employer wishing to apply for Irish employment permits was required to register as an employer with Revenue, even if no tax registration requirement existed.

Following extensive lobbying by PwC, to both the DJEI and Revenue, the DJEI have now agreed not to impose a tax registration requirement, on foreign employers, where none exists. This will result in significant savings for many overseas entities wishing to assign individuals to work in Ireland as it removes the additional administrative burden associated with PAYE registration and monthly tax filings. It also removes a significant hurdle which had been seen as a deterrent to some overseas organisations with Irish-bound assignees.

Restrictions on Romanians and Bulgarians continue

The government announced last week that the current restrictions on access to the Irish labour market for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals will continue until the end of 2013. Following their accession to the EU in 2007, transitional arrangements mean that Romanian and Bulgarian nationals continue to require an employment permit for an initial 12 month period in order to work legally in Ireland.

These restrictions will continue until the end of 2013 at which stage the 7 year transition period will come to an end and Ireland will be required to grant full labour market access to Romanian and Bulgarian nationals.

Immigration Contacts

If you would like further advice or information in relation to the issues outlined above, please call your local PwC contact or any of the individuals listed below:

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The PwC immigration services network is the largest provider of immigration services globally. In Ireland, PwC has a dedicated team of immigration specialists who provide immigration advisory and processing services to organisations in relation to all entry, employment and residence permit requirements. In bringing our experience and knowledge of the immigration system to bear, we ensure that our clients comply with their immigration obligations. We also ensure that the interaction of the employment permit with labour law, social security, taxation and pension requirements is not overlooked.

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