

# **International Protection Regularisation Scheme**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

International Protection Office (IPO)

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION REGULARISATION SCHEME

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#### Section 1. General Details

#### 1.1 What is the nature of this scheme?

This time-limited scheme has been developed to provide residence permission to persons currently in the protection system for two years or more, who are living in Ireland, and have been doing so for a long period of time with a temporary residence under the International Protection Act 2015 and hold a Temporary Residence Certificate (TRC).

#### 1.2 Why has the Government announced this scheme?

The Programme for Government includes a commitment to bring forward proposals for the regularisation of long-term undocumented migrants and their dependents which is intended to: "Create new pathways for long-term undocumented people and their dependents, meeting specified criteria to regularise their status within 18 months of the formation of the Government, bearing in mind EU and Common Travel Area commitments."

It was subsequently decided to take into account the recommendation on the Catherine Day Report on Direct Provision to consider for permission to remain for persons in the Single Procedure for two years or more, and include this recommendation into the undocumented scheme by creating a protection applicant strand scheme.

#### Section 2. Who qualifies for the scheme?

#### 2.1 How do I qualify for inclusion for this Scheme?

In order to qualify under this scheme, you must meet all of the following criteria

- Be a current applicant for International Protection. A current applicant is someone who has
  presented themselves in person at the International Protection Office (as per Section 15 of
  the International Protection Act 2015) and been issued with a Temporary Residence Card
  with an ID number and a date of issue and who has not yet been issued a final decision from
  the Ministerial Decisions Unit (as per Section 47 of the International Protection Act 2015) in
  respect of their application.
- Be in the International Protection Process for at least 2 years prior to the commencement date of the scheme. The starting date for an International Protection Application Process is when the applicant presents in person at the International Protection Office (Section 15 of the International Protection Act 2015) and is issued with a Temporary Residence Card (TRC) with an ID number and a date of issue. If you are less than 2 years in the International Protection Process on the date of the commencement of the scheme, you will not qualify as an applicant.

- Have resided continuously in the State, as required by Section 16 (3)(a) of the International Protection Act 2015, during their application for International Protection. A break in continuous residency is permitted. It is intended to disregard a short period of absence from the State up to a maximum of 60 days absence
- Are of good character and of good conduct.

#### 2.2 Do other members in my family have to apply separately?

Yes. All individuals who are current international protection applicants and who meet all of the other criteria must apply separately under this scheme.

#### 2.3 I meet some but not all of the eligibility criteria listed above. Will my application be successful?

No. You must meet all of the criteria to qualify for this scheme.

#### 2.4 I am a current International Protection Applicant who meets all the criteria but have children who have not been registered in the International Protection Process. Can my child(ren) qualify for inclusion in this scheme?

No. An application for international protection should be submitted for any child(ren) who have not had applications previously submitted and these applications will be processed in accordance with the International Protection Act 2015.

## 2.5 I am a current International Protection Applicant who meets all the criteria but my spouse/partner does not meet the criteria, Can my spouse/partner qualify for inclusion in this scheme?

No. All applications are made on an individual basis. If the Spouse/Partner does not meet all the criteria listed above, they do not qualify for the scheme.

### 2.6 Am I still eligible if I have left the State while I have been an applicant for International Protection?

Yes. You are allowed to have one unauthorized absence from the State up to a maximum of 60 days. Absences from the State which have been approved by the International Protection Office prior to leaving the State will not affect your application.

#### 2.7 Can I apply if I have a live Deportation Order?

No. You are not eligible for this strand if you have a live Deportation Order as you are no longer a current applicant for International Protection. You may be eligible for inclusion in the Department's

Regularisation of Long-Term Undocumented Migrants Scheme. Details of this scheme are available on https://www.irishimmigration.ie/regularisation-of-long-term-undocumented-migrant-scheme/

### 2.8 Can I apply if I have been issued with an intention to Deport under Section 3(6) of the Immigration Act, 1999?

No. You are not eligible for this strand if you have been issued with an Intention to Deport under Section 3(6) of the Immigration Act, 1999 as you are no longer a current applicant for International Protection. You may be eligible for inclusion in the Department's Regularisation of Long-Term Undocumented Migrants Scheme. Details of this scheme are available on <a href="https://www.irishimmigration.ie/regularisation-of-long-term-undocumented-migrant-scheme/">https://www.irishimmigration.ie/regularisation-of-long-term-undocumented-migrant-scheme/</a>

### 2.9 Can I apply if I have received a negative decision in my International Protection application and I also hold a valid Deportation order?

Applicants who have received a negative decision in their International Protection application and who hold a valid Deportation order, do not meet the criteria for the International Protection Regularisation Scheme.

These applicants can apply to the Regularisation of Long Term Undocumented Migration scheme, if they meet the required criteria available at <a href="https://www.irishimmigration.ie/regularisation-of-long-term-undocumented-migrant-scheme/">https://www.irishimmigration.ie/regularisation-of-long-term-undocumented-migrant-scheme/</a>

Time spent in the international protection process is considered to be documented and is not reckonable under the Regularisation of Long Term Undocumented Migration scheme.

The date of undocumented residency begins from the date of the determination letter issued by the Ministerial Decision Unit to the applicant outlining a negative decision in the International Protection process.

Applicants who do not meet the criteria of either scheme and who hold a valid deportation order, may make an application to the Repatriation Unit of ISD, seeking to have their deportation order amended or revoked under Section 3(11) of the Immigration Act, 1999 (as amended), especially if there are changed circumstances since the deportation order against issued.

For further queries concerning the main scheme for undocumented migrants you can contact Regularisation of Long-Term Undocumented Migrants Scheme by email to: undocumentedhelp@justice.ie

### 2.10 Can I also apply under the Regularisation of Long Term Undocumented Migrants Scheme as well as this scheme?

No. International Protection Applicants must only apply under this scheme. Any applications made by International Protection applicants under the Regularisation of Long Term Undocumented Migrants Scheme will not be eligible.

2.11 My appeal to the IPAT is pending and I currently hold a permission to work under Labour Market Access Permission (LMAP). I also made an application for permission to remain under the International Protection Strand of the Undocumented Migrants Scheme. If my appeal to the IPAT is decided and affirms the negative recommendation I had previously received from the International Protection Office (IPO), will I lose my permission to work while I wait for a decision on my application under the International Protection strand of the Undocumented Migrants Scheme?

The IPO team dealing with your application for protection will consult with the IPO team dealing with your application for permission to remain under the International Protection Strand of the Undocumented Migrants Scheme. The aim is to ensure that all decisions are made at the earliest opportunity. The IPO will work to ensure that there is no disadvantage to applicants in relation to access to the labour market where possible.

### **Section 3. Application Process**

#### 3.1 When can I submit an application?

- The application window for the International Protection Regularisation Scheme opens on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 10am.
- Prior to the Scheme being launched, the International Protection Office will write to those
  applicants it has identified as potentially eligible to inform them of the scheme.
- If you have not received correspondence from the International Protection Office identifying you as potentially eligible but believe you fulfill the qualifying criteria, you may still submit an application for consideration.
- If you meet the qualifying criteria of the scheme (see Section 2.1 above), you must apply before the scheme closes at 11.59pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
- Please note that International Protection Office will not in any circumstances accept applications outside of these dates.

#### 3.2 How can I submit an application?

- Applications <u>must</u> only be submitted by email to <u>IPRSU@ipo.gov.ie</u>. Applications sent to any other email address will not be considered.
- The application form is available as an editable PDF form at <a href="www.ipo.gov.ie/whatsnew">www.ipo.gov.ie/whatsnew</a>.
   Applicants should save their completed applications forms on their PC/laptops/devices and submit as an attachment as well as the required documentation by email to <a href="mailto:IPRSU@ipo.gov.ie">IPRSU@ipo.gov.ie</a>
- You must submit your application by email which must include the completed editable PDF application form and all the required documentation.
- You can apply between 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022 (inclusive).
- IPO will not accept applications by post.
- IPO will <u>not process</u> incomplete application forms, or applications that are submitted through any other method other than the email address stated above.

#### 3.3 Is there an application fee?

There is no application fee for the International Protection Regularisation Scheme.

#### 3.4 Will I get an acknowledgement when I submit my application?

Yes, you will receive an email confirmation once your application has been accepted.

#### 3.5 How long will it take to process an application?

Processing times may vary depending on the complexity of the applications and the overall number of applications received by IPO for the scheme

#### 3.6 How can I contact IPO regarding the status of my application?

- It would greatly assist us if you only contact IPO if it is absolutely necessary. This will allow IPO to devote the maximum time to the processing of applications.
- You can email queries to <a href="mailto:IPRSU@ipo.gov.ie">IPRSU@ipo.gov.ie</a>
- Please include your name, reference number and contact details.
- You must keep IPO informed of any change in circumstances, for example a change of email, of home address etc. If you change your home address, you must notify this office immediately, as your decision letter will be posted to this address.

#### 3.7 Why do I need to give my personal email address as part of the application form?

A personal e-mail address is required for all applicants. Acknowledgements will be sent by e-mail.

Also in order to complete the eVetting process of the application, you must submit a personal email address, so that IPO can send you the eVetting form.

Under Data Protection legislation, we cannot send an eVetting request to a third party.

You can change your e-mail address at any time during the application process. If you have changed your email address after your application has been submitted, you will have to email <a href="mailto:IPRSU@gov.ie">IPRSU@gov.ie</a> to inform us of the change in your email address. Please include your name, reference number and contact details in this email.

Prior to you submitting your application by email to IPO, you will be able to change your email address on your application form.

After you have submitted your application form, you will not be able to edit any of the contents of your application form.

#### 3.8 Can I use someone else's email address in the application form?

All applicants over the age of 16 must submit their own personal email address. This email address is used for you to obtain emails in relation to your application. Applicants under the age of 16 may use a parent's/guardian's email address.

All applicants over the age of 16 are required to undergo eVetting. The eVetting invite can only be sent to the applicants personal email address. If you do not submit a personal email address we cannot sent you the eVetting invitation, and we will be unable to process your application, and your application may be refused.

It is important you have regular access to the email address you provide as part of your application. You should also check your spam folder on a regular basis.

#### 3.9 Why do I have to undergo eVetting?

One of the qualifying criteria that must be met in order to be granted permission under the International Protection Regularisation Scheme, is that you have been of good character, and have not been involved in criminal activity.

As part of the application process, all applicants over the age of 16 will be required to undergo eVetting.

Vetting is a process to check whether you have a criminal record. The process is carried out via an online form, details of which will be sent to you.

An e-vetting disclosure will provide a statement that there is no criminal record information to disclose in respect of you in Ireland or elsewhere, or a statement of criminal record information in Ireland or elsewhere as the case may be.

#### 3.10 What is the eVetting process? Step 1:

If you are over the age of 16, before we make a decision on your application, you will receive an invitation, from IPO to complete an e-vetting application. You must complete this process. This is because one of the qualifying criteria that must be met in order to be granted permission under the International Protection Regularisation Scheme, is that you have been of good character, and have not been involved in criminal activity. The vetting process is processed by the International Protection Office through the Garda Siochána National Vetting Bureau. Applicants should not contact the Garda Vetting Bureau directly.

You will be asked to provide:

Your name

Date of birth

Email address and contact telephone number

Current address

Authorisation to the Garda National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána to supply the International Protection Regularisation Scheme Unit of the Department of Justice a statement that there is no criminal record information to disclose in Ireland or elsewhere, or a statement of criminal record information in Ireland or elsewhere as the case may be.

#### Step 2:

After the International Protection Regularisation Scheme Unit receives your signed invitation form by email (step 1), you will:

- Receive an email from the National Vetting Bureau with a direct link to the online vetting application form
- Have 30 days to complete and submit the online vetting application

 Be required to enter full postcodes (6 characters) for any Northern Ireland address at which you resided.

You will need to provide the following information:

- Name at birth
- Place of birth
- Passport Number
- Mother's maiden name
- All addresses you have lived at since birth
- Any other names you may be known by
- Details of any convictions you have (in Ireland or elsewhere).

You will have the opportunity to review the information you have inputted and once you are happy with the details you can submit the completed vetting application.

#### Step 3:

Your completed vetting application will be assessed by the International Protection Regularisation Scheme Unit. If there are any issues with the application it will be returned to you. Otherwise the application will be forwarded to the National Vetting Bureau.

A vetting disclosure will be provided by the National Vetting Bureau to the International Protection Regularisation Scheme unit and this will be reviewed as part of the decision making process on your application.

E-vetting is conducted by the Garda Siochána National Vetting Bureau. The National Vetting Bureau is part of the Garda Síochána.

#### 3.11 Can I provide a Police Clearance certificate, instead of doing the eVetting process?

No. You cannot provide a Police Clearance Certificate instead. Garda vetting is not the same as getting a Police Certificate, which is provided by the Gardaí to people in Ireland who need them for a range of reasons.

#### 3.12 Can I track my eVetting application?

You can track your eVetting by clicking on the link we send you in the invitation email and click on Track Application to check the progress.

### 3.13 As part of the criminal declaration form on my application, do I need to tell you about spent convictions?

Yes. Under Section 8 of the Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions and Certain Disclosures) Act 2016 states that you must declare your spent convictions when applying for permission to remain in the State. This Act is available at www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2016/act/4/section/8/enacted/en/html

You must give details of spent convictions in both your Undocumented Scheme application and evetting application. We need to know about all offences no matter where they happened or how long ago. This includes "spent" convictions. You are responsible for giving us full details of all your convictions as part of your application.

#### 3.14 My child is under the age of 18, can they give consent to be vetted?

Every applicant over the age of 16 must undergo eVetting. For children aged between 16 and 18, a consent form must be signed and submitted by a parent or guardian. The form will be given to parents or guardians by the Undocumented Scheme Unit.

### 3.15 I do not agree with the details in my vetting disclosure issued by the National Vetting Bureau. What can I do?

If you do not agree with the details in the vetting disclosure you can tell us why and we will look into it for you. You need to email us at <a href="mailto:IPRSU@ipo.gov.ie">IPRSU@ipo.gov.ie</a> us and tell us in detail what parts you don't agree with. We will send your query and explanation to the National Vetting Bureau and ask them to re-check it.

#### 3.16 What documents do I need to submit as part of my application form?

Applicants must provide key details to prove eligibility for the International Protection Regularisation Scheme. Applicants must provide their TRC card number and confirm date of application. Applicants should also detail their addresses lived at during the duration of their IP application.

Where applicants have been residing in Direct Provision Accommodation, these details can be verified, to an extent, by Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth by cross checking weekly registers from accommodation centres. Applicants will also be expected to provide other documentation as below.

For those applicants who have not been residing in Direct Provision, they will be required to show that they have been continuously residing in the State during their application.

The following list of documentation will be accepted for the purposes of proving continuous residence under this scheme. This list is not exhaustive:

- Documentation from the International Protection Accommodation Services of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Social Protection Statements;
- Utility bills (i.e. from electricity/phone/gas/cable television/broadband provider/mobile phone bills);
- Registration with the Residential Tenancies Board;
- Employment Detail Summary/P60/P45/P21s; or equivalent
- Evidence that the applicant sat the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate exams in Ireland;
- A letter from a school principal in Ireland, confirming attendance at a school if it was in the past five years;
- Statements or other correspondence from bank/building society/credit union including e-Statements with activity in the country (Statements from store cards/catalogue companies are not acceptable)
- Proof of money transfers between the applicant and a third party, carried out at a money transfer facility in the State e.g. Western union)
- Letter from doctor/hospital in Ireland
- Vaccination passport for children or Covid-19 vaccination card issued in Ireland.
- Other official correspondence from an Irish state agency e.g. government departments;
   HSE; Register of Electors/polling card; CAO; An Garda Síochána; Public / Private hospitals,
   Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) or third level college, Secondary school /training agency,
   NCT Reports or reminders, An Post, TV Licence, National Government Health Screening
   Programme(s) and/or;
- Correspondence from an insurance company regarding an active policy (Home or Car Insurance Policy Only).

<u>Note:</u> Letters from friends/neighbours will not be accepted as the only proof of residency in the State. These documents may be submitted as supporting documentation only.

#### 3.17 How do I group documents into one PDF?

The simplest method is to **use File > New Document**, and choose the option to Combine Files into a Single PDF.

A file-list box will open.

Drag in the files that you want to combine into a single PDF.

You can add PDF files, or any combination of text, images, Word, Excel, or PowerPoint documents into the list.

Please see link: - https://www.adobe.com/ie/acrobat/online/merge-pdf.html <

### 3.18 Do I need to make my application for the International Protection Regularisation Scheme unit through a solicitor or a Non-Governmental Agency (NGO)?

There is no requirement for the application to be submitted through a solicitor or a NGO.

All applications are processed in chronological order regardless of whether it was submitted by you or by a solicitor or NGO acting on your behalf.

If you decide to use a solicitor or NGO to submit your application, your legal representative must attach a <u>letter of authority</u>. This letter must be signed by the applicant, giving them the authority to submit an application and correspond with IPO on your behalf. If there is an application on behalf of a minor child, the parents/guardians can sign the letter of authority on behalf of the child.

#### **Section 4. Application Granted**

#### 4.1 What happens if my application is successful?

- You will receive decision letter from the International Protection Office in the post if your application is successful, granting you permission on a stamp 4 basis for two years. (This is a very important letter, so please keep it somewhere safe.)
- If you are over the age of 16, you must attend at your local immigration office to register your permission. Please note that you are legally required to register your permission.
- If you live in Dublin City or County Dublin you will need to attend Burgh Quay Registration Office to register your permission and receive your Irish Residence Permit.
- You must make an appointment to register in Burgh Quay using the online appointment system.
- If you live anywhere in the State except for Dublin City or County Dublin you **must** register at your local Garda Registration Office.
- You can find a list of Garda Registration Offices here http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/registration

• When registering, you must bring with you, your approval letter and a valid passport or other equivalent document issued by an authority recognized by the Irish Government which establishes your identity and nationality, unless you can give a satisfactory explanation of the circumstances which prevent you from doing so. If your application under this scheme is successful you will be given an immigration permission under Stamp 4 conditions. Failure to produce these documents may result in the Immigration Officer refusing to register you.

#### 4.2 What does a stamp 4 allow me to do?

Your Stamp 4 permission allows you to:

- work without an Employment Permit, and in a profession, subject to conditions of the relevant professional or other bodies;
- set-up and operate a business; and
- access state funds and services as decided by Government departments or agencies.

You can get more information on the general conditions for Stamp 4 at <a href="https://www.irishimmigration.ie/registering-your-immigration-permission/information-on-registering/immigration-permission-stamps/">https://www.irishimmigration.ie/registering-your-immigration-permission/information-on-registering/immigration-permission-stamps/</a>

#### 4.3 When this two year permission is about to expire, what should I do?

Prior to the expiry of this two year permission, you must make an appointment with your local immigration office to renew this permission. Information on renewing your permission is available at <a href="https://www.irishimmigration.ie">www.irishimmigration.ie</a>

#### 4.4 When I renew my permission, how long will it be renewed for?

When you are issued with your grant letter there are a number of conditions attached to this letter. If you do not break these conditions, your permission will be renewed for a further three years on stamp 4 permission.

You may be asked to submit a copy of your original grant letter on renewal of your permission, so it is important that you keep this letter in a safe place.

#### 4.5 What are the conditions attached to my permission?

All successful applicants under this scheme will be granted permission on Stamp 4 conditions to remain in the State:

- You must not come to the adverse attention of the Gardaí (Irish police) or immigration authorities.
- You must reside continuously in the State.\*
- You accept that your permission does not give any other person, related to you or not, any right or legitimate expectation to enter or remain in the State.
- \* Continuous residence means you must live in the State for the period covered by this temporary permission to remain. Continuous residence allows you to leave the State for reasonable periods of absence for:
- holidays,
- exceptional family circumstances, or
- commitments you have outside the State arising from business or employment carried out within the State.

### 4.6 If I am granted a permission under this Scheme and I do not register my permission with my local Immigration Officer, will I be granted a renewal of this permission when it expires?

No. Under Irish Immigration legislation, all non EEA nationals in the State over the age of 16 are required to register their permission with their local immigration office.

- It is an offence not to register your permission.
- Your registration will be valid for 2 years.
- Children under the age of 16 are not currently not required to register with their local immigration office. Once they turn 16 they must present to their local immigration office in order to complete their first registration in the State. They must bring their grant letter with them in order to be registered

### 4.7 If I am granted permission on stamp 4 conditions, can my family members also obtain permission?

If your family members do not

- Meet the criteria for this scheme as outlined above and
- Make a separate application under this scheme in their own name

They will not receive permission to remain in the State under this Scheme.

If you have other family members in the State, that were not eligible to apply under the scheme, you may write to Immigration Services Delivery seeking permission for them to remain in the State with you. Relevant contact details available at <a href="https://www.irishimmigration.ie">www.irishimmigration.ie</a>.

### 4.8 After I have been granted permission under the Scheme, can I bring family to Ireland to live with me?

This scheme does not entitle your family to join you in the State however, if you wish to apply to bring family members to reside with you in the State, after you have been granted permission under this scheme, you may be eligible under the Policy on Non EEA Family Reunification.

The policy document is available at <a href="https://www.irishimmigration.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Non-EEA-De-Facto-Partners-of-Irish-Nationals.pdf">https://www.irishimmigration.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Non-EEA-De-Facto-Partners-of-Irish-Nationals.pdf</a>

#### 4.9 I have been granted permission to remain in the State, can this permission be revoked?

It is important to note that this permission to remain in the State is granted to you subject to the result of enquiries as to whether or not you have obeyed the laws of the State or another jurisdiction, have not been convicted of any offence and that you have not been involved in criminal activity.

In the event that information comes to the attention of the Minister which is relevant to the granting of permission to remain in the State to you, the Minister may re-consider your status in the State and may revoke your permission. In the event that this occurs, the Minister may propose to deport you from the State.

The following, which is not an exhaustive list, are some of the types of information, which may lead to the Minister revoking your permission:

- Information that shows that you have not complied with the conditions of your permission;
- Information which relates to your character or conduct (whether prior to or subsequent to the granting of your permission), including criminal convictions;
- Information that indicates that you have provided misleading or inaccurate information to the Minister or to other authorities of the State.

### 4.10 What happens to my application for International Protection if I am granted permission to remain in the State?

Applicants who are successful under the International Protection Regularisation Scheme can choose to withdraw from International Protection process if they so wish. Applicants who are successful and

who do not choose to withdraw from the International Protection Process will continue to have their applications for International Protection processed.

### Section 5. Application Refused

#### 5.1 What happens if my application is refused?

- IPO will send you a letter to explain to you why your application is refused.
- You can request an appeal of the refusal decision on your application within 30 working days of the date of your refusal letter.
- You must submit this appeal by email at <a href="https://inisonline.jahs.ie/user/login">https://inisonline.jahs.ie/user/login</a>
- You should refer directly to the reasons set out by IPO as to why your application was refused.
- You should state why you do not agree with the decision by IPO to refuse.
- Any statements you make as part of your appeal application should be supported by documentary evidence.

### 5.2 If I appeal my refusal decision, what documents do I need to submit as part of the appeal application?

Your refusal letter will outline the reasons why your application was refused. In your appeal form you are asked to provide documentation to address the refusal reasons on your original application. In your appeal application, you can submit additional documentation to outline why you qualify under the criteria of the scheme.

Please do not re-submit documentation that we already have on file.

#### 5.3 What happens if my appeal is unsuccessful?

No further consideration will be given under this scheme if after examination of an appeal, the application is still found to be unsuccessful.

### 5.4 What happens to my application for International Protection if my application is deemed refused?

Applicants who are unsuccessful either at initial decision stage or after an appeal will continue to have their applications for International Protection processed.

#### **Section 6. Additional Questions**

### 6.1 I have been convicted of a criminal offence in the State, am I eligible to apply for the Regularisation Scheme?

Eligibility under the scheme is subject to the good character and conduct of the applicant.

The IPO will take into consideration, in the decision-making process, information regarding any behaviour of a criminal nature considered to be contrary to the common good and/or public policy and may refuse to grant a residence permission to any applicant on that basis.

The scheme, which is based on the executive authority of the Minister, aims to confer a benefit on applicants and does not involve consideration by the IPO of any statutory rights to residence arising in respect of an individual.

It is a matter for the IPO to determine whether an applicant satisfies this requirement and all information relevant to the applicant will be considered.

While each case will be considered on its own merits, it is expected that minor convictions will not, of themselves, result in the refusal of an application

It is important that you provide full details of any prosecutions or convictions in your application. Failure to do so may result in your application being refused, or any permission granted being withdrawn.

### 6.2 I have been charged with a criminal offence and I am awaiting trial. Will this affect my application?

Eligibility under the scheme is subject to the good character and conduct of the applicant-

The IPO will take into consideration, in the decision-making process, information regarding any behaviour of a criminal nature considered to be contrary to the common good and/or public policy and may refuse to grant a residence permission to any applicant on that basis.

The scheme, which is based on the executive authority of the Minister, aims to confer a benefit on applicants and does not involve consideration by the IPO of any statutory rights to residence arising in respect of an individual.

It is a matter for the IPO to determine whether an applicant satisfies this requirement and all information relevant to the applicant will be considered.

While it is recognised that in relation to criminal charges pending against an applicant, the person enjoys, in criminal law, a presumption of innocence until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, it should be noted that the consideration of good character and good conduct in relation to applications under the scheme is not subject to any presumptions or the standard or burden of proof applicable to criminal proceedings.

While each case will be considered on its own merits, it is expected that minor convictions will not, of themselves, result in the refusal of an application

It is important that you provide full details of any pending charges that you are facing in your application. Failure to do so may result in your application being refused, or any permission granted being withdrawn.