



**An Oifig um Chosaint  
Idirnáisiúnta**  
International Protection  
Office

## **Note for Citizens of the Common Travel Area (CTA)**

### **Welcome to the International Protection Office**

If you wish to claim international protection in Ireland, you may enter the formal application process. This formal application process includes completing a questionnaire and undertaking a preliminary interview today. However, it is important to note that, under the Common Travel Area, British and Irish citizens enjoy existing rights and privileges in each other's countries. This note brings these rights and privileges to your attention to inform your decision on whether to claim international protection in Ireland.

### **Common Travel Area (CTA) and Associated Rights**

#### **The CTA**

The Common Travel Area (CTA) is a long-standing arrangement between the UK, including its crown dependencies, and Ireland. The CTA predates the EU. Under the CTA, Irish and British citizens enjoy associated rights and privileges in the mutual jurisdiction. In May 2019, the Irish and British governments reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining the CTA and the rights and privileges it confers. The CTA is separate from EU law and continues to apply after Brexit.

#### **Associated Rights**

If you are a UK citizen in Ireland, you have many of the same rights and entitlements as an Irish citizen, such as:

- Entering Ireland without a visa

- Travel between Ireland and the UK
- Working without an employment permit
- Access to public healthcare
- Access to social welfare supports in Ireland
- Access to education

As can be seen, the rights and privileges afforded under the CTA are very comprehensive and exceed those afforded to an applicant for international protection. In considering whether to claim international protection, you may want to gather further information on existing CTA rights and privileges before making your decision. Links to further and more comprehensive information can be found below.

#### Further Information

- <https://www.dfa.ie/brexit/brexit-and-you/frequently-asked-questions/>
- <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/government-in-ireland/ireland-and-the-uk/residence-rules-UK-citizens/>
- [Common Travel Area guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/common-travel-area)