

HR Policy Council Calls for Interim Work Visa Scheme

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Chambers Ireland has today (16/03/2007) called on the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform to implement an interim visa to facilitate non-European Economic Area workers resident in Ireland whose work permits have lapsed through no fault of their own. This would enable these workers to remain here.

Speaking today, John Forde, Chair of Chambers Ireland's HR Policy Council said "Since the introduction of the new Employment Permits arrangements, it has come to our attention that a small number of migrant workers have found themselves at risk of repatriation because their work permits were not renewed."

Forde continued "It would be a highly regrettable situation if these individuals, who were recruited to Ireland legitimately and are active tax paying participants in our society, were to be repatriated to their respective countries of birth through no fault of their own."

"A fair and speedy resolution can be achieved for these individuals through the introduction of an interim visa scheme," he added. "This scheme would enable an effected individual to remain working in the country, until such time as their case can be dealt with and a new work permit issued," he continued.

Turning to the issue of work permit costs, Forde noted that "if an interim visa scheme is adopted, then the cost to the individual should be levied at a fair and reasonable price. The price for the renewal of work permits, under the scheme recently introduced by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, is too high," he concluded.

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Notes to editor

About Chambers Ireland's Human Resources policy council

The HR Policy council aims to address HR issues from the employer perspective. The council uses the findings of the annual Chambers Ireland Labour Force survey and the professional expertise of its members to gain insight on HR issues directly affecting business. It brings together specialists in the area of HR management from small, medium and large enterprises. Chaired by John Forde, HR Manager, Celtic Linen, the council is a forum for innovative approaches to HR issues.

About the cost of work permits

Chambers Ireland called for a number of years for work permits to reside with the worker. We welcomed this change when it was announced in January 2007. However, the cost of the permit is too high at €1,000 for a new work permit issued for between six months and two years and €1,500 for a renewal permit.

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