

## **Know Your Rights**

## A Guide for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Ireland

This document is designed to help you understand your rights and entitlements as a Beneficiary of Temporary Protection (BOTP) in Ireland. This document is specifically for new arrivals to Ireland on or after the 10th of November 2025.



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#### **State Provided Accommodation**

If you arrived in Ireland on or after the 10th of November 2025, <u>you are entitled to state- provided accommodation for the first 30 days after your arrival.</u> After this initial 30-day period you will have to find accommodation in the community, either through pledged accommodation supported by the <u>Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP)</u> or through the Private Rental Market.

Those who arrived in Ireland before the 10th of November and after the 14th of March 2024, are entitled to state supported accommodation for the first 90 days.

#### Absence Protocol from State Supported Accommodation

People living in accommodation centres can be absent from their accommodation for a total of 3 absences, totalling no more than 21 days per calendar year.

Absences must be agreed locally, in advance, between the BOTP and the Service Provide Retrospective absence claims cannot be processed. No period of absence may exceed 14 days consecutively, while absences over the Christmas period must be included in this 21-day allocation.

## Housing

### Pledge Accommodation Programme

The Irish Red Cross (IRC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in coordination with the Irish Local Authorities are working to support BOTPs enter suitable accommodation generously pledged by Irish residents.







You can find out more information about the Pledged Accommodation Programme by contacting migrationcrisis@redcross.ie.

Pledged accommodation falls into two categories, shared or vacant:

- Shared: you will be placed in a shared property with an Irish resident or family.
- Vacant: you will be placed in a vacant house or apartment.

The IRC Pledged Accommodation Programme provides accommodation throughout the country. It is important to note that offers of pledged accommodation are limited, and no organisation can take location specific requests. If a suitable accommodation offer becomes available, a caseworker will contact you to discuss and arrange a placement.



Homeowners are entitled to the <u>Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP)</u>. The ARP is a tax-free monthly financial contribution available to homeowners who are providing accommodation to BOTPs. The payment is administered by the Department of Social Protection. Payment is made per unique Eircode not per person hosted. Entitlement to the ARP is not affected by any agreement between the homeowner and the BOTP regarding contributions to utilities.

It is important to note that rent is not payable in tandem with this scheme. BOTPs should not be expected to pay a "top-up" in addition to the ARP.

#### Private Rental Market in Ireland

Renting in Ireland can be challenging; with high demand and limited availability, it can be difficult to secure accommodation. We have a guidebook on Navigating the Private Rental Market if you would like to find out further information.

## **Social Welfare Supports**

As a Beneficiary of Temporary Protection, you can get income support from the Department of Social Protection. To access any Irish social welfare payment, you need a Personal Public Services Number (PPSN).



#### What is a Personal Public Services Number (PPSN)?

A <u>PPS number</u> is a unique reference number that helps you access social welfare payments, public services and information in Ireland.

#### What Social Welfare Supports am I entitled to?

If you are not in State-provided accommodation, you can apply for social welfare payments in the same way as Irish citizens, as long as you meet the eligibility conditions.

#### Income Support if you are resident in a Designated Accommodation Centre (DAC)

You will receive the Beneficiary of Temporary Protection Weekly Payment. This payment is €38.80 per week for each adult and €29.80 for each child up to the age of 18 years of age. This payment depends on your income and is in place of other social welfare payments excluding Child Benefit and the Additional Needs Payment.

If you are staying in a DAC where meals and utilities are provided, you cannot qualify for certain social assistance payments. You can see which payments are included here.

#### Where can I collect my social welfare payment?

You can collect your first social welfare payment at your nearest Post Office. To collect your payment, you will need to bring your:

- PPS number award letter
- Identification

You can continue to get paid at your local Post Office or apply to have your payment made directly into your financial institution. Payments can only be made to an Irish financial institution, a Revolut or N26 account.





#### Changes to your situation

You must let the Department of Social Protection know if there have been any changes to your situation. Examples of changes in your situation include:

- You start work (paid or unpaid), including remote working, in Ireland or elsewhere
- You get any other income
- You move to <u>different accommodation or change your address</u>
- Your spouse, civil partner, cohabitant or child no longer lives with you
- You start a course of education or become a full-time student
- You leave the state

#### **Health Services**

The <u>HSE</u> is Ireland's public healthcare service. As a Beneficiary of Temporary Protection in Ireland, you are entitled to the same healthcare services as people who live in Ireland.

These services include family doctors (GPs), nurses, community care services, hospital or emergency services, children's health services, <u>mental health services</u>, disability services, <u>pregnancy services</u> and older people services.

#### **Medical Cards**

You are entitled to apply for a <u>HSE medical card</u>. During your first year in Ireland you automatically qualify for a UKR medical card. If you have a medical card, you do not have to pay to see your GP or pay for medicines your GP prescribes.

After your first year, you can apply to renew your medical card. Your application is assessed based on your income and certain expenses.

#### Private Health Insurance

Some people in Ireland choose to pay for Private Health insurance. Health insurance covers a portion of the cost, depending on your policy and level of cover, for private care in hospitals or from health professionals in hospitals or in their practices.





#### **Emergency**

In a life-threatening emergency, call 999 or 112 to ask for an ambulance. These numbers are free to call and work on any phone.

The most efficient way of providing your location, particularly in the case of emergency, is through your Eircode. An Eircode is a unique post code allocated to every property in Ireland. It is recommended that you know the Eircode of your place of residence. You can find your Eircode on Eircode.ie.

You can find out more information in Ukrainian, Russian and English on the HSE website.

#### Education

#### Primary and Post Primary School

Children under the age of 18 are entitled to access public primary and postprimary education.

There is a system of <u>Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT)</u> in place to support the education needs of children arriving in Ireland, with the core function of helping children to find school places in Ireland.

#### **Private Education**

People can choose to educate their children in <u>private schools</u> across Ireland for a tuition fee, tuition fees vary depending on the school.

#### **Further and Higher Education**

For people who have already started third level education in Ukraine, you can get information on continuing your third level education in Ireland by contacting the National Student and Researcher (NSR) helpdesk on 01474 7788, or by emailing <a href="mailto:NSRHelpdesk@mu.ie">NSRHelpdesk@mu.ie</a>.

<u>The Right Course</u> has information on types of courses and training, where to search for them, available financial supports and information on career guidance.

## **Employment and Working Conditions**

Once you have received your letter confirming that you have been granted Temporary Protection, you have the right to work in Ireland. You are entitled to the full range of statutory employment rights and protections in the same manner as Irish workers.

The <u>Workplace Relations Commission (WRC)</u> is the State body responsible for employment rights. They have created a document outlining your employment rights. It can be accessed <u>here</u>.





# Irish Residence Permit (IRP) and Temporary Protection (TP) Renewal Process

<u>Temporary Protection</u> is your immigration status, and your <u>IRP card</u> is a small wallet-sized card that shows you are legally in the State. <u>Current TP permission is valid until 4 March 2025</u>. If you wish to avail of permission up to 4 March 2026, you need to apply to renew your permission. <u>Your IRP Card will be processed together with your TP permission</u>. You do not need to apply to renew your IRP Card <u>separately</u>.

Your IRP card is a small wallet-sized card that shows that you are legally in the state and specifies your immigration status. In your case, your immigration status is that you are here under the Temporary Protection Directive.

#### **Application Process**

To apply for your IRP card online, you can do so through the <u>Irish Immigration Service Online website.</u>

You will need to create an account on the ISD portal, using your email address, or log in, if you have an existing account.

Our guidance document on Temporary Protection (TP) and IRP Renewal Process provides more information.



**Irish Immigration Service Online** 



# Rights in relation to travelling within the state and outside the state

You will be able to travel without restriction within the State (Republic of Ireland). However, you should carry your permission letter or your IRP card.

The island of Ireland is divided into two separate jurisdictions: the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Republic of Ireland, which makes up the southern portion of the country, is independent from the United Kingdom, while Northern Ireland is part of the UK. The Republic of Ireland is in the European Union while Northern Ireland is not.

<u>Under the Temporary Protection Directive, you are entitled to travel internationally; you can move freely in the EU with the possibility to move freely in other EU countries for 90 days within a 180-day period.</u>



## **Banking**

An Post (the Irish postal service) has <u>current accounts</u>. If you wish to open a current account, you must bring 3 documents with you:

- One form of photo ID. E.g. passport, driver's licence or Ukrainian national ID card (expired documents will also be accepted)
- Your permission letter from the Department of Justice confirming that you have been granted Temporary Protection or your passport with the immigration stamp you received on arrival into Ireland together with your recently issued PPSN.
- Proof of address.

If you do not have the ID and proof of address that you need to open your current account, you can open a <u>basic bank account</u>. The Irish Banking Culture Board has a <u>Guide to Basic Bank Accounts</u> in Ukrainian.

## **Driving in Ireland**



<u>If you have Temporary Protection status, you can drive on your Ukrainian license in Ireland</u>. It is no longer possible to exchange your Ukrainian license for an Irish driving license.

In order to drive in Ireland, you must have the following documents:

- Valid driving license
- Vehicle title document/registration certificate or vehicle rental agreement
- Valid insurance documentation
- Valid National Car Test (NCT)
- Valid motor tax

For more information on driving in Ireland, you can read our guidance document available here: Resources - Irish Red Cross

