



Report of the Review of the Employment Permits Occupations Lists October 2021

The review of the Employment Permit Occupations Lists commenced with the opening of a public consultation on 1 July, with a closing date of 12 August. Twenty-nine submissions were received by the Department from a range of employers, representative bodies, and NGOs.

The following sectors are featured under this review:

- Agri/Food
- Health/Social Care
- Construction
- Hospitality
- Transport/Logistics
- Aviation
- ICT
- Services

Consideration of the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market has had a significant influence on the outcome of this review, the third review undertaken in the present climate. Changes to the employment permit regime are based on the evidence, submissions received, consultation with key stakeholders and the input of the Economic Migration Interdepartmental Group.

As we emerge from the pandemic, there are many challenges to be faced with actions such as the upskilling and reskilling of the existing workforce essential to ensure Ireland meets the challenges faced by COVID-19, Brexit, automation and by our need to address climate change. The Department will continue to review the employment permits system in light of changing labour market circumstances.

The recommendations of this Review were announced by Minister English on 27 October 2021. The main changes are as follows:

1. Remove the quota for HGV Drivers
2. Remove a number of construction sector occupations from the Ineligible Occupations List
 - Electricians
 - Masons
 - Roofers, roof tilers and slaters
 - Plumbers and heating & ventilating engineers
 - Carpenters & Joiners

- Floorers and wall tilers
 - Painters and Decorators
 - Construction and building trades supervisors
3. Introduce a new quota for Catering and Bar Managers, Hotel and Accommodation Managers, Restaurant and Catering Establishments Managers, and Publicans and Managers of Licensed Premises of 350 with the requirement that the permit holder have the following:
- A recognised relevant third level qualification in hospitality management and
 - 5 years' experience in the role

A strategic review of the framework and quota and any issues arising will follow.

4. Add the occupation of Social Worker to the Critical Skills Occupations List
5. Remove Dispensing Optician from the Ineligible Occupations List
6. Increase the quota for Horticulture Operatives by 1000
7. Increase the quota for Meat Deboner by 500
8. Increase the quota for Meat Processing Operative by 1,500
9. Increase the quota for Dairy Farm Assistants by 100

The agriculture quotas to be followed by a strategic review of labour attraction and retention in the sector.

10. Introduce a new quota for Work Riders of 100

Full details of the amended lists can be found on the Department's website:

[Critical Skills Occupations List](#)

[Ineligible List of Occupations for Employment Permits](#)

A further review will be announced on the Department's website in the coming months.