

Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership

Migration Briefing

The Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (NISMP) works across the spheres of government and between the public, private and third sectors to ensure that Northern Ireland effectively welcomes, supports and integrates new migrants in a way which contributes to economic growth and vibrant, cohesive communities. It provides a regional advisory and consultative function, enabling our partners and other stakeholders to develop an appropriate approach to the management of migration in Northern Ireland. NISMP is hosted by NILGA.

www.migrationni.org

1. NISMP Update

The NISMP website (migrationni.org) is no longer in use. We are currently looking at other models of providing the same or similar service. In the meantime information will continue to be sent to stakeholders through our mailing lists.

NISMP work during this period of lockdown has been focused on supporting the contingency planning for continued delivery of the asylum accommodation and support contracts and to ensure support is in place for asylum seekers, particularly those who are self-isolating.

2. Coronavirus translated resources

NHS Guidelines

Doctors of the World have translations of NHS guidelines in 51 languages, some of which are also in video format. These can be found [here](#).

Additional Support

Migrant Help has collated a number of useful sites on coronavirus support - including wellbeing activities and advice – which can be found [here](#). Some require a good level of English but some are translated.

PHA

PHA have translated a number of pages related to coronavirus which can be found [here](#). To access, the user must be aware of how to use the 'browsealoud' function (icon at the top of the website page)

3. Brexit

EU Settlement Scheme

Information: A step-by-step guide for EU nationals on the EU Settlement scheme can be found [here](#).

Support: Advice NI, The Stronger Together Network, STEP, Law Centre NI and Children's Law Centre are supporting vulnerable EEA nationals living in NI to complete the process of securing settlement under the Home Office's EU Settlement Scheme. For further information go to:

Advice NI: Freephone: 0800 138 6545, Email: euss@adviceni.net, Text 'EUSS' to 66644, Webchat: adviceni.net/EUSS, www.adviceni.net

Stronger Together: www.strongertogetherni.org; Step: www.stepni.org

Training: The Greater London Authority is offering free complex casework training on EUSS, designed to complement existing OISC training. These sessions are open to all caseworkers/organisations across the UK and more information can be found [here](#).

Changes to Immigration Rules: From 24 August 2020 family members of relevant NI citizens will be able to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme. More information on these changes and their implications can be found [here](#).

Post-Brexit Immigration Framework

The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill 2020, passed its second reading in the House of Commons. This bill provides for the introduction of a points-based immigration system. More information on the Bill and on the proposed points based system can be found [here](#).

4. Asylum and Refugee Issues

Asylum Accommodation, Support and Advice Contracts: COVID 19 Contingency

NISMP has been meeting on a weekly basis with contract providers in NI (Mears Housing, Migrant Help/Bryson) and local stakeholders to ensure continued delivery of the contracts and support for asylum seekers, including support to facilitate self-isolation and social distancing. NISMP has also been meeting on a weekly basis with Home Office and other Migration Partnerships to facilitate communication of Northern Ireland priorities into the UK-wide discussions and of changes in national policy to local stakeholders.

Syrian Vulnerable People Relocation Scheme

Councils in Northern Ireland have contributed significantly to the Vulnerable People Relocation Scheme by committing to supporting the relocation to the UK of some of the most vulnerable Syrian families living in refugee camps. To date 1,815 Syrians have been relocated to Northern Ireland. Updated information on the scheme can be found [here](#).

The most recent group arrived in February and all further arrivals have been suspended in light of COVID 19 developments. Resumption is dependent on a number of factors including: the restarting of flights from refugee hosting countries; the lifting of restrictions imposed by the governments of those countries and in the UK; the ability of our international partners (UNHCR and IOM) to operate; and the reopening of the UK's visa application centres.

5. Consultations

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) consultation on skills shortages

On 13th May, the MAC launched a 6-week call on skills shortages. More information on this consultation can be found [here](#). A previous NISMP consultation response which touches on skills shortages in relation to Brexit can be found [here](#). See also the Oxford Economics Report below.

6. Research and Reports

Modern Slavery

NISMP and NILGA, in conjunction with the Department of Justice and the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, have produced a guide for councils on the identifying, reporting and tackling modern slavery in Northern Ireland. "Tackling Modern Slavery: Guidance for Councils" can be downloaded [here](#). For more information on this guide and on next steps, please contact Antoinette Kennedy a.kennedy@nilga.org.

Oxford Economics Report: Impact of Migration Policy on the NI Economy

Oxford Economics has published a report on the assessed impacts on the NI economy of the proposed changes to the immigration system as laid out in the Immigration White Paper. This report was commissioned by the Department for Economy and can be found [here](#).

Irish Travellers Survey

NIHE have published the results of their fourth survey examining Irish Traveller accommodation needs in Northern Ireland. The report can be found [here](#).