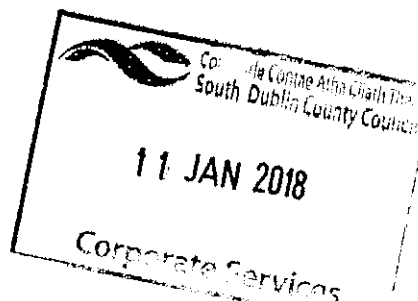


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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Colm Murphy  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24



Reference: M02/1117  
Minister Reference: 1218145813

10 January, 2018

Regarding: Motion Agreed at Meeting of South Dublin County Council held on 13<sup>th</sup>  
November 2017

Dear Mr Murphy,

I am to refer to your correspondence dated 8 December, 2017.

The growing Irish economy and our positive international reputation have maintained the attractiveness of the country to migrants seeking to work, study and settle here. The number of citizens from non-EU countries legally living here at the end of 2016 rose to approximately 115,000, compared to 114,000 at the end of 2015. Visa applications rose by 7% compared to 2015, to more than 124,000.

As part of a programme to civilianise and modernise the delivery of immigration services, the responsibility for registering non-EU residents in Dublin and frontline immigration controls at Dublin Airport transferred from the Garda National Immigration Bureau to INIS. In parallel with the transfer, INIS introduced a number of process changes to manage the demand experienced at the office, especially during September and October, the start of the academic year. For example, in September 2016, an online appointments system for registrations was put in place to allow applicants to book a time slot of their choosing for registration rather than queuing.

Similarly, INIS have modernised the re-entry visa service. In November 2015, an online booking system, was launched to allow customers to book a time for their re-entry visa application at Burgh Quay. Customers may use this service in addition to applying by registered post and there is no need for anyone to queue for a re-entry visa. From the launch of the re-entry visa system to the end of 2016, over 30,000 people have booked an appointment for the service.

The position is that responsibility for work permits for non-EU migrants is vested in the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation. Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation's policy and legislative remit focuses on the skills-based requirements of the labour market and through its links to the labour market and industry, it is best positioned to cater for and react to trends in this area.

Accordingly, the issue of work permits for non-EU migrants falls within their remit. Contact has been made with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and any further response will issue from them in due course.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alan McGreevey', written over a horizontal line.

Alan McGreevey  
Private Secretary to the Minister  
for Justice and Equality