



## **AN OIFIG UM CHOSAINT IDIRNÁISIÚNTA INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OFFICE**

### **INVESTIGATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND CONSIDERATION OF PERMISSION TO REMAIN AFTER 31 DECEMBER 2016**

### **PRELIMINARY INFORMATION NOTE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OFFICE**

(THIS NOTE IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND DOES NOT PURPORT TO PROVIDE A LEGAL INTERPRETATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION ACT, 2015)

#### **1. Who will deal with my international protection application after 31 December 2016?**

Following the commencement of the International Protection Act 2015 on 31 December 2016, new arrangements for the investigation and determination of applications for international protection (refugee status and subsidiary protection) and cases involving permission to remain in the State have been introduced. Such applications will be processed, as part of a single application procedure, by a new International Protection Office (IPO) which has replaced the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC) from that date. Staff from the ORAC have transferred to the new IPO.

#### **2. What is the International Protection Office?**

The International Protection Office has been established within the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service. It comprises, inter alia, a chief international protection officer and international protection officers who are designated as independent in the performance of their international protection functions by the International Protection Act 2015.

#### **3. Where is the International Protection Office located?**

The address of the International Protection Office is

**International Protection Office,  
Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service,  
79-83 Lower Mount Street,  
Dublin 2.  
D02 ND99**

**4. If I am a new applicant for international protection where can I claim international protection?**

By applying for international protection, you are requesting that the Minister for Justice and Equality considers whether you qualify for a refugee declaration *or* a subsidiary protection declaration. The application form/questionnaire to be completed by you in connection with your application for international protection will also contain questions on matters to do with permission to remain and family reunification.

You must make your application **in person** to the Minister. You should do this as soon as possible, either at the airport or seaport where you arrived in Ireland or (after entry to the State), at the

**International Protection Office,  
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**5. If my application for refugee status or subsidiary protection was made to ORAC before 31 December 2016 or I have a refugee status appeal lodged with the Refugee Appeals Tribunal before that date, what happens my application now?**

In most cases you will have already been written to in December 2016 by the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service and informed that

- (i) the International Protection Act 2015 (the 2015 Act) contains transitional provisions dealing with (i) applications for refugee status and subsidiary protection lodged with ORAC and (ii) appeals lodged with RAT prior to the commencement of the 2015 Act.
- (ii) insofar as it is required under the transitional provisions in the 2015 Act, the International Protection Office will be in touch with you **in January 2017** if the new procedures in the International Protection Act 2015 will apply to your existing application or appeal. You may also be asked at that time to provide additional information to assist in the processing of your application. **Please note that you do not need to take any action until you hear from us.**

**6. What happens if I change my address over the coming weeks while awaiting a communication from the International Protection Office?**

In the event that you change your address please advise us by contacting (**in writing**) the Customer Service Centre, International Protection Office, 79/83 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2.

A copy of an *Information Booklet for Applicants for International Protection (IPO 1)* can be found in a number of languages on the website of the International Protection Office ([www.ipd.gov.ie](http://www.ipd.gov.ie)).

**3 January 2017**