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INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OFFICE

**ADDENDUM No. 2 TO THE INFORMATION BOOKLET FOR APPLICANTS FOR
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (IPO 1)**

INFORMATION NOTICE

**Designation by the Minister for Justice and Equality of certain Countries as Safe
Countries of Origin under the International Protection Act, 2015**

Under section 72 of the International Protection Act, 2015 and the International Protection Act 2015 (Safe Countries of Origin) Order 2018 (Statutory Instrument no 121 of 2018), the Minister for Justice and Equality has designated the following countries as safe countries of origin **with effect from Monday, 16 April 2018**.

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of), Montenegro, Serbia and South Africa.

If you are an applicant for international protection in the State from one of these countries, your application will have a full consideration on its merits in the International Protection Office (IPO). However, the following situation will apply for the purposes of its assessment:

- (i) Your application for international protection may be prioritised for interview;
- (ii) Your country will be considered to be a safe country of origin in relation to your application where you do not submit any serious grounds for considering the country not to be a safe country of origin in your particular circumstances and in terms of your eligibility for international protection.
- (iii) If the recommendation of an International Protection Officer is that you should be given **neither** a refugee declaration nor a subsidiary protection declaration, the finding that you are from a safe country of origin may be included in the section 39 Report of the examination of your application.
- (iv) Where such a finding is made, any appeal lodged by you to the International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT) must be made by notice in writing within 10 working days from the date of the sending of the notification of the recommendation by the Minister.
- (v) Unless the IPAT considers it is not in the interests of justice to do so, it shall make its decision in relation to the appeal without holding an oral hearing.

**International Protection Office
20 April 2018**