

# Temporary Protection Ireland

2023 Update

This annex on temporary protection complements and should be read together with the [AIDA Country Report on Ireland](#).

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# Temporary Protection Procedure

## A. General

Temporary protection refers to an exceptional measure to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons from non-EU countries and those unable to return to their country of origin.<sup>1</sup> Temporary Protection is established in EU law pursuant to the Temporary Protection Directive,<sup>2</sup> which was introduced in 2001. While Ireland did not initially implement the Directive, the State subsequently opted in on 11 April 2003. The Directive was deemed to apply in Ireland from 31 December 2003.<sup>3</sup>

### Main legislative acts relevant to temporary protection

Title	Web Link
International Protection Act 2015 Section 60	<a href="http://bit.ly/2inFha1">http://bit.ly/2inFha1</a> (EN)
Social Welfare and Civil law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024 Section 1, 11	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/mpknmwtn">https://tinyurl.com/mpknmwtn</a> (EN)
Social Welfare and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024 (Chapter 2 of Part 4) (Commencement) Order 2024 (S.I. No. 95 of 2024)	<a href="https://tinyurl.com/2j7ktpjt">https://tinyurl.com/2j7ktpjt</a> (EN)

The Directive is transposed into Irish law pursuant to s.60 of the International Protection Act from 2015. Section 60(2) of the 2015 Act provides for permission for displaced persons to enter and remain in the State pursuant to a Council Decision under the TPD, whereby the individual's personal data is entered onto a register maintained by the Minister for Justice.<sup>4</sup> Section 60(7) states that permission shall be for a period of one year and may be renewed.

As per s.60(1) of the 2015 Act, beneficiaries of temporary protection are entitled to engage in employment or self-employment and access education on the same basis as an Irish citizen. Beneficiaries of temporary protection are also entitled to receive the same medical care and social welfare benefits and right of travel within the State as Irish citizens.

Subject to s.60(8) temporary protection may be revoked whereby the Council has ended temporary protection, where the person has been transferred to another Member State, or where the person has been excluded from temporary protection for one the reasons established in s.60(3) of the 2015 Act.<sup>5</sup>

Temporary protection was first activated in Ireland following the European Council's decision in March 2022 in response to the war in Ukraine; on 16 February 2023 was subsequently extended for an additional year, until March 2024,<sup>6</sup> and lastly on 28 September 2023 Member States agreed to extend TPD until March 2025, i.e. the full three years foreseen by the Directive.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Section 60(1), International Protection Act 2015, available at: <https://bit.ly/42wSMY9>.

<sup>2</sup> Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof [2001] OJ L 212/12, available at: <http://bit.ly/409uJhu>.

<sup>3</sup> Bar of Ireland, 'A Primer on The Temporary Protection Directive – Alternative protection for those fleeing Ukraine', 9 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/45a4yK0>.

<sup>4</sup> Section 60(8), International Protection Act 2015, available at: <https://bit.ly/42wSMY9>.

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*, s.60(3).

<sup>6</sup> Department of Justice, 'Extension of Temporary Protection Permissions', 17 February 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/41Hvvli>.

<sup>7</sup> UNHCR Ireland, 'Temporary Protection', available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3wh52b34>.

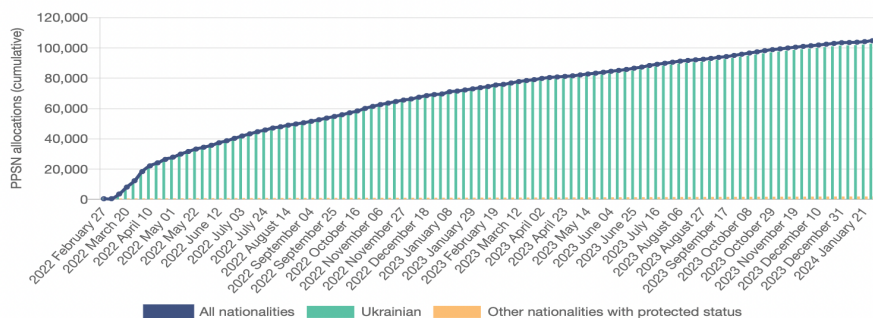
As of 4 February 2024, **104, 870** individuals had registered for temporary protection in Ireland.<sup>8</sup>

The following table indicates a breakdown of the total number of applicants for temporary protection by gender and age based on Personal Public Services Number allocation:<sup>9</sup>

Age Group	Both Sexes	Male	Female
0 - 4 years	4, 731	2, 269	2, 462
5 - 9 years	8, 834	4, 505	4,329
10-14 years	9, 689	5, 009	4, 680
15-19 years	9, 197	5, 105	4, 092
20-24 years	6, 359	2, 153	4, 206
25-29 years	7, 304	2, 653	4, 651
30-34 years	8, 858	3, 260	5,598
35-39 years	10, 840	3, 770	7, 070
40-44 years	9, 600	3, 201	6, 399
45 – 49 years	7, 182	2, 271	4, 911
50 – 54 years	5, 377	1, 568	3, 809
55 – 59 years	4, 136	983	3, 153
60 – 64 years	4, 844	1, 649	3, 195
65 and over	7, 919	2, 437	5,482
<b>All ages</b>	<b>104, 870</b>	<b>41, 026</b>	<b>63, 844</b>

Additionally, the following graph, produced by the Central Statistics Office, demonstrates the cumulative number of arrivals in the State per month since the onset of the war in February 2022<sup>10</sup>:

**PPSN Allocations to arrivals from Ukraine per month since February 2022:**



**Source:** Central Statistics Office, February 2024.

<sup>8</sup> Central Statistics Office, ‘Arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland Series 12, 4 February 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2r53f25n>.

<sup>9</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Central Statistics Office, ‘Arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland Series 12, 4 February 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2r53f25n>.

While the exact number of persons present in the State who were displaced but do not fall within the remit of the TPD is unknown, the Irish Refugee Council does, from time to time, meet with individuals who have fled the conflict but are nevertheless ineligible for temporary protection. In the vast majority of cases, such individuals are left with little choice but to seek international protection.<sup>11</sup>

## B. Qualification for temporary protection

Applicants can avail of temporary protection to reside in Ireland whereby they are:

- ❖ A Ukrainian national living in Ukraine before 24 February 2022;
- ❖ A third country national (a non-EU country other than Ukraine) or stateless person with refugee status or an equivalent national protection status in Ukraine living there before 24 February 2022;
- ❖ A ‘family member’ of one of the categories of persons above, who was resident in Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022. A ‘family member’ in this instance is defined as a spouse or unmarried partner in a stable relationship, minor unmarried children, or the minor children of the beneficiary’s spouse, without distinction as to whether they were born in or out of wedlock or adopted; as well as any other close relatives who lived together as part of the family unit at the time of the circumstances surrounding the mass influx of displaced persons, and who were wholly or mainly dependent on the beneficiary;
- ❖ Stateless persons, and nationals of third countries other than Ukraine, who can prove that they were legally residing in Ukraine before 24 February 2022 on the basis of a valid permanent residence permit issued in accordance with Ukrainian law, and who are unable to return in safe and durable conditions to their country or region of origin. Member States may also apply this Decision to other persons, including to stateless persons and to nationals of third countries other than Ukraine, who were residing legally in Ukraine and who are unable to return in safe and durable conditions to their country or region of origin.<sup>12</sup>

With regard to the latter two categories, the Irish Refugee Council’s Ukraine Support Team report that whether such individuals are granted temporary protection in practice is somewhat inconsistent and dependant on the factors of individual cases. For example, whereby a family is comprised of both individuals who are citizens of Ukraine and other third country nationals, then temporary protection may be refused to a third country national in circumstances whereby it is considered for the individual to return to the country concerned. However, exceptions may be made whereby the family member concerned is particularly vulnerable.<sup>13</sup>

Ukrainian nationals who were at the time of the initial Council decision, present in Ireland on a short stay ‘C’ visa can also receive temporary protection. Ukrainian nationals who were present in Ireland on another immigration permit or stamp (e.g. student or employment permits) at the time of the initial Council decision were allowed to decide whether to further extend or renew their existing permit, or to avail themselves of Temporary Protection.<sup>14</sup>

In all other circumstances, whereby an individual arrived in Ireland from Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022, they are deemed ineligible for temporary protection. However, they may instead apply for international protection or some alternative form of migration permit.

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<sup>11</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council Information and Advocacy Service, April 2024.

<sup>12</sup> Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection, 4 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/42QDBJM>.

<sup>13</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council Ukraine Support Team, April 2024.

<sup>14</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, ‘Temporary Protection’, 10 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3InVNSE>.

In April 2023, the Irish Authorities confirmed that, in accordance with the Council decision, Temporary Protection status had been extended until March 2024. Current status holders were not required to obtain updated certificates and originally issued certificates remained valid. A notice of confirmation was printed on the Immigration Service Delivery's website which could be used upon request from foreign immigration authorities or travel carriers.<sup>15</sup>

Subsequently, in September 2023, the government began contacting Temporary Protection Status holders on a phased basis in order to confirm their address and personal details with a view to begin issuing Irish Residence Permits to beneficiaries of Temporary Protection.<sup>16</sup>

From January 4, 2024, all current residence permits granted on the basis of temporary protection have been automatically extended until March 4, 2025. All future grants of temporary protection will also be valid until March 4<sup>th</sup> 2025.<sup>17</sup>

## C. Access to temporary protection and registration

### 1. Admission to territory

On 25 February 2022, in response to the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the Irish Government announced, pursuant to the Immigration Act 2004 (Visas) (Amendment) Order 2022, the immediate lifting of visa requirements for Ukrainian citizens seeking to travel to Ireland.<sup>18</sup>

The visa waiver applies only to Ukrainian nationals. Non-EEA nationals, if they were visa required nationals, would still need a visa to enter Ireland. Those who travel to Ireland under the visa waiver will have a period of 90 days in which to regularise their status in the State.<sup>19</sup>

As of April 2024, the visa waiver continued to apply.

There have been no known reports of persons fleeing from Ukraine refused entry at the Irish border, nor have there been any reports of refusal of entry or other difficulties for beneficiaries of temporary protection re-entering the state after having returned to Ukraine.

### 2. Freedom of movement

The Irish Government asked all airline carriers to accept government-issued identity documents, not usually accepted for the purposes of international travel, in lieu of a national passport for people seeking protection: including, national ID Cards, birth certificates, internal passports, and expired passports.<sup>20</sup> However, it should be noted that immigration authorities and transportation carriers must be satisfied with the identification of any individual arriving at a border. In addition, the state requested that no one seeking protection bound for Ireland be denied boarding without first contacting Irish immigration authorities.<sup>21</sup>

### 3. Registration under temporary protection

At the outset of the conflict, a reception centre opened at the Dublin Airport in order to process applications for temporary protection in respect of persons arriving in Ireland from Ukraine. Individuals were provided

<sup>15</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'Travel Confirmation Notice', 5 January 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3j89a636>.

<sup>16</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'Introduction of Irish Resident Permit (IRP) cards for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection', 20 September 2023, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/37mz89pv>.

<sup>17</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'Extension of Temporary Protection Permissions', 5 January 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4y9pmu66>.

<sup>18</sup> Immigration Act 2004 (Visas) (Amendment) Order 2022.

<sup>19</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23 December 2022, updated 4 March 2024, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.

<sup>20</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum, 'Temporary Protection: Ireland', June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3oalZJV>.

with Temporary Protection certificates, Personal Public Service numbers, medical cards and other relevant supports and advice. The Department of Justice and the Department of Children established offices in the centre and the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) supported the operation of the facility. Translation services were also provided where required.<sup>22</sup>

Further Ukraine Support Centres were subsequently established in Dublin city centre, Limerick, and Cork.<sup>23</sup> As of December 2022, operations at the Dublin Airport and Dublin city centre had ceased and instead moved to Citywest Convention Centre in west Dublin. Individuals arriving in Dublin Airport were brought directly to Citywest where they could apply for Temporary Protection and a PPS number. Individuals arriving at Rosslare Port could apply for Temporary Protection at the Port reception centre, while individuals arriving at Cork and Shannon airports could apply at the Cork and Limerick support centres respectively.<sup>24</sup> As of April 2024, applications for temporary protection continued to be accepted at Citywest, as well as at regional support centres in Cork and Limerick.<sup>25</sup> While there is no particular timeline established in law in which persons are required to apply for Temporary Protection, the visa waiver applies only for an initial period of 90-days, so it is advisable that individuals register for temporary protection during this time.

The Department of Justice is responsible for the registration of temporary protection applications. Upon arrival at Citywest Convention centre, applicants are met by representatives of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and are assisted in completing the relevant forms required for registration. Applicants are then issued with a Personal Public Service number by the Department of Social Protection, permitting them access to social welfare and public services in Ireland.<sup>26</sup> Finally, Immigration Officers record the details of each applicant, applicants are photographed and copies of their passport and other ID documents are made.

In order to demonstrate eligibility for temporary protection, applicants should provide identity and travel documents, as well as any supporting documents (e.g. marriage certificate, birth certificate, adoption certificate etc.), and any other essential information which proves that the requirements of temporary protection are met. Applicants are typically required to evidence by way of relevant exit stamp in their passport that they were present in Ukraine on or after the outbreak of the war on 24 February 2022. Where an applicant fails to provide such evidence, the Irish Refugee Council are aware of reports of applicants being required to supply other documentary evidence, for example, receipts or bank statements evidencing their presence in Ukraine at the outbreak of the war.<sup>27</sup> According to the Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, it is preferable for such evidence to be in electronic format.<sup>28</sup>

Where an applicant has been determined to comply with the requirements of the Directive, a certificate confirming temporary protection under the EU Directive is issued to the applicant by the Department of Justice. This certificate confers the holder with permission to reside in Ireland for a period of 1 year, which may be extended for further periods in accordance with the Directive.<sup>29</sup>

In the experience of the Irish Refugee Council, at the outset of the conflict, persons who arrived in Ireland from Ukraine in possession of long-stay visas for certain countries, in particular Canada and the United Kingdom, were refused temporary protection, despite being eligible. Additionally, those who had fled Ukraine and subsequently resided in other countries without a valid immigration permission were also

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<sup>22</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>23</sup> Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Roderic O'Gorman, Response to Parliamentary Question Nos 8, 13, 19, 30, 50, 65, 72, 73, 298 and 306, 24 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3jZ13D8>.

<sup>24</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, FAQs – for Ukraine nationals and Residents of Ukraine, 6 January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3jP6F2y>.

<sup>25</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council Ukraine Support Team, April 2024.

<sup>26</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum, 'Temporary Protection: Ireland', June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3oaIZJV>.

<sup>27</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>28</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council Ukraine Support Team, May 2024.

<sup>29</sup> *ibid.*



refused, despite being otherwise eligible. The exact reasons for this practice are unclear.<sup>30</sup> This practice appeared to have ceased as of April 2024.<sup>31</sup>

There is no established appeals mechanism whereby an applicant can challenge a decision to refuse temporary protection. However, according to the Department of Justice, depending on the individual circumstances of the applicant, it may be possible for them to re-present to Immigration Officials at Citywest or one of the dedicated Ukraine Support Centres to submit new evidence demonstrating that they fall within the remit of the Directive.<sup>32</sup> Where such evidence is accepted, the applicant may be granted temporary protection in the State.

In the experience of the Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support team, there have been no practical difficulties for applicants in registering for temporary protection. The Citywest Transit Hub is staffed by trained volunteers and interpreters who are supported by IOM staff. The system is streamlined so that registration is conducted, and documentation is received by applicants expeditiously.<sup>33</sup>

#### 4. Legal assistance

There is no dedicated legal assistance service for beneficiaries of temporary protection in Ireland. Various NGOs have, since the outset of the conflict, offered free legal advice and information services to persons requiring them. Beneficiaries of temporary protection may also access assistance for a variety of legal matters through the Legal Aid Board, a statutory body responsible for the provision of civil and criminal legal aid and advice, on the same basis as Irish citizens, should they meet the eligibility criteria.<sup>34</sup>

#### 5. Information provision and access to NGOs

On arrival at a port of entry in Ireland, individuals seeking temporary protection are guided to a specific area at immigration control whereby they will be met by an immigration officer, an interpreter and a representative of IOM. If an applicant indicates that they wish to apply for Temporary Protection, they will then be transported to the Citywest Transit hub by bus where they will be assisted in making their application.<sup>35</sup>

The law does not provide for the provision of information to temporary protection beneficiaries. However, all beneficiaries are provided with written information regarding particular services available to them while in Ireland. This information is provided in Ukrainian, Russian, and English.<sup>36</sup>

The Immigration Service Delivery has prepared two documents for persons seeking temporary protection, 'Information on Temporary Protection for People fleeing the conflict in Ukraine'<sup>37</sup> and a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document.<sup>38</sup> Both documents are published in English on the Immigration Service Delivery website.

Non-governmental organisations, citizens information services and community groups have also compiled information which is widely available for beneficiaries of temporary protection. Many immigration advocacy services have also established information and advice services staffed by Ukrainian and Russian speakers in order to provide information and support to beneficiaries of temporary protection.

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<sup>30</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>31</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, April 2024.

<sup>32</sup> Information provided by Department of Justice, May 2022.

<sup>33</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>34</sup> Legal Aid Board, 'Financial Eligibility and Contributions', available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3nu9x54x>.

<sup>35</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, "Information on Temporary Protection for People fleeing the conflict in Ukraine", 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/458iS5E>.

<sup>38</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.



## D. Guarantees for vulnerable groups

There is no specific identification mechanism in place providing for the identification of individuals entitled to temporary protection who require specific procedural guarantees. All individuals are met by an immigration officer upon arrival at the relevant point of entry and will be assisted by an interpreter and an IOM representative.<sup>39</sup>

Where an applicant is identified as an unaccompanied minor, they will be met by a representative of TUSLA and taken into the care of the State.<sup>40</sup>

The Health Service Executive (HSE) are also present at the Citywest Transfer Hub in order to conduct health screenings in respect of persons arriving from Ukraine. Applicants requiring further medical attention or assessment will be sign posted to relevant services.<sup>41</sup>

In relation to mental health support, at the onset of the conflict, the Ukrainian community in Ireland created a list of Ukrainian-speaking psychotherapists from Kyiv Gestalt University who are providing free counselling to those impacted by the conflict.<sup>42</sup> Additionally, the 'Call Tanya Helpline' was established on 17 April 2023, by the migrant-led organisation, Together Razeem, in order to provide confidential psychosocial support to Ukrainians in Ireland who are experiencing distress due to displacement and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Trained call ambassadors are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00 to provide psycho-social support in Ukrainian and Russian.<sup>43</sup>

Counselling and Psychotherapy is provided free of charge to displaced Ukrainians by MyMind. Counselling is provided through Ukrainian and Russian speaking counsellors and psychologists and supported by the Health Service Executive.<sup>44</sup> Specialised treatment and psychosocial support for torture survivors is mainly provided by SPIRASI, which receives some funding from the Health Service Executive. Organisations such as Aware and the Irish Red Cross also have resources and psychological supports available to Ukrainians living in Ireland.<sup>45</sup>

Turn2me, a national mental health charity, is offering all Ukrainians staying in Ireland up to 6 free one-to-one counselling sessions. The charity is also offering free online support groups for Ukrainians. The initiative is funded by a grant from the Community Foundation Ireland, as part of the Ireland for Ukraine project.<sup>46</sup> Sessions are conducted by a mental health professional, in English. Ukrainians will be connected to psychotherapists who have experience working with clients who have been through a traumatic event.

Finally, the National Psychological Association of Ukraine (NPA) has set up a toll-free Irish helpline number to support Ukrainians in need of psychological support, The helpline operates from 10:00am-20:00pm daily and all psychologists are provided with specialist training. The helpline is supported by the UN, the EU, and the governments of Denmark and Canada.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>40</sup> *ibid.* For further information regarding the care system, please see: ECRE and Irish Refugee Council, 'Country Report – Republic of Ireland', available [here](#).

<sup>41</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> Help Ukraine Ireland, 'Counselling Services for Ukrainians', March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/43cFfFu>.

<sup>43</sup> Irish Examiner, 'National Psychological support helpline for Ukrainian refugees to be launched in Cork', 17 April 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/42SIPFR>.

<sup>44</sup> MyMind, 'Free Counselling for Displaced Ukrainians', available at: <https://mymind.org/ukrainianproject>.

<sup>45</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council Ukraine Support Team, May 2024.

<sup>46</sup> Turn2Me, 'Turn2Me Offering Free Counselling to Ukrainians', available at: <https://tinyurl.com/5k93hhzc>.

<sup>47</sup> Psychological Society of Ireland, 'Time of War Resources' available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yw6z5jte>.

## Content of Temporary Protection

### A. Status and residence

#### 1. Residence permit

##### Indicators: Residence permit

1. What is the duration of residence permits granted to beneficiaries of temporary protection?  
1 year (renewable)
2. How many residence permits were issued to beneficiaries from the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive?  
**104,870** as of the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024<sup>48</sup>

Upon obtaining temporary protection, beneficiaries of temporary protection are issued with a Certificate of Temporary Protection. Certificates are issued by the Department of Justice and can be obtained following registration at Citywest Processing hub in West Dublin or one of the dedicated Ukraine Support Centres located in Cork and Limerick.

In order to demonstrate eligibility for temporary protection, applicants should be able to present identity and travel documents, as well as any supporting documents (e.g. marriage certificate, birth certificate, adoption certificate etc.), and any other essential information which proves that the eligibility requirements for temporary protection are met. Applicants are typically required to evidence, by way of relevant exit stamp in their passport, that they were present in Ukraine on or after the outbreak of the war on 24 February 2022. Where an applicant fails to provide such evidence, the Irish Refugee Council was made aware of cases in which applicants were required to supply other documentary evidence, for example, receipts, evidencing their presence in Ukraine at the moment of the war outbreak.<sup>49</sup>

Where an applicant has been determined as eligible for temporary protection, a certificate confirming their status is issued to the applicant by the Department of Justice. This certificate confers the holder the permission to reside in Ireland for a period of up to 1 year, which may be automatically extended for further periods in accordance with the Directive.<sup>50</sup> Certificates do not contain an expiry date and remain valid until the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025.<sup>51</sup>

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection may subsequently register their permission in the State and are entitled to an Irish Residence Permit (IRP) card for the duration of their temporary protection permission in Ireland.<sup>52</sup> It should be noted that in practice, in order to open a bank account, or access employment, beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are required to possess an IRP card.<sup>53</sup> Expired IRP cards may be renewed online whereby the applicant lives in Dublin. However, applicants residing outside Dublin must contact the Department of Justice by email in order to request a renewal.<sup>54</sup>

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in Ireland may transfer their residence to another EU Member State, however, persons wishing to do so must ensure to withdraw their temporary protection status in Ireland after having taken up Temporary Protection in another Member State.<sup>55</sup> In order to do so,

<sup>48</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland Series 12, 4 February 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2r53f25n>.

<sup>49</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>50</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'Information on Temporary Protection for People fleeing the conflict in Ukraine', 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/458iS5E>.

<sup>51</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'Travel Confirmation', 5 January 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3j89a636>.

<sup>52</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'Registration Renewal – Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection', 20 March 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3rapbyc4>.

<sup>53</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, April 2024.

<sup>54</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

applicants can submit a request in writing along with a copy of their passport to the Department of Justice, or alternatively, attend the Citywest Transfer Hub.<sup>56</sup>

## 2. Access to asylum

There is no requirement for those fleeing the war in Ukraine to seek international protection in order to receive support and protection upon arrival in Ireland. While individuals eligible for temporary protection can instead choose to seek international protection, they cannot do so while benefitting from temporary protection at the same time. Once registered under the Temporary Protection Directive, it is possible for a beneficiary to instead apply for international protection, provided they first renounce their temporary protection status. Equally, it is possible for someone who has previously applied for international protection to subsequently register for temporary protection, provided they withdraw their asylum application and meet the qualifying criteria for temporary protection.<sup>57</sup>

There have been no issues reported regarding access to the the international protection process in respect of those entitled to temporary protection. However, it should be noted that the asylum procedure has a significant length at present. Throughout 2022, the median processing time for first instance decisions was approximately 18 months.<sup>58</sup> The EU temporary protection directive provides a quicker and more streamlined process in these circumstances. Temporary protection provides beneficiaries with immediate access to the labour market, along with access to social welfare income supports and accommodation. If an applicant chooses to apply for asylum, they will not be permitted to access employment until 6 months after making their initial application for protection. Moreover, international protection applicants are not permitted to access social welfare supports in the State and are instead provided with a a weekly stipend, known as the Daily Expense Allowance, in the amount of € 38.80 per week.

422 applications for international protection were made by Ukrainian nationals in 2022. It is not known whether they would be automatically entitled to temporary protection as some of those applications may have been lodged prior to 24 February 2022.<sup>59</sup> The total number of applicants for international protection made by Ukrainian nations throughout 2023 was not available. However, **110** Ukrainian nationals were granted international protection or permission to remain throughout 2023.<sup>60</sup>

## B. Family reunification

### 1. Family reunification as provided under the Temporary Protection Directive

The Council Implementing Decision provides for family reunification for beneficiaries of temporary protection with spouses or partners, or any children under the age of 18.<sup>61</sup> As a beneficiary of temporary protection, it is possible to activate a family reunification procedure, either in Ireland or in another Member State of the EU whereby the spouse, partner or child holds temporary protection in another EU member State. This is subject to cooperation between Ireland and the Member State concerned.<sup>62</sup> At the time of updating, there was no established mechanism by which to facilitate family reunification in Ireland. This remained the case as of April 2024. In the experience of the Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support

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<sup>56</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>57</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.

<sup>58</sup> Acting Minister for Justice Simon Harris, Response to Parliamentary Question No 558, 31 January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3X56bmM>.

<sup>59</sup> Breaking News, 'Almost 450 Ukrainians have entered Direct Provision since start of last year', 1 March 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3BTGVrv>.

<sup>60</sup> Information provided by International Protection Office, April 2024.

<sup>61</sup> Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection, 4 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/42QDBJM>.

<sup>62</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.

Team, the vast majority of applicants seeking family reunification in Ireland claimed temporary protection independently of their family members. However, it is sometimes the case that a family member may be refused temporary protection for various reasons. Moreover, whereby family members arrive in Ireland and seek temporary protection at different times, they are often not accommodated together.<sup>63</sup>

## 2. Family reunification beyond the Temporary Protection Directive

The provisions of the International Protection Act 2015 expressly provide for family reunification with core family members, however, beneficiaries of temporary protection do not constitute 'qualified persons' for the purpose of the Act and thus, cannot benefit from family reunification provisions pursuant to s.56. This difficulty is circumvented by the family reunification option provided under the TPD and the Council Implementing Decision directly (see [Family reunification as provided under the Temporary Protection Directive](#)).

### C. Movement and mobility

Freedom of movement within the State is not restricted by law, and beneficiaries of temporary protection are afforded the same liberties as Irish citizens.

However, in practice, freedom of movement is restricted for some beneficiaries of Temporary Protection residing in International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) accommodation. This is due to IPAS rules which restrict residents' ability to freely leave and subsequently re-access their accommodation following a period of absence.

From 31 of March 2022 to October 2023, beneficiaries of Temporary Protection were permitted to take one short-term absence in exceptional circumstances (a maximum of 7 non-cumulative days) over a 6-month calendar period. Residents were obliged to notify their accommodation provider of their planned absence and were required to complete an Absence Notification Form and submit same to IPAS. Absences were considered on a case-by-case basis by IPAS and applicants were required to remain in regular contact with their accommodation provider and provide updates on the duration of their proposed absence.<sup>64</sup>

From the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, in response to the constrained supply of IPAS accommodation, a revised absence protocol came into place, whereby beneficiaries of temporary protection are only permitted to be absent from State-funded accommodation in exceptional circumstances. The previous allowance of one, short-term absence of 7 calendar days was suspended.<sup>65</sup>

Approval for absences in exceptional circumstances must be sought in advance from IPAS' Ukraine Crisis Temporary Accommodation Team (UCTAT) who will consider all applications on a case-by-case basis. Whereby an absence is taken without approval, accommodation may be re-allocated, and no further offer of accommodation will be made to the applicant.

The updated protocol also gives applicants the option to relinquish their accommodation to allow for non-exceptional travel. Any applicant who chooses to do so will be permitted to re-apply for accommodation upon their return to Ireland whereby accommodation is available. However, it should be noted that there is no guarantee that the new offer will be of similar quality to the accommodation that was vacated, or that the accommodation provided will be in the same area.<sup>66</sup> The Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team have received several reports from individuals who were not offered re-accommodation in

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<sup>63</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2024.

<sup>64</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Short term accommodation: Refusals Protocol for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from Ukraine', 24 November 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/43fTokZ>.

<sup>65</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Absence Protocol: Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from Ukraine', 10 October 2023, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4sr75jyw>.

<sup>66</sup> *ibid.*

circumstances whereby they voluntarily relinquished their accommodation, or left the State for a period and returned.<sup>67</sup>

Thus, while there are no constraints with regard to beneficiaries of temporary protection leaving the State temporarily, should they wish to do so, as indicated above, this may result in a loss of accommodation whereby the travel is not for an exceptional purpose.

At present, there is no notification system in place by which beneficiaries of temporary protection are required to advise the State of their intention to travel. However, beneficiaries who leave the State may still require a visa to travel. Beneficiaries planning to travel and subsequently return to Ireland should retain their Temporary Protection Certificate and show same to the immigration authorities on re-entering the country. Ukrainian nationals and nationals of any other country that are eligible for the visa waiver need not take any additional steps when returning to Ireland.<sup>68</sup>

There have been no known reports of persons fleeing from Ukraine refused entry at the Irish border, nor have there been any reports of loss of temporary protection status or refusal of entry for beneficiaries of temporary protection re-entering the state after having returned to Ukraine.

It should be noted that beneficiaries who are receiving social welfare supports from the State should notify the Department of Social Protection if they intend to be outside of the country for a period greater than two weeks. Pursuant to s.249(6) of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005, payments may be made administratively for up to two weeks in any calendar year in respect of periods of absence from the State. On that basis, temporary periods of absence of up to two weeks may be facilitated. Beneficiaries' payment will be suspended for a two-week period and paid upon their return. Where a beneficiary is going to be absent from the State for a period greater than two weeks, they will be required to close their claim and reapply for income supports upon their return.<sup>69</sup> It should be noted that the Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team have received reports from beneficiaries of Temporary Protection of administrative delays in re-opening social welfare claims upon return to State.<sup>70</sup>

## D. Housing

### Indicators: Housing

1. For how long are temporary protection beneficiaries entitled to stay in reception centres?  
90 days<sup>71</sup>
2. Number of beneficiaries staying in reception centres as of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024      49,595<sup>72</sup>
3. Number of beneficiaries staying in private accommodation as of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024      18,352<sup>73</sup>

Individuals requiring immediate accommodation by the State have been housed in facilities contracted by IPAS.

<sup>67</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council Ukraine Support Team, April 2024.

<sup>68</sup> Information provided by Department of Justice, October 2022.

<sup>69</sup> Department of Social Protection, 'Operational Guidelines, 20 June 2019, available at: <https://bit.ly/42Xnev0>.

<sup>70</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, April 2024.

<sup>71</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Changes to Accommodation for People Fleeing War in Ukraine', 13 March 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/44wyeshh>.

<sup>72</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection – Weekly Statistics', 15 April 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/bdrypvkf>.

<sup>72</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Arrivals from Ukraine in Ireland Series 12, 4 February 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2r53f25n>.

<sup>73</sup> *ibid.* **Note:** This figure includes both persons who have moved into pledged accommodation, as well as those who have moved into Offer a Home scheme accommodation.



IPAS Accommodation was previously provided through different channels including hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts, hostels, repurposed institutional religious buildings and local authority facilities. Beneficiaries of temporary protection could remain in such accommodation indefinitely.<sup>74</sup>

However, in March 2024, in response to a shortage in available accommodation, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, announced changes to the accommodation of newly arrived beneficiaries of temporary protection. Legislation was introduced pursuant to the Social Welfare and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024, in order to give effect to these changes.<sup>75</sup>

Under the revised approach, as of the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2024,<sup>76</sup> anyone who registers for temporary protection in the State and seeks state-provided accommodation, will be accommodated by IPAS for a maximum period of 90-days. During this period, beneficiaries of Temporary Protection will be provided with food, laundry, other services and integration supports in Designated Accommodation Centres. At present six accommodation centres have been identified as 'Designated Accommodation Centres' and these centres are located throughout the country. Accommodation comprises of tents, modular buildings and large halls. While living at designated centres, there will be a focus on orientation with regard to living and working in Ireland, as well as options for sourcing accommodation independently or through pledged or hosted accommodation.<sup>77</sup> Following 90 days, applicants must leave the designated accommodation and will not be permitted to return. Applicants are required to source independent accommodation in the community and will continue to be permitted to access rent supplement, however, cannot apply for Housing Assistance Payment or access homeless services. Applicants may also access pledged accommodation or hosting arrangements.<sup>78</sup>

Social welfare payments are reduced under the revised arrangements. Previously, beneficiaries of Temporary Protection living in state-provided accommodation were entitled to social welfare supports equivalent to those available to Irish citizens. However, under the revised accommodation arrangements, a weekly allowance of €38.80 per adult and €29.80 per child is provided to residents while accommodated in designated centres. Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection remain entitled to child benefit payment (€140.00 per child per month). Whereby an individual subsequently leaves the designated centre, or whereby they make their own accommodation arrangements on arrival, they will be entitled to apply for social welfare assistance, equivalent to that which is offered to Irish citizens, subject to meeting the requisite eligibility conditions.<sup>79</sup>

Applicants will also have access to education, health services and employment support while resident in designated centres, however, whereby children require access to primary and secondary education, it is advised that school places are sought only when children move to longer term accommodation. Vulnerable residents, residents with small children or residents who are pregnant will have access to family units.<sup>80</sup>

The Ukraine Civil Society Forum, a consortium of civil society organisations supporting Ukrainians in Ireland, of which the Irish Refugee Council is a member, wrote to Government expressing significant concerns regarding the revised accommodation policy. In particular, concerns were raised with regard to the lack of exception for vulnerable, elderly and disabled persons, the lack of access to education for minor children while resident in designated centres, as well as the risk of homelessness for persons who

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<sup>74</sup> ECRE and Irish Refugee Council, 'AIDA: Temporary Protection – Ireland', 25 May 2023, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3jrmy9vt>.

<sup>75</sup> Social Welfare and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2024, s.11, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/567z7pnm>.

<sup>76</sup> Social Welfare and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Chapter 2 of Part 4) (Commencement) Order 2024 (SI No. 95 of 2024), available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4j42fths>.

<sup>77</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Changes to Accommodation for People Fleeing War in Ukraine', 13 March 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/44wyeshh>.

<sup>78</sup> Information provided by Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 7th March 2024.

<sup>79</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Changes to Accommodation for People Fleeing War in Ukraine', 13 March 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/44wyeshh>.

<sup>80</sup> Information provided by Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 7th March 2024.

are unable to source independent or hosted accommodation after 90 days.<sup>81</sup> The revised protocol does not apply to those residing in state-provided accommodation who arrived in Ireland prior to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

In addition to State-provided accommodation, the Irish Red Cross, in conjunction with the government and Local Authorities, operates an accommodation pledge programme in which Irish residents can pledge a spare room in their home or a vacant property in which to accommodate Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection.<sup>82</sup> This programme was originally established in 2015, but was further expanded following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine and continues to operate as of April 2024. In March 2022, a voluntary organisation, Helping Irish Hosts, was established, whereby prospective hosts can register and be matched with displaced beneficiaries of temporary protection requiring accommodation. Hosts can also register with Helping Irish Hosts in order to connect with other host families, share experiences and provide mutual support.<sup>83</sup>

The Red Cross, Helping Irish Hosts, subsequently established a consortium of 'implementing partners' in which to manage pledges on behalf of the government. All organisations have access to the same database of pledged accommodation, while Helping Irish Hosts also provides a matching service in respect of hosted accommodation.<sup>84</sup> No information is available regarding the extent to which properties are assessed prior to being accepted by the implementing partners. It is understood that Garda Vetting is required in respect of hosts who accommodate families comprised of children under the age of 16, however, the extent to which this takes place in practice is unknown.<sup>85</sup>

Local Authorities around the country also launched the 'Offer a Home' Programme, in which unoccupied properties are sought to accommodate beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. Rent is not payable on properties associated with the programme; however, property owners can avail of the Government's Accommodation Recognition Payment in the amount of € 800 per month. All properties offered under the scheme are assessed by the Local Authority and must comply with certain minimum standards, however, the extent to which this is complied with in practice is unknown.<sup>86</sup>

As of April 2024, 18,352 individuals were living in pledged accommodation or hosting arrangements.<sup>87</sup>

In July 2022, the Government introduced an Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) for households hosting beneficiaries of Temporary Protection having fled the conflict in Ukraine. An initial payment of € 400.00 per month was paid to hosts and backdated as far as the 4 March 2022. The payment is administered by the Department of Social Protection on behalf of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.<sup>88</sup> In December 2022, the payment was increased to € 800.00 per month.<sup>89</sup> The ARP continues in operation as of 2024 at a rate of € 800.00 per month. The payment is available to any individual hosting a beneficiary of Temporary Protection provided they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- ❖ Be aged 18 years or over.
- ❖ Are the owner of, or a tenant in, accommodation being provided and have the consent of any other owners or tenants.

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<sup>81</sup> Information provided by Ukraine Civil Society Forum, April 2024.

<sup>82</sup> Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Roderic O'Gorman, Response to Parliamentary Question Nos 8, 13, 19, 30, 50, 65, 72, 73, 298 and 306, 24 March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3jZ13D8>.

<sup>83</sup> Open Community, Supports for Hosts and Host Communities, January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3VVSDTr>.

<sup>84</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council Ukraine Support Team, April 2024.

<sup>85</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>86</sup> Local Government Ireland, Information about Offering a Home, <https://tinyurl.com/fej2ncyj>.

<sup>87</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection – Weekly Statistics', 15 April 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/bdrypvkf>.

<sup>88</sup> Government of Ireland, €400 'Accommodation Recognition Payment' for hosts accommodating people from Ukraine is open for applications, 26 July 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3ZuVj8C>.

<sup>89</sup> Government of Ireland. Accommodation Recognition Payment, 5th January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3QIFnNw>.



- ❖ Be providing accommodation for at least 6 months to at least one individual covered by the EU Temporary Protection Directive.
- ❖ Have at least one individual who is covered by the EU Temporary Protection Directive living in the property on the last day of the calendar month in order to obtain payment for that month.<sup>90</sup>

Beneficiaries of temporary protection may be entitled to apply for state housing support such as Rent Supplement and the Rental Accommodation Scheme in the case that they have independently rented a house or apartment and meet the requisite eligibility criteria.<sup>91</sup> However, it should be noted that due to the ongoing housing crisis, it is extremely difficult for individuals to source private rented accommodation in Ireland. Consequently, there are very few progression opportunities for beneficiaries of temporary protection living in state-provided accommodation or hosting or pledged accommodation arrangements.

Numerous challenges have arisen in the provision of accommodation to beneficiaries of temporary protection. The primary and most significant challenge is that of accommodation services reaching capacity due to difficulties in sourcing appropriate accommodation. On 24 January 2023, the government announced that it could no longer guarantee that beneficiaries of temporary protection in Ireland would be provided with temporary accommodation by the State. This was due to a lack of State-accommodation capacity.<sup>92</sup> However, in the experience of the Irish Refugee Council, there have been no reported cases to date of a beneficiary of temporary protection having been refused accommodation upon initial arrival in Ireland.<sup>93</sup>

## E. Employment and education

### 1. Access to the labour market

Having received their Temporary Protection Certificate, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are entitled to access the labour market on the same basis as Irish citizens. The Temporary Protection Certificate itself is adequate proof of entitlement to take up employment in the State. Beneficiaries of temporary protection are thus entitled to the full range of statutory employment rights and protections in the same manner as Irish employees.<sup>94</sup>

As of the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 18,101 beneficiaries of temporary protection had accessed the labour market in Ireland.<sup>95</sup> As of the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, 18,182 individuals had accessed the labour market. The following table provides a breakdown a breakdown of the sectors in which individuals were employed:<sup>96</sup>

Financial, Real Estate, Administrative	2,687
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	319
ICT, Scientific and Recreation	1,058
Industry	2,831
Public Service, Education and Health	1,879

<sup>90</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Accommodation of Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection – Weekly Statistics', 15 April 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/bdrypvkf>.

<sup>91</sup> Minister for Social Protection Heather Humphreys, Response to Parliamentary Question No 211, 22 June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3BO1MNa>.

<sup>92</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Citywest Transit Hub to pause entry of new International Protection arrivals to its emergency accommodation area', 24 January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3Ow3wlu>.

<sup>93</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council's Ukraine Support Team, May 2023.

<sup>94</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.

<sup>95</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Temporary Protection granted to arrivals from Ukraine', 11 May 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3pMju0B>.

<sup>96</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Arrivals in Ireland Series 12, 4 February 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2r53f25n>.

Construction	936
Wholesale, Transport and Accommodation	8,472
All Economic Sectors	18,182

While beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are entitled to access the labour market on the same basis as Irish citizens, there are certain regulated professions in which applicants must comply with certain criteria required by law prior to accessing employment. Examples include legal practice, medical practitioners, and teaching. Whereby beneficiaries of Temporary Protection seek access to a regulated profession they must meet certain professional requirements. This may involve undertaking additional study or registration, depending on the particular profession.<sup>97</sup>

While there are no specific measures established to combat labour exploitation in respect of beneficiaries of Temporary Protection, such individuals are entitled to a full range of statutory employment rights and protections on the same basis as Irish citizens.

## 2. Access to education

Child beneficiaries of temporary protection between the ages of 4 and 18 years are entitled to access public primary or post-primary education provided by the State on the same basis as Irish children.<sup>98</sup> Beneficiaries of temporary protection can approach any primary or post-primary school and seek information on how to enrol a child in the school. The Tusla Education Support Service provides assistance to parents in locating school places for their children.<sup>99</sup>

The Department of Education also established the Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT) to support the needs of child beneficiaries of temporary protection. REALT is hosted by the 16 regional Education and Training Boards. The primary role of REALT is to build upon existing regional education support structures with an initial focus on assisting Ukrainian families to secure school places. English language classes for child beneficiaries of temporary protection are available through local Education and Training Boards.<sup>100</sup>

As of February 2024, there were **18,185** Ukrainian students enrolled in primary and secondary education in Ireland. Of these, **11,312** were enrolled in primary education and **6,873** enrolled in secondary education.<sup>101</sup>

All Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are eligible to access higher education and vocational training on the same basis as Irish citizens, provided they undertake a mandatory English language exam. Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection who are seeking to apply for a first-time place in higher education in Ireland are required to apply through the CAO (Central Applications Office). Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection applying to access the Irish higher education system are subject to the same conditions as Irish students for the purposes of fees, meaning that students with temporary protection status will be liable for EU fees.<sup>102</sup> In order to assist students with the cost of tuition fees, an administrative scheme, the Temporary Tuition Fee Support Scheme for displaced Ukrainian Students, was established by the Department of Further and Higher Education for the academic year 2022/2023. In order to be considered eligible for the scheme, students were required to be an individual in respect of whom a permission to reside in the State had been granted pursuant to s.60 of the International Protection Act 2015 or an Irish

<sup>97</sup> Information provided by Irish Refugee Council Ukraine Support Team, April 2024.

<sup>98</sup> Immigration Service Delivery, 'FAQ's – For Ukraine Nationals and Residents of Ukraine', 23 December 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3hMbVzK>.

<sup>99</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum, 'Temporary Protection: Ireland', June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3oalZJV>.

<sup>100</sup> ETBI, 'Regional Education and Language Teams for Ukraine, 6 June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3OwYI4X>.

<sup>101</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Arrivals in Ireland Series 12, 4 February 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2r53f25n>.

<sup>102</sup> Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris, Response to Parliamentary Question No 1050, 18 January 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/3Mtlqmk>.

national who was attending a Higher Education Institution in Ukraine during the 2021/2022 academic year and subsequently arrived in Ireland due to the conflict without completing their course of study, but who had taken up a place on an authorised transition scheme during the academic year 2022/2023. Moreover, applicants were required to be present and residing at an address within the State and attending or intending to pursue an approved course in the 2022/2023 academic year.<sup>103</sup>

Additionally, the Department of Further and Higher Education established a Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) Bursary for Displaced Persons from Ukraine for the academic year 2022/2023. The Scheme provided students with the opportunity to undertake full-time study for a period of one or two years, with courses leading to major awards at National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) Levels 5 and 6, while also receiving a bursary not exceeding € 6,115 in total for the academic year. In order to be eligible for the scheme, students were required to have been granted temporary protection pursuant to s.60 of the International Protection Act 2015, be living in Ireland and participating in an approved full-time post leaving certificate (PLC) course.<sup>104</sup>

In August 2023, then-Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, confirmed the supports offered to Ukrainian students who commenced their studies in the 2021/2022 academic year will be extended to new entrants for the 2023/24 academic year. This includes payment of tuition fees in respect of full-time higher education, a financial stipend for qualified persons undertaking a full-time course in a publicly funded higher education institution, and the bursary for qualified persons pursuing a post-leaving certificate course (PLC). The financial support rates were maintained at the same level as the previous year.<sup>105</sup>

## F. Social welfare

Beneficiaries of temporary protection are entitled to social welfare payments in the same manner as eligible Irish nationals pursuant to s. 60(10)(b) of the IPA 2015. As such, there are a broad range of social welfare entitlements of which a beneficiary of temporary protection may avail themselves, including access to jobseeker's allowance for those who are unemployed but actively seeking work; access to disability allowance for those unable to provide for themselves due to disability or illness; access to the one-parent family payment for single parents, and access to child benefit for parents/guardians. Applications for the various payments may be made at the applicant's local Intreo office.

Social welfare payments were reduced under the revised accommodation arrangements announced in early 2024. Previously, beneficiaries of Temporary Protection living in state-provided accommodation were entitled to social welfare supports equivalent to those available to Irish citizens on arrival . However, under the revised accommodation arrangements, a weekly allowance of €38.80 per adult and €29.80 per child is provided to newly-arrived residents while accommodated in designated centres. Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection remain entitled to child benefit payment (€140.00 per child per month). Whereby an individual subsequently leaves their designated centre, or whereby they make their own accommodation arrangements on arrival, they will be entitled to apply for social welfare assistance, equivalent to that which is offered to Irish citizens, subject to meeting the requisite eligibility conditions.<sup>106</sup>

In May 2024, Cabinet signed off on a proposal to extend the reduction in social welfare support to all beneficiaries of Temporary Protection living in state-provided accommodation, regardless of when they arrived in Ireland. The proposals are due to be signed into law within three months and will apply to those

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<sup>103</sup> Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, 'Minister Harris announces new measures to provide access to further and higher education for displaced Ukrainian students', 21 June 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/42VvMCp>.

<sup>104</sup> Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, 'PLC Bursary for Displaced Persons (Ukraine) Scheme 2022: Your questions answered', 17 August 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/3WprWix>.

<sup>105</sup> Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, 'Ukraine Student Fees and Financial Support Update', 11 September 2023, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3zztc3rh>.

<sup>106</sup> Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, 'Changes to Accommodation for People Fleeing War in Ukraine', 13 March 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/44wyeshh>.

who do not work and who live in what is termed 'State-provided serviced accommodation', such as a hotel where meals are provided. It will not apply to residents living in pledged accommodation or State-provided accommodation that is not serviced. The measures are estimated to affect approximately 27,000 beneficiaries of Temporary Protection living in the State.<sup>107</sup>

As of February 2024, **60,733** beneficiaries of temporary protection were receiving income support payments, including **22,433** beneficiaries of child benefit payment.<sup>108</sup>

## G. Health care

Beneficiaries of temporary protection are entitled to the same medical and social care as Irish citizens in accordance with s. 60(10)(b) IPA 2015. Beneficiaries of temporary protection receive healthcare services from the Health Service Executive (HSE), including access to General Practitioners (GPs), community care, hospital or emergency care, children's health services, mental health services, disability services, and maternity care.<sup>109</sup>

The Health Service Executive (HSE) are present at the Citywest Transfer Hub in order to conduct health screenings in respect of persons arriving from Ukraine. Applicants requiring further medical attention or assessment will be sign posted to relevant services.<sup>110</sup>

Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection are automatically entitled to a medical card on arrival in Ireland. A medical card permits access to medical services, prescription medications and hospital services free of charge.<sup>111</sup> After nine months, beneficiaries of Temporary Protection will be subject to a review of their entitlement for a Medical Card. The HSE will write to the applicant and request that they complete an application form containing a full financial assessment of their means. Applicants will need to provide details of their income and outgoings (if any). Applicants will be subject to the standard means assessment under which all medical card applicants are assessed.<sup>112</sup>

As of January 2024, medical cards had been issued to **80,000** arrivals from Ukraine.<sup>113</sup>

In general, access to healthcare for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection has been well-facilitated, however, reports of language barriers and lack of access to interpreters persist.<sup>114</sup> Additionally, the HSE has provided specific information and resources for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in English, Ukrainian and Russian, including information on how to apply for a medical card and access a GP and other medical services while living in Ireland.

Regarding psycho-social supports, at the onset of the conflict, the Ukrainian community in Ireland created a list of Ukrainian-speaking psychotherapists from Kyiv Gestalt University who are providing free counselling to those impacted by the conflict.<sup>115</sup> Additionally, the 'Call Tanya Helpline' was established on 17 of April 2023, by the migrant-led organisation, Together Razeem, in order to provide confidential psychosocial support to Ukrainians in Ireland who are experiencing distress due to displacement and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Trained call ambassadors are available on Mondays, Tuesdays, and

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<sup>107</sup> RTE, 'Payments to Ukrainian refugees in State accommodation to be cut', 14 May 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/5yz8daek>.

<sup>108</sup> Central Statistics Office, 'Arrivals in Ireland Series 12, 4 February 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2r53f25n>.

<sup>109</sup> HSE, 'Healthcare services for Ukrainian nationals in Ireland', available at: <https://bit.ly/42VUF16>.

<sup>110</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>111</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> HSE, 'Healthcare services for Ukrainian nationals in Ireland', available at: <https://bit.ly/42VUF16>.

<sup>113</sup> Irish Independent, '80,000 Ukrainian Refugees have Medical Cards, Cabinet committee told, 25 January 2024, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/4tpt39dj>.

<sup>114</sup> Information provided by Ukraine Support Team, April 2024.

<sup>115</sup> Help Ukraine Ireland, 'Counselling Services for Ukrainians', March 2022, available at: <https://bit.ly/43cFfFu>.

Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00 to provide psycho-social support in Ukrainian and Russian.<sup>116</sup>

Counselling and Psychotherapy is provided free of charge to displaced Ukrainians by MyMind. Counselling is provided through Ukrainian and Russian speaking counsellors and psychologists and supported by the Health Service Executive.<sup>117</sup> Specialised treatment and psychosocial support for torture survivors is mainly provided by SPIRASI, which receives some funding from the Health Service Executive.

Turn2me, a national mental health charity, is offering all Ukrainians staying in Ireland up to 6 free one-to-one counselling sessions. The charity is also offering free online support groups for Ukrainians. The initiative is funded by a grant from the Community Foundation Ireland, as part of the Ireland for Ukraine project.<sup>118</sup> Sessions are conducted by a mental health professional, in English. Ukrainians will be connected to psychotherapists who have experience working with clients who have been through a traumatic event.

Finally, the National Psychological Association of Ukraine (NPA) has set up a toll-free Irish helpline number to support Ukrainians in need of psychological support, The helpline operates from 10:00am-20:00pm daily and all psychologists are provided with specialist training. The helpline is supported by the UN, the EU, and the governments of Denmark and Canada.<sup>119</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> Irish Examiner, 'National Psychological support helpline for Ukrainian refugees to be launched in Cork', 17 April 2023, available at: <https://bit.ly/42SIPFR>.

<sup>117</sup> MyMind, 'Free Counselling for Displaced Ukrainians', available at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p88b67>.

<sup>118</sup> Turn2Me, 'Turn2Me Offering Free Counselling to Ukrianians', available at: <https://tinyurl.com/5k93hhzc>.

<sup>119</sup> Psychological Society of Ireland, 'Time of War Resources' available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yw6z5jte>.