

## Right to work for international protection applicants: January 2021

In January 2021 the Department of Justice updated the rules on access to the labour market (employment) for international protection applicants. The new rules mean that international protection applicants can apply for a **Labour Market Access Permission** (LMAP) after 6 months rather than 9 months.

### Who is eligible to apply for the right to work?

If you are an international protection applicant and you have been waiting for a first instance decision on your International Protection application for 6 months or longer you should be eligible to apply.

You will need to show that you have cooperated with the protection process **and** have made reasonable efforts to establish your identity.

#### What is a first instance decision?

A 'first instance decision' is the first decision you receive on your protection application from the International Protection Office.

### How long does the Labour Market Access Permission last?

The Labour Market Access Permission should now be valid for 12 months. It can be renewed until you receive a final decision on your protection application. If you receive a negative final decision, your permission to work ends immediately.

### Are there any restrictions on the work I can do?

If you have a Labour Market Access Permit you can access to all sectors of employment except employment in the Civil Service, publicly funded higher education institutions, the Defence Forces, or An Garda Síochána.

There is no income threshold and you can work in part-time or full-time positions, or as self employed.

### What training can I access?

Once you have a Labour Market Access Permission you should be able to access the same training available to other jobseekers. Please contact your local [Education and Training Board](#) or [Intreo office](#) for more information on the training available in your area.

### If I begin working, will I still receive the direct provision weekly allowance payment while I live in direct provision accommodation?

This will depend on how much you earn and how long you are employed for. Once you have been working for 12 weeks, your allowance may be reduced or withdrawn based on a means test.

You may choose to leave direct provision and live independently, however you should know that you may have difficulties returning to direct provision accommodation if you receive a negative final decision on your case and your labour market access permission expires.