



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

Afghan Admissions Programme

Stakeholders Forum
8th December 2021



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F ilte

Welcome

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External Engagements and Child Protection measures

Timeline



- 15th August Fall of Kabul
- 28th September Government announces AAP

[Government approves Afghan Admission Programme - The Department of Justice](#)

- 8th December NGO engagement (115 days)
- XX December Go-live
- XX January Application closing date

External stakeholders insights



- Situation in Afghanistan is unique, experiences of the lessons from previous crisis, e.g. Syria, may not apply here.
- Given low numbers formally seeking protection, Irish family admission approach provides a broader reach.

Child protection measures



- Children account for 27% of all the human trafficking victims worldwide, and two out of every three child victims are girls.
- The Programme will only accept adoptions where the adoption of the child is in accordance with the laws of the country in which the adoption took place **and** that this adoption **has** been recognised by the Adoption Authority of Ireland.

Child protection measures



- Applications may be considered for close family member (under Related minor child without parents) where no adoption has taken place, subject to appropriate documentation being provided to demonstrate familial connection and legal basis for relationship e.g. Birth certs, Tazkiras, guardianship arrangement.
- Additional proofs will also be required e.g. financial, DNA etc.
- As with all Programme beneficiaries - Proofs as to the identity must be provided.



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National Security and Data Protection

Data collection



The information on the application form will be given by the proposer, accordingly the proposer must provide written evidence of the beneficiaries having agreed to this information been shared. **Failure to do so will result in the application been deemed ineligible.**

The provision of **in-date valid Passport is the preferred route to identification.** In the absence of an in-date valid Passport, beneficiaries need to consider alternative avenues to satisfy the Minister as to their Identity.

The application Form will ask beneficiaries to provide details of their social media presence. Social media accounts may be accessed if there are concerns regarding the beneficiaries identity.

Data collection



Vetting will apply not just to the applicant, **but also to the beneficiaries**

As part of the Programme information is collected at first instance for the purpose of the application and the admission of beneficiaries to the State and this is covered by Article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR

Data collected for one purpose may be processed for a different purpose where that purpose falls within section 41.

National Security



The situation in Afghanistan is such that National security concerns arise, therefore addressing National security concerns are key to the Programme.

The information collected from the applicant is for the purpose of the Scheme but central to that is the information related to “good character” where questions are asked about any criminal conduct and involvement in terrorism.

Applicants are informed that information will be shared with AGS and state security services and **therefore the data subject is on notice that the information may be further processed by security services in relation to criminal or other conduct of concern, including National security.**



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Family reunification options in Ireland

Reunification options



1. Family reunification under the IPA Act 2015
2. Non EEA Family document
3. Humanitarian programmes (SHAP, IHAP) (former DJE)
4. Assistance Programmes (Afghan Admission Programme)

(New DJ)

Family reunification - channels



Channel	Target group	Legal Basis	Application window
IPA '15	Refuges	Statutory	12 months, more generous than the European norm
Non EEA doc	Open ended	Administrative	open ended
Assistance programmes			
~ SHAP	Syrian community	Administrative	Be-spoke Programme solution
~ IHAP	Top 10 UNHCR countries	Administrative	Be-spoke Programme solution
Afghan Admission Programme	Afghan community	Administrative	Be-spoke Programme solution

The Afghan FU response to date



- IPA '15: 108 individuals approved
- Join family Visa: applications approved: 162
- IHAP: 166 Afghans have arrived

Admission Programme (DJ)



- The Afghan Admission Programme is a specific response by the Government to the plight of the Afghan people.
- The Programme creates **up to 500 additional places** for Afghan family members to come to Ireland complementing already existing mechanisms.
- Current or former Afghan nationals living legally in Ireland can apply for **up to four close family** members to be given a temporary residence to live with them in Ireland.

Admission Programme (DJ)



- Applicants must be able to **demonstrate that they can support and maintain** their nominated family members, including by providing them with accommodation. They will also be required to cover travel costs for their family members.
- Those who are eligible under existing schemes should use those schemes.
- Due to the evolving situation in Afghanistan a **short window is preferable**, so that beneficiaries can be progressed. The Programme will be opening next week, and will remain open for between **xxx** weeks.



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Overview of the Afghan Admission Programme

Category of proposed beneficiary



- Spouse/Civil partner or De facto Spouse
- Minor Child (own) *including legally adopted*
- Related minor child without parents: *where the proposer has parental responsibility for said child*
- Sibling
- Parent
- Grandparent
- Vulnerable adult close family member

Those deemed most at risk:



- This listing does not minimise the seriousness of the situation for everybody in Afghanistan, but it does recognise that the situation is more serious for some than for others.
- It enables a person from Afghanistan to nominate those considered most at risk.
- Objective and subjective information relating to risk can be provided, but we will seek evidence that this risk arises from the changed circumstances in Afghanistan.

Risk Categories (2a.18)



- Close Family Members Older persons
- Close Family Members Children
- Single female parents
- Single women and girls
- Persons with disabilities
- Persons whose previous employment exposes them to risk.



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Proposers

Proposers



- Current or former Afghan nationals living legally in Ireland can apply for **up to four close family members** to be given a temporary residence to live with them in Ireland.
- The person applying in Ireland may be a single person or the representative of a family unit.
- In the interests of fairness, applications will be **restricted to one per residential** household.

Proposers: overview



Proposers will be required to provide information and documentary evidence confirming:

- Their identity;
- Their Good character via Gardaí e-vetting and Revenue e-Tax clearance;
- Their capacity to support beneficiaries, including costs of coming to the State;

- Identity of the beneficiaries;
- Family connection with the beneficiaries;
- Nature of the threat to freedom/safety of the beneficiaries; and
- Nature of the vulnerability of the applicant.

Proposers: Identity



- Passport: Irish or Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- IRP Card
- Gardaí e-vetting and Revenue e-tax clearance

Proposers: Gardaí e-vetting



- ISD verifies the applicant's identity using documentation provided
- ISD emails the applicant a link to the e-vetting form for their completion – sent to the personal email address the applicant provides
- Applicant completes the e-vetting form within 30 days on the Garda National Vetting Bureau (GNVB) system
- ISD verifies the e-vetting form with the GNVB
- Once the vetting is completed a declaration will be sent to ISD

Proposers: e-tax clearance



- Proposers must demonstrate that their tax affairs are in order, this is ordinarily achieved via the production of a Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)
- The necessary information to use this service is available on the Revenue website at <https://www.revenue.ie/en/online-services/services/manage-your-record/apply-for-tax-clearance-online-using-etc.aspx>
- You should provide the Tax Clearance Access Number (TCAN) issued to you or print and provide a copy of the certificate.

Proposers: Financial capacity



- Proposers applying to bring family members to Ireland will be **required to demonstrate** that they can support and maintain their family members until such times as they can support themselves.
- This includes accommodation and financial support.
- Proposers will also be required to cover the costs associated with their family member coming to Ireland.

Proposers: Accommodation



- Proposers must provide a letter detailing the offer of accommodation, including any terms and conditions set by the person making the offer.
- Please note that the person making this offer will be contacted to confirm that the offer of accommodation is still in place when the decision is being made.
- If they cannot be contacted or they do not confirm that the offer is still in place, your proposal will be refused in respect of all those who you have stated will live in the property.



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Beneficiaries

Documentary Requirements; Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries will be required to provide information and documentary evidence confirming identity :

- Original Passport issued by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- Original national Identify cards issued by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- Original employee cards issued by International organ e.g. UN, EU, USA
- Original employee cards issued by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Documentary Requirements; Beneficiaries



Weaker proofs:

- Copy of Passport issued by Islamic Rep. of Afghanistan
- Copy of National Identify cards issued by Islamic Rep. of Afghanistan
- Copy employee cards issued by International organ
- Copy employee cards issued by Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Beneficiaries: travel



Beneficiaries must be in possession of the required documentation in order to travel to the State.

As is the case with other family reunification streams, the Programme unit is not in a position to support requests for travel assistance, financial or otherwise

Type of Permission given



Beneficiaries will be given a two year temporary permission with no automatic right of renewal.

Person's of working age (16 years) admitted to the State under this Programme will be allowed to seek employment for the duration of their temporary permission.



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Appeals

Appeal process (outline)



- Appeal must be notified by email to Programme unit **within 20 workings days from the date of decision letter**
- The notification must set out in detail the reason for the Appeal
- The review will be paper based, **no new additional information** will requested / Accepted
- The review will be undertaken by a different deciding officer
- The Appeal decision is expected to issue within 50 workings day of receipt of the appeal



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Resources

Resources



- Application Form Dec '21
- Guidance document Dec '21
- Documents ranking Dec '21
- Website Dec '21

- FAQ *
Final update to issue in January
(* based on questions from Applicants during Dec)



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Q&A

Conclusion



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Thank you

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