RETURNING TO IRELAND WHILE ON LICENCE FAQ

Some Irish prisoners wish to return to live in Ireland during their licence period. However, every year only very small number of Irish people who have been released on licence in England and Wales are permitted to return to Ireland to resettle.

The licence period cannot be enforced outside the UK, which means that the licence period comes to an early end if the person is allowed to settle abroad and does not return to the UK. Permission to settle abroad including in Ireland is therefore, only granted in exceptional cases. Generally, only those people on licence who are considered low risk and who have close residential or family ties in Ireland may be allowed to return to Ireland. Close family means spouse/partner, children or parents and they must be able to support you during your licence period.

Note: If you do not have residential ties to Ireland and do not have close family in Ireland, it is very unlikely that your application to return to Ireland to resettle while on licence will be successful.

Are there other criteria that will be considered in deciding whether I should be allowed to return to Ireland?
Yes there are several other criteria that will be considered including whether your index offence is connected to Ireland (for example fraud involving a company set up in Ireland) and whether you returning to Ireland would increase your risk of offending or undermine your rehabilitation.

Will my behaviour be taken into account?
Your behaviour in the last 12 months will be considered especially if there is any concern regarding lack of compliance or if there is an increased risk of you reoffending or being involved in other serious harm.

Will I be supervised by the Irish Probation Service if I am allowed to return to Ireland?
There is no agreement between Ireland and the UK regarding supervision of a person that returns on licence, therefore you will not be supervised if you are allowed to return to Ireland.

Will I be able to get any support when I return to Ireland?
The ICPO can provide limited resettlement support and referral to other support organisations if you are permitted to return to Ireland. Please see our Factsheet *Licence, Supervision and ICPO Supports on Returning to Ireland.*

How do I apply for permission to resettle in Ireland while I am on licence?
You can apply to your Community Offender Manager (COM).

If I am allowed to return Ireland, can I go immediately after release?
You will generally have to spend some time in the UK after release to demonstrate you are a low risk but occasionally people are permitted to return immediately or soon after release.

Where are the rules relating to resettling in Ireland on release contained?
These are contained in the Ministry of Justice/HMPPS Policy Framework Travel and Transfer on Licence and PSS Outside of England and Wales.

Where can I find more information on returning to Ireland while on licence?
The ICPO have a more detailed Factsheet on returning to Ireland while on licence which you can obtain from your ICPO Caseworker.

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