

General COVID-19 Travel Advisory in operation

From [Department of Transport](#)

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In response to the identification of a new strain of COVID-19 in the South-East of England, the Government has announced a ban on all flights arriving into Ireland from Great Britain with effect from midnight on Sunday, 20 December 2020. Cabinet agreed on 22 December that these travel restrictions will remain in place until 31 December. People in Britain, regardless of nationality, should not travel to Ireland, by air or by sea.

Information for travellers

You can find up to date information on travelling on the Department of Foreign Affairs [website](#).

The Department of Foreign Affairs have also set up a GB Emergency Travel Helpline and you can contact the consular assistance team on 00 353 1 613 1700. Please be patient as there is a high volume of calls.

Arrangements are being put in place to facilitate the return of Irish residents on short trips to Great Britain and planning to return in the coming days, as well as international travellers to Ireland who are transiting through Great Britain. The Department of Foreign Affairs will have an update on as soon as with information on these arrangements. All updates will be posted to the DFA [website](#) and Twitter accounts (@IrelandEmbGB, @dfatravelwise and @dfatirl).

Refunds on flights from Great Britain to Ireland

In accordance with Regulation (EC) 261, if your flight is cancelled, your airline must offer you the choice between (a) re-routing as close as possible to the original departure time; (b) re-routing at a later date; or (c) a refund. Airlines are entitled to offer vouchers to passengers. Passengers can choose to accept a voucher but are under no obligation to do so.

Passengers seeking to return home to Ireland from Great Britain airports should contact their airline to seek rerouting to Ireland at the earlier opportunity or a refund and then consider

returning to their home in Great Britain as this may be the best place to await further developments.

More information, including on transiting passengers, is available from the Commission for Aviation Regulation [here](#).

Essential supply chain workers

The Government direction for people not to travel from Great Britain to Ireland does not extend to essential supply chain workers:

- Maritime and Shipping
- Ship Master
- Deck Officers
- Engineering Officers and ETOs
- Deck Ratings
- Engine Ratings
- Pursers
- Hotel/Catering Ratings
- Cleaners
- Contracted technicians
- Marine Pilot
- Road Haulage
- HGV Drivers and/or persons holding an EU Annex 3 International Transport Worker Certificate