Ombudsman calls to extend remits to cover immigration complaints

Speaking at the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Public Petitions and the Ombudsmen, Ombudsman Ger Deering has called for the extension of the Ombudsman remit to investigate complaints about the administration of the law in relation to immigration and naturalisation. Mr Deering stated that migrants were denied access to independent administrative oversight when facing persistent communication breakdowns and administrative delays with immigration authorities.

Current legislation prevents the Ombudsman from investigating complaints relating to the administration of immigration and naturalisation matters. This affects not only asylum seekers and international protection applicants but also people working in essential sectors such as healthcare and social care. The Ombudsman highlighted difficulties experienced by individuals in communicating with the Department of Justice and receiving responses to important correspondence. He believes a relatively minor legislative amendment would allow these individuals to access the Ombudsman.

Source(s)

- Office of the Ombudsman (23 September, 2026), [Ombudsman Calls for Extension of Remit to Immigration Issues], https://www.ombudsman.ie/en/news/2ac28-ombudsman-calls-for-extension-of-remit-to-immigration-issues/

Date of development
23.09.2026
Country
Ireland
Thematic area(s)
General asylum and migration development
Development type
Institutional

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