

HRI Ltd Newsletter

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Well, spring has truly sprung in England and we have just had the hottest April since records began in 1659! The weekends have been glorious lately, which is something of a miracle in itself, as people begin to get used to basking in the sun and leaving the umbrellas at home. Spring showers seem to be a thing of the past and runners in the London Marathon taking place recently not only had to haul themselves around the 26 mile course but do it in broiling temperatures.

Politically, people are counting down the days until Tony Blair makes his long-overdue departure from Number 10 Downing Street to make way for his old ally and sparring partner Gordon Brown and it should be interesting to see what transpires once he is in place. The National Health Service is a political hot potato which is not going to cool off any time soon and no doubt Gordon will want to stamp his ownership on the premiership by showing everyone early in the piece that he means business. We are not making any predictions but watch this space!

Health news

We reported way back in our 2nd newsletter that a ban on smoking in enclosed public spaces was being discussed in parliament and that there was fierce debate as to the rights and wrongs of legislation on such an issue. Well, a year and a half later the law is set to change and there are only 2 months to go for smokers being able to light up wherever they feel like in public. From July 1st their options will be severely limited and it is hoped that smoking will become a thing of the past as a result. It is estimated that currently about 1 in 4 Britons smoke 70 billion cigarettes a year and that smoking-related diseases cost the NHS annually around 1.5 billion pounds. However, smokers contribute heavily to the Treasury by forking out over £5 for each packet of fags, 4 of which go on taxes. The tobacco industry also employs around 10,000 workers in the UK which is home to 3 of the world's biggest tobacco companies. So it won't be only the smokers that are affected by this new law.

England is the last of the countries in the United Kingdom to enforce the smoking law and it seems that the ban hasn't brought Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales to their knees so far so it will be interesting to see how it goes here. The news that even France is introducing a ban on smoking in public places in 2008 confirms that this is a worldwide trend set to have far-reaching effects on the health of the world's residents.

Health Professional registration changes

On February 21st, 2007 the government published a 'white paper' concerned with the future of healthcare regulation. This came about as a result of lengthy public consultation and one of the reports entitled 'Trust, Assurance and Safety – the regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century' will have an effect on healthcare professionals working or hoping to work in the UK.

The future direction of the healthcare professions was discussed in the report and one of the results of the consultation was that counsellors, applied psychologists and psychotherapists will now be subject to professional registration by the Health Professions Council (HPC). The pharmacy profession is also to be affected and a General Pharmaceutical Council will be established to regulate pharmacists, technicians and pharmacy premises. Revalidation of professional registration will become an important part of each registrant's maintenance of fitness to practice with the appraisal process being an integral component of this. Revalidation of professional registration will also affect doctors.

The Department of Health has yet to announce when these changes will occur so we will keep you informed as to the timeline. For more information on how this might affect you, please contact Helen at: helenw@hriconsult.com



Ireland

The island of Ireland, off the west coast of Great Britain is a land of contrasts and great beauty known for its spectacular scenery, hospitable people and the craic (Irish for fun, enjoyment and mischief often accompanied by music and/or drinking). It is divided into 2 parts: the republic of Ireland, also known as Eire, and Northern Ireland which forms part of the British Isles. The Emerald Isle has a long and colourful history which is responsible for large numbers of immigrants all around the world who left behind desperate poverty in the 19th century to seek their fortunes in the New World and beyond. The results of this diaspora can be seen in cities as far flung as Buenos Aires and Sydney where Irish pubs pop up all over the place and St Patrick's day is celebrated with gusto by those with an Irish background and without.

Northern Ireland is a relatively small part of the island comprising as it does a sixth of the whole landmass but holding between a quarter and a third of the population. Its capital city is Belfast, a lively and vibrant metropolis gradually emerging from the sectarian violence which plagued it for decades to become an increasingly popular tourist destination with a rise in visitor numbers of 6% in 2006. Elsewhere in Northern Ireland is the famed Giants' Causeway, a freak geological formation that is a Unesco World Heritage site, the historic and battle-scarred city of Derry and the mythological glens of Antrim, all of which are well worth a visit.

Dublin is the capital of the Republic of Eire in the south of the island. Dublin is renowned for being the home of Guinness, the black stout beer which is exported all over the world. It is also the home of Trinity College and has a long and venerable history of being a seat of learning, producing such literary luminaries as James Joyce, Samuel Beckett and Oscar Wilde. Eire has myriads of marvellous cities, villages and areas of outstanding natural beauty to visit and the tourist is spoiled for choice. Whether you are considering working in Northern Ireland or the Republic, HRI Ltd can help you find you a good job and there is no doubt that you will be charmed by the Emerald Isle as many have been before you.

Next featured area: The Lakes District in the Summer issue

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