

Green Card holders submit complaint over rule change

New criteria make it even harder to get a permit, but government body claims they date back to 2015

AN OFFICIAL complaint has been submitted to Parliament's Ombudsman that rejects claims by SIRI (Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration) that it has been using revised rules affecting Green Card holder permit criteria for several years now.

Thousands face exodus

HOLIDAY money no longer counts towards the Green Card holders' annual income, which means thousands could be asked to leave the country for earning less than the required amount (286,000-329,364 kroner).

Aage Kramp, the senior legal advisor at Immigration Law who

worded the complaint, tells CPH POST there does not appear to be any mention of holiday money impacting income requirements until 2018.

However, SIRI claims the criteria were changed by law on 1 January 2015.

Pain of Pavan

AMONG those affected is Indian IT professional Pavan Sunkara, whose bid to extend his Green Card permit was recently rejected.

Sunkara, who arrived in Denmark in 2014, was just under 4,000 kroner short of reaching the income requirement – a requirement he would have easily met had holiday money been included.

Before applying for his extension he was informed by an official at International House Copenhagen that holiday money

would count towards his income requirement.

"I cannot imagine leaving Denmark," he said.

Was it a clarification?

ACCORDING to Kramp, there was no mention of the change until January 2018 when a line suddenly appeared on SIRI's online site 'New to Denmark': "Employer paid pension and disbursed holiday allowance is included in the calculation of your salary. Holiday allowance earned but not paid to you is not included."

However, SIRI claims this was simply a clarification.

"The unjustified and unlawful change of practice has endangered hundreds, if not thousands, of the remaining Green Card holders' extension applications," concluded Kramp. (CW)