

eVisas Stakeholder Factsheet

Moving to a digital proof of immigration status

Key points

- Government is replacing physical immigration documents with a digital proof of immigration status called an eVisa.
- People in the UK who currently use a physical immigration document, such as a biometric residence permit (BRP), or legacy paper document such as a passport containing ink stamps or a vignette sticker (if they have indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain) should take action to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa in 2024.
- Most new visa applicants now receive access to an eVisa instead of a physical immigration document.
- The move to an eVisa will not impact a person's underlying immigration status.
- It is free for people who hold a valid physical or legacy paper document to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa.
- The latest updates and information on these changes can be found at www.gov.uk/eVisa.

What is changing and when?

eVisas are a key part of delivering a border and immigration system which will be more digital and streamlined by 2025, a change that will enhance the applicant's experience, deliver excellent value, and increase the immigration system's security and efficiency.

The transition towards eVisas is already underway, with millions of people already receiving an eVisa. Most physical documents, such as biometric residence permits/cards (BRPs/BRCs) are being gradually phased out, with most BRPs expiring at the end of 2024.

People with physical proof of immigration status, such as biometric residence permits (BRPs) and passports with vignette stickers or 'wet ink stamps' inside, are encouraged to create a UKVI account now at www.gov.uk/eVisa to access their eVisa. It is free, and straightforward for those who hold physical and paper documents to do so. After a BRP expires, people with BRPs will still be able to use them to generate a share code through the '[Prove your right to work to an employer](#)' and '[Prove your right to rent in England](#)' online services for a limited time, and to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa. However, an expired BRP does not offer the full benefits of an eVisa.

Once expired, they should keep their BRP card as it may help with future applications to stay in the UK.

Holders of legacy physical documents will still be able to prove their rights as they do today, using their legacy documents where these are permitted, though we

encourage these people to transition to an eVisa, which can offer a range of benefits to them and status checkers.

Those who check immigration status, including employers and landlords (in England) should continue to accept a 'share code' to check someone's immigration status using the relevant online service, or original, hard-copy documents set out in legislation and published guidance:

- Employers: www.gov.uk/view-right-to-work.
- Landlords: www.gov.uk/view-right-to-rent.
- All other checks: www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status.

The Home Office is delivering a range of targeted communications activity to raise awareness of the move to eVisas, and to encourage people to take the actions required to create a UKVI account and access their eVisa.

What is an eVisa?

An eVisa is an online record of a person's immigration permission in the UK, and any conditions which apply, which can be viewed by logging into the 'view and prove' service using their UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account at www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status. They can also link their travel document (such as passport) to their UKVI account to facilitate straightforward international travel using the 'Update your UKVI account details' service at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details.

What are the benefits of an eVisa?

These changes will bring significant benefits to people who hold an immigration status in the UK:

- An eVisa cannot be lost, stolen or damaged.
- Visa holders can prove their rights instantly, accurately and securely to anyone who requests it while sharing only necessary information.
- It will prevent unnecessary delays when travelling internationally where people travel using the passport/national identity document linked to their UKVI account.
- Visa holders can access UK government services and benefits without needing to present proof of immigration status. This is because selected government departments and authorities can securely access immigration status information. Immigration data is held securely, and government will never sell this information. Further information on how the Home Office handles data can be found [here on GOV.UK](#).

Will an eVisa be needed to access public services?

We are taking further steps to reduce the number of circumstances where people need to provide evidence of their immigration status, by developing services to make the relevant immigration status information available automatically through system to

system checks with other government departments and the NHS. This means at the point at which a person seeks to access public services such as NHS healthcare and DWP benefits, the service provider will check status directly with the Home Office, removing the need for people to prove their status themselves. Currently, this includes services with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), DVLA, Social Security Scotland, Student Loans Company (SLC), NHS England and Wales and some local authorities.

How will eVisas impact international travel?

The Home Office has developed technology to enable carriers to check immigration status automatically via systems checks. Commercial carriers have been integrated with our systems, enabling them to send us data on individual travellers and receive messages that will be used to confirm a passenger's permission to travel.

Where they are still held, people should continue to carry valid physical immigration documents with them when they travel internationally.

If for any reason the carrier does not receive confirmation of the passenger's immigration status, they will be able to check this using the 'view and prove' service, or the carrier can contact the 24/7 Carrier Support Hub for advice.

We strongly advise people to check and update their travel document before travelling overseas. Full guidance on how to do this is available at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details. This will enable the Home Office to return a response to the carrier confirming that the passenger has a valid permission to travel to the UK.

People should ensure that the passport or ID card details linked to the UKVI account are up to date and [tell us about any changes](#), so that their immigration status can be easily identified. People should allow plenty of time to check that personal details are up to date and that eVisa information is correct before traveling. Not doing so may mean they experience delays, or risk being denied boarding by carriers.

If no personal details have changed (i.e. no change in name, nationality, date of birth or sex marker), a new or different passport can be added to a UKVI account using the [Update your UKVI account details](#) service whilst the visa holder is outside the UK.

Legacy document holders can prove their rights as they do today using their physical documents where these are permitted. This includes for proving the right to rent, or for travel to the UK. We have informed carriers that some passengers may still only be in possession of a physical document providing proof of their visa or permission to travel and that, in those cases, they will not receive a permission to travel response automatically via system-to-system check. We are also clear that, in those circumstances, presentation of a valid, genuine physical proof of permission remains satisfactory evidence of a passenger's permission to travel to the UK. Valid proof includes an endorsement in a previous passport that confers indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain, where accompanied by a current valid passport.

Who needs to take action?

Those with physical proof of immigration status, such as biometric residence permits (BRPs) and passports with vignette stickers or 'wet ink stamps' inside, are encouraged to create a UKVI account now to access their eVisa at www.gov.uk/eVisa.

Those who already have an eVisa should ensure it is kept up to date with their latest contact information and any travel document (such as passport) which they intend to travel with using the [Update your UKVI account details](#) service. People who are not sure if they already have a UKVI account and eVisa can either check [here on GOV.UK](#) or refer to their original grant email or letter.

British or Irish citizens, who hold a British or Irish passport, do not need an eVisa or a UKVI account and do not need to do anything. They should continue to use their passport to prove their status in the UK. British citizens who are also a national of another country (other than Ireland), or those who have the right of abode in the UK and do not have a British passport, may need to take action in future. We'll update the www.gov.uk/eVisa page in due course to tell them what they need to do. Those who have become a British citizen and have the right of abode in the UK but still have a BRP, should check what they need to do at www.gov.uk/apply-citizenship-indefinite-leave-to-remain/after-you-get-your-certificate.

What Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) holders will need to do

All BRP holders are being advised to take action now to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa at www.gov.uk/eVisa. It is free, and straightforward for those who hold BRPs to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa.

After creating a UKVI account the applicant will need to confirm their identity using 'UK Immigration ID check' app, and their BRP number. We will use this information to link a person's eVisa to their UKVI account. An email will be sent when they can access their eVisa in their UKVI account, usually within a few days.

Most people will be able to see their status right away. Anyone who cannot do so will be able to see their status shortly. Those who cannot see their status can use the existing [prove your right to work](#) and [Prove your right to rent](#) online services in the meantime, and, if they still have it, use their BRP to prove their rights for other purposes. Otherwise, they should contact the UKVI Resolution Centre webchat service. Those who are unable to see their status right away do not need to contact the Home Office. If this happens, an email notification will be sent when the status is available to view.

Direct messaging is being used to contact current BRP holders, whose permission will expire after the end of 2024, inviting them to create a UKVI account. All BRP holders are advised to take action now to access their eVisa at www.gov.uk/eVisa, even if they have not received an email invitation or reminder.

People who hold a BRP that expires on 31 December 2024, and who have immigration leave to be in the UK beyond this date should not apply to renew their BRP. Instead they should create a UKVI account to access their eVisa at www.gov.uk/eVisa.

Once a person with a BRP has created their UKVI account, they should keep their account updated with any new passport or contact details using the 'Update your UK Visas and Immigration account details' service at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details.

If someone has an eVisa as well as a BRP, then they will not need to create a UKVI account, as they already have one. Information on how to use their UKVI account and access their eVisa can be found in their decision letter or email, or at www.gov.uk/guidance/using-your-uk-visas-and-immigration-account.

For those who have a BRP which expires before 31 December 2024, they should create a UKVI account to access their eVisa before their BRP expires if:

- Their immigration permission expires on a later date, or
- They have settlement (also known as indefinite leave to enter or remain).

If a person's immigration permission will also expire before 31 December 2024, they should make a new visa application in the usual way before their permission expires if they want to stay in the UK.

What legacy paper document holders (passports containing ink stamps, vignette stickers, Home Office letters, etc.) will need to do

Legacy document holders who have previously been granted settlement (also known as indefinite leave to remain, 'ILR') in the UK, including people who currently prove their rights using a physical document such as a wet-ink stamp in their passport or a vignette sticker, are encouraged to make a free 'No Time Limit' (NTL) application at www.gov.uk/eVisa, which helps us to re-establish their identity so that they can create a UKVI account to access digital evidence of their status.

This is a free service and once their NTL application is considered, they will receive an eVisa. Applicants will be provided with information on how to access their eVisa in their decision letter or email.

Those applying for NTL do not need to send their passport to us, instead they are asked to upload copies of their documents as part of the application process. The only documents requested as part of this process will be the document demonstrating ILR and their passport or travel document demonstrating their most recent entry to the UK. Applicants are able to leave the UK and travel freely while their NTL application is being considered. NTL applicants will need to provide their fingerprints unless they are exempt or excused. Applicants will be asked whether they have been outside the UK for a continuous period of 2 years or more.

Whilst we encourage legacy document holders to switch to eVisas, they will be able to prove their rights as they do today using their physical documents where these are permitted. This includes for proving the right to rent, or for travel to the UK.

We have informed carriers that some passengers may still only be in possession of a physical document providing proof of their visa or permission to travel and that, in those cases, they will not receive a permission to travel response automatically via system to system check. We are also clear that, in those circumstances, presentation of a valid, genuine physical proof of permission remains satisfactory evidence of a passenger's permission to travel to the UK. Valid proof includes an endorsement in a previous passport that confers ILE or ILR, where accompanied by a current valid passport.

What Biometric Residence Card (BRC) holders will need to do

People who have a BRC and have been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) already have a UKVI account and access to their eVisa (also referred to as an EUSS digital status). They can prove their rights through the view and prove service at www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status and should keep their UKVI account up to date with their current passport and contact details at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details.

BRC holders who have not applied to the EUSS should visit www.gov.uk/eVisa for information on what they need to do next.

eVisas and individuals making new visa applications

As part of our move to an immigration system which is more digital and streamlined, we stopped issuing any new BRPs and BRCs on 31 October 2024.

People who need to make a new application for permission to stay in the UK should follow the usual application process. New applicants will need to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa as part of their application or be advised to create a UKVI account when notified of their decision. We will create UKVI accounts for new applicants with no valid ID documents. We are planning to stop issuing visa vignettes in passports over the next year.

eVisas and actions for those required to check immigration status

There are no immediate changes for those who check immigration statuses, including, carriers, employers and landlords. Those who check immigration status, including employers and landlords (in England) should continue to accept a 'share code' to check someone's immigration status using the relevant online service, or original, hard-copy documents set out in legislation and published guidance.

- Right to work: www.gov.uk/prove-right-to-work.
- Right to rent (in England only): www.gov.uk/prove-right-to-rent.
- Check immigration status: www.gov.uk/check-immigration-status.

- Those checking can continue to accept valid physical documents in some circumstances. Further information on this available at www.gov.uk/legal-right-work-uk for right to work checks and www.gov.uk/check-tenant-right-to-rent-documents for right to rent checks.

Throughout 2024, as visa holders increasingly have UKVI accounts, checkers should find that an increasing number of people use a share code to prove their rights instead of physical documents.

If they want to, those required to check status can help to raise awareness about the move to eVisas by directing individuals who present a physical proof of status to www.gov.uk/eVisa to find out what this means for them.

The vast majority of BRPs, BRCs and Frontier Worker Permits (FWPs) expire on 31 December 2024. The remaining BRPs expire between 1 January 2025 and 27 March 2025, in line with the persons grant of immigration permission. Their BRPs remain valid until they expire and can continue to be used as proof of their immigration status where permitted.

For further information, a detailed factsheet for checkers is also available [here](#).

Will this impact people who already have and use an eVisa, such as those with status under the EU Settlement Scheme, or British citizens?

The changes outlined do not impact:

- people who have an eVisa already, including those with EUSS status
- British or Irish citizens.
- Visa holders who have a right of abode (including individuals who used to hold an immigration document but who have since become a naturalised British citizen).

People who already have an eVisa should ensure that their UKVI account is kept up to date with their latest contact information and any passport which they intend to travel with using the 'Update my details' service at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details.

Is there help and support available?

Should anyone find themselves needing support with creating their UKVI account or getting access to their eVisa, the latest updates and guidance can be found on GOV.UK at: www.gov.uk/eVisa.

People can contact the [UKVI Resolution Centre](#), which provides support via email and webchat to those creating their UKVI account, and telephone support to those using the online immigration status services. This includes supporting users through the online journey by:

- helping them to access or recover their account

- helping them to update their personal details
- sharing status on behalf of users if they are unable to do so themselves

The UKVI Resolution Centre will also be able to assist users who are experiencing technical issues with their online immigration status, and where necessary, enable peoples' status to be verified through alternative means.

People can nominate a 'helper' and give them limited access to their account, so that they can assist with creating a UKVI account, completing details to access an eVisa, and with any immigration application.

Where a person is unable to manage their own affairs due to, for example, age or disability, a 'proxy', who is authorised, can create and manage the account on behalf of the person.

For those based in the UK who do not feel confident using a computer or mobile device, do not have internet access, and do not have access to a device like a laptop or smart phone, they can get help filling in their online Home Office application. Details on how to access this support can be found at www.gov.uk/assisted-digital-help-online-applications.

Is support available for vulnerable people?

We are developing our digital products and services for use by all, including vulnerable users.

Support is now available through the eVisa grant funded network of organisations for vulnerable holders of physical immigration documents who require support in making the transition to eVisa. There are a number of national grant funded bodies and community-based organisations spread across the UK, which offer immediate, free support for vulnerable people in their transition to an eVisa throughout the rest of 2024, and beyond. Details of support available, including the list of organisations is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/evisa-community-support-for-vulnerable-people.