

## UK Travellers to the EU – Partnership Webinar Follow-up Questions

**IMPORTANT** – International travel from the UK is currently restricted, unless you are travelling for work AND qualify as an exemption. Check if you qualify [here](#).

In addition, you must adhere to the [COVID-19 travel rules](#) where you live in the UK, and in your country of arrival, detailed in our [travel advice](#).

### Passports

- 1. Given the 10 week delay in passports, are just recommended to have 6 months validity remaining or would you be able to travel with only 3 months left?**

The Schengen Borders Code states non-EU country passports must be valid for at least 3 months after the date you intend to leave the EU country you are visiting, and be issued within the previous 10 years.

However, we advise UK Travellers to have at least 6 months remaining on their passports (and be no older than 10 years) to account for unforeseen circumstances where they may be unable to return to the UK as planned e.g. medical emergency. Our [passport checker](#) can be used to check if your UK passport meets the new passport validity rules or whether you need to renew it.

- 2. Earlier this year, some UK citizens resident in the EU have had their passports stamped despite proving residency. Has this been resolved?**

We're aware of some cases where passports of UK nationals resident in the EU were incorrectly stamped. We continue to work with EU Member States and the European Commission to ensure implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and new procedures are followed correctly.

UK nationals who have experienced this should be reassured that an incorrectly affixed stamp does not affect their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement and is considered null and void when accompanied by evidence of lawful residence in the host State. In some Member States, a process may exist for removing these stamps from your passport. Contact the immigration service of the relevant country to find out if you can do this.

### Driving your vehicle to the EU

- 3. What additional requirements are required to drive a hire car in the EU?**

There are no new requirements to hire a care when in the EU - you will need a valid UK driving licence.

If taking a hired vehicle from the UK to the EU, you will require a VE103 vehicle on hire certificate.

Full information on driving abroad is available on [GOV.UK](#).

- 4. Is a GB sticker required for Republic of Ireland?**

A GB sticker is not required to drive your vehicle to the Republic of Ireland.

### Entry Requirements

- 5. How will UK family members of an EU citizen resident in the UK be treated at the EU border?**

There are specific conditions that apply to British citizens who are not protected by the Withdrawal Agreement and are family members of EU citizens, where the EU citizen is living in or travelling to a Member State of which they are not a national. These conditions only apply when the British citizen is accompanying or joining the family member in that Member State.

In doing so, their right to stay in that Member State is dependent on their family member's EU citizenship and can be protected under EU law. It is also possible for British citizens who are joining family members of EU citizens to qualify for an independent right to reside under EU law. Member States are responsible for determining the application of these provisions to third country nationals, in accordance with the Free Movement Directive, including the requirement to register for a residence permit as a family member of an EU citizen in order to stay for longer than three months in a Member State.

The Schengen Borders Code requires the travel documents of all third country nationals to be stamped on entry to and exit from the Schengen Area. A British citizen who is a family member of an EU citizen will have their passport stamped on entry and exit, unless they show evidence that they are lawfully resident in an EU Member State or EFTA country e.g. if they are in possession of a residence permit issued by a Member State. Section 1, part 6 of the Schengen Handbook for Border Guards sets out the arrangements on the stamping of travel documents.

As EU citizens continue to benefit from free movement, they also benefit from the right to family reunion. Further information on specific scenarios can be found here:  
[https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/family-residence-rights/index\\_en.htm](https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/family-residence-rights/index_en.htm)

#### **6. Do you need to provide proof of your intention for travel?**

The Schengen Borders Code does not include details of what is required to demonstrate proof of a traveller's purpose for visiting an EU country. This will be at the discretion of EU border guards.

British passport holders may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, and use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.

If travelling for business activity that does not require a visa/ work permit, it is wise to carry with you proof of your planned activity, if applicable. If uncertain, you should check with the relevant Embassy of the Member State you are travelling to.

### **Business visas and work permits**

#### **7. Do you need a business visa / work permit on a trip by trip basis, or can you get e.g. a Schengen-wide business visa?**

Schengen Visa Waiver rules allow for UK Nationals to travel visa-free throughout the Schengen Area for a limited range of business activities, for example attending business meetings, for up to 90 days (in a 180 day period). Some Member States allow additional activities without a visa, but these vary across Member States. If someone is undertaking activities outside of the Schengen visa waiver they may need to apply for a visa or work permit depending on the country they are visiting, what they are doing, and the duration of that activity. Multiple visas/permits may be required if travelling to multiple Member States for work purposes. Business travellers should check with the Embassy or High Commission of the country they are visiting on the entry requirements and options available to them. This is signposted in our [Travel Advice](#) pages.

#### **8. What is the duration of a work permit?**

The duration of a work permit can vary, depending on the duration of stay and the type of work permit you may need. Business travellers should check with the Embassy or High Commission of the country they are visiting on the entry requirements and options available to them.

**9. Do EU Nationals require a visa for a business meeting in the UK lasting less than 90 days?**

EU citizens are non-visa nationals for the purpose of the UK's visitor rules. As such EU citizens can visit the UK for up to six months and carry out a specific set of permitted activities, including attending meetings, conferences, seminars and interviews. Full entry and eligibility requirements can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). The list of visa-free permitted activities can be found in a separate [appendix](#).

For stays longer than 6 months, or when undertaking other activities not referenced in these rules, a visa will be required. Further information is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

**10. Will you include more information on business travel on GOV.UK as opposed to referring to local government websites, which can be tricky to navigate?**

The Government is committed to supporting individuals and businesses adjust to our new relationship with the EU. We have published guidance on GOV.UK, including updated travel advice for [travelling to the EU, EEA and Switzerland](#), information on [providing services to EU, EEA and Switzerland](#), and [business travel guidance](#).

The Government is developing enhanced guidance on EU Member States' visa and work permit systems, building on existing GOV.UK signposting content. The new guidance will include information on the different visa and work permit routes available, and the exemptions that may apply depending on the profession/planned activity.

It is important to note that entry requirements are a part of an EU Member State's domestic immigration laws. FCDO travel advice therefore signposts to Member State's own guidance as the definitive source of information.

**11. Is there a comprehensive procedure for Posted Worker Notifications?**

Posted workers are workers that temporarily work abroad in another EU or EEA country as part of EU freedom of movement principles. Following the end of the Transition Period, freedom of movement principles no longer apply to UK nationals. Entry into the EU, including for business of contractual purposes, is therefore facilitated by a state's own immigration regime.

## **Merchandise in baggage**

**12. Is a customs declaration or carnet required if re-entering the UK with kit or samples (items not for sale)?**

If you're taking goods to another country temporarily for business reasons, you can usually [get an ATA Carnet](#) to avoid paying duty. This includes samples to show at trade fairs or sales meetings. More information on ATA Carnets can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/taking-goods-out-uk-temporarily/get-an-ata-carnet>

In the UK, ATA Carnets are administered by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. <https://www.londonchamber.co.uk/export-documents/ata-carnet>

An alternative option to Carnets is the Temporary Admission procedure on entry to the EU and the Returned Goods Relief on return to the UK. This allows goods to enter the EU on a temporary basis without payment of duties - subject to relevant conditions being met. The management of EU import and export procedures is the responsibility of the customs authorities of the Member States. It is

important that you confirm the processes at their port of arrival and any conditions or procedures that may apply. Information can be found at [https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/customs\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs_en)

### **13. Do laptops and phones require a carnet?**

If you are leaving or entering the UK temporarily, including on a business trip, you do not need to declare your laptop or mobile phone to customs.