



Home Office

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Ms Kate Shoesmith
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25 February 2022

Dear Ms Shoesmith,

Thank you for your letter of 21 January, about the changes to the Right to Work Scheme and the introduction of a digital checks for British and Irish citizens. Please note you are receiving a response from an official. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Firstly, I would like to thank your membership for their contribution to our review of the availability of specialist technology to support a system of digital right to work checks in the future.

Enabling the use of Identification Document Validation Technology (IDVT) for right to work checks will accelerate the recruitment and onboarding process, improve employee mobility and enhance the security and integrity of the checks.

The changes we are introducing are a proportionate solution that makes use of commercially available technology, which is accessible, secure and is already being used by other government departments and private businesses. It provides an alternative option for employers who wish to continue to carry out checks remotely. Many employers and their representative bodies have told us that it would represent a more cost-effective business model for them to pay for digital checks using an Identity Service Provider (IDSP) than to carry out manual checks of original documents. Employers can continue to rely

upon manual checks of physical documents if they do not wish to use IDVT.

The Home Office has no plans to regulate the costs charged by IDSPs as this is a private contractual arrangement between the employer and their chosen provider.

In the meantime, we have deferred the date for the end of the temporary adjusted checks to 30 September 2022. This will ensure employers have sufficient time to develop commercial relationships with identity service providers, make the necessary changes to their pre-employment checking processes and carry out responsible on-boarding of their chosen provider. Deferring the end date of the adjusted checks also ensures the Right to Work Scheme continues to operate in a manner which supports employers to implement long-term, post-pandemic working practices.

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Home Office on this matter.

Ed White-Chicken

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