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.
- Customers 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 will get an eVisa from autumn 2024 onwards.
- The move to an eVisa will not impact a customer's underlying immigration status.
- It is free for customers 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 'digital by default' by 2025. This process is already underway, and millions of people in the UK who applied for their visa through the EU Settlement Scheme or used the ID Check app already have an eVisa. These changes will bring significant benefits to customers, deliver excellent value, and increase the UK immigration system's security and efficiency.

The latest information about eVisas is available at www.gov.uk/evisa.

In 2024 customers who currently prove their immigration status using a physical document will need to take action to create a UKVI account and access their eVisa to ensure that they can prove their rights without delay or difficulty.

All BRP holders should visit www.gov.uk/evisa now to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa. Holders of other physical immigration documents, including passports containing visa vignette stickers or ink stamps (for those who hold indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain), and BRCs, can also find information here on what they need to do to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa. BRP holders should keep their BRP somewhere safe after they have created a UKVI account.

Organisations and individuals who are required to check immigration status should continue to use the usual online checking services:

- 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.

What is an eVisa?

An eVisa is a digital record of a person's immigration status. It removes the need for physical documents such as the biometric residence permit (BRP), passports containing a visa vignette sticker (a physical visa sticker in a passport) or an immigration ink stamp, or the biometric residence card (BRC).

What are the benefits of an eVisa?

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

- An eVisa cannot be lost, stolen or damaged.
- Customers 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 customers travel using the passport/national identity document linked to their UKVI account.
- Customers can access many 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 customer data. Further information on how the Home Office handles customer data can be found here on GOV.UK.

Customers will be able to create an account quickly and easily post-2024, using their expired BRP if needed, at www.gov.uk/evisa. BRP holders will still be able to use the online right to work and rent services to prove their rights once their BRP expires – provided they still have valid status – although they are encouraged to register for a UKVI account and to use that to access those services.

Will an eVisa be needed to access public services?

Some government bodies, including the Department for Work and Pensions and the National Health Service in England and Wales, can already securely access the immigration status of existing eVisa customers when they seek to claim benefits or access healthcare to ensure eligibility. This means that when these customers seek to access UK government services and benefits, they will not be asked to present proof of status when their entitlement to access those services is assessed. Immigration data is held securely, and government will never sell customer data.

How will eVisas impact international travel?

Customers should continue to carry their in-date physical immigration documents with them when they travel internationally, if they have been issued with such a document. Customers who already have an eVisa should tell the Home Office about any passport on which they intend to travel if this is not already linked to their

account. They can do this using the 'Update your UK Visas and Immigration account details' service at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details.

During 2024, the Home Office is taking steps to allow carriers, including transport operators such as airlines, ferry, and international train operators, to securely and automatically access the immigration status of passengers travelling on their services when they present their passport which is linked to their UKVI account.

This will automate the existing routine checks completed whenever a passenger presents their passport when travelling internationally. This will provide a more convenient customer journey, and enhanced border security.

Who needs to take action?

The removal of physical documents means that customers who use physical documents to evidence their immigration status will need to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa.

Customers who already have an eVisa, including anyone granted status through the EU Settlement Scheme, do not need to do anything other than keep their UKVI account up to date with their latest passport and contact details. This is also the case if a customer holds both a physical document, such as a BRP, and an eVisa. Customers 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. Customers 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 your UK Visas and Immigration account details' service at www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status.

British passport holders and Irish citizens, including those who previously held an immigration status but have since acquired British citizenship, do not need to do anything. British citizens who do not have a British passport because they are dual nationals (excluding Irish passport holders) may need to take action in future regarding how they prove their right of abode. Updates on this will be provided in due course.

Anyone who holds physical immigration documents should continue to take them with them when they travel internationally until they expire. BRP holders should retain their BRP after they have created a UKVI account as they may need the reference number for future applications to stay in the UK.

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

All BRP holders should visit www.gov.uk/evisa now to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa. Holders of other physical immigration documents, including passports containing vignette stickers or ink stamps (for those who hold indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain), and BRCs, can also find information here on what they need to do to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa. The Home Office continues to send direct emails to BRP holders about the transition to eVisas, but BRP holders should not wait to receive an email before taking action.

Customers who hold a BRP that expires on 31 December 2024, and who have immigration leave to be in the UK beyond this date, do not need to apply to renew their BRP, as all recently issued BRPs are due to expire on this date. Instead, these customers should follow the instructions below, or in the email sent to them, to create a UKVI account.

Creating a UKVI account is free, straightforward, and will not usually require BRP holders to send the Home Office either their passport or BRP.

- This applies even to customers recently issued with a BRP.
- In the meantime, customers can use their BRP as normal.

Once a customer with a BRP has created their UKVI account, they should update their account with any new passport or contact details. The 'Update your UK Visas and Immigration account details' service is an online service available to customers who have a UKVI account, which enables them to update their details, including travel documents. The service can be accessed at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details.

Any BRP customer who has immigration leave that expires before 31 December 2024, but plans to remain in the UK, should seek to extend their visa in the usual way. Guidance will be provided as part of the visa extension process on how the customer can create a UKVI account to access their eVisa.

BRP holders should continue to travel internationally with both their BRP, until it expires, and their passport. BRP holders should retain their BRP after they have created a UKVI account as they may need the reference number for future applications to stay in the UK.

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

Customers who have indefinite leave to enter or indefinite leave to remain and prove their rights using a passport containing an ink stamp or vignette sticker or use another type of legacy paper document should make a 'No Time Limit' application. It is free to make a No Time Limit application, and information on how to do so is available at www.gov.uk/evisa. As part of the application process customers may need to travel to a UK Visa and Citizenship Application Services Centre (known as a UKVCAS) to provide a photograph, and in some cases provide fingerprints.

Successful No Time Limit applicants are issued a BRP, which they should use to create a UKVI account and access their eVisa. Customers can continue to use their BRP, BRC, or other legacy paper document alongside their eVisa, and they should continue to take it with them with their passport whenever they travel internationally to avoid unnecessary delays.

Later in 2024, the Home Office will take steps to launch a revised No Time Limit application process which provides an eVisa directly, without issuing a BRP. Further

information on the new process will be available at www.gov.uk/evisa. Until then, if customers hold a legacy document there is no reason to delay making a No Time Limit application.

If customers hold a passport containing a vignette sticker issued to them under EEA Regulations, this document ceased to be valid on 30 June 2021. To continue living in the UK, customers should obtain an immigration status as soon as possible. They may be able to make a late application to the EU Settlement Scheme as a family member of EU, EEA or Swiss citizen at www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme, where they will also find information on the range of support available.

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

Customers 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 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 customers making new visa applications

Customers who successfully apply for a visa and are issued with a BRP up until autumn 2024 will also need to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa. They can do this using the steps outlined above and at www.gov.uk/evisa.

From autumn 2024, most customers will no longer be issued with a physical document such as a BRP and will need to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa. Information on what to do to create a UKVI account will be contained in their decision notice and will also be available on www.gov.uk/evisa in due course. They will be able to use the 'view and prove service' (www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status) through their UKVI account to prove their rights, and carriers will be able to automatically securely access an individual's immigration status when they present the passport or national identity document associated with their UKVI account.

Customers who are not sure if they already have a UKVI account and eVisa can either check here on GOV.UK or should refer to their original grant email or letter. Customers who already have an eVisa should ensure that their UKVI account is kept up to date with their latest contact information and any passport or national identity document which they intend to travel with using the 'Update my details' service at www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details.

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. Status checkers should continue to

accept the 'share code' to check someone's status through the right to work, right to rent, and check immigration status services:

- 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 customers increasingly have UKVI accounts, checkers should find that an increasing number of customers 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.

For further information, a detailed factsheet for checkers is also available here.

Will this impact customers who already have and use an eVisa, such as customers 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, or British or Irish citizens.
- Customers who have a right of abode (including individuals who used to hold an immigration document but who have since become a naturalised British citizen).

Customers 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.

Further information

- The latest information on eVisas is available at www.gov.uk/evisa, and visitors to this webpage can register to receive updates whenever this page is updated. It will be updated throughout 2024.
- Customers who already hold an eVisa but are not sure how to use it can find further information in their original grant letter or email or at www.gov.uk/guidance/using-your-uk-visas-and-immigration-account.