

eVisas

A guide for people who use a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) to prove their rights

- Government is replacing physical immigration documents with a digital proof of immigration status called an eVisa.
- People in the UK who currently use a biometric residence permit (BRP) to prove their rights should take action now to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa before their BRP expires at the end of 2024.
- The move to an eVisa will not impact a person's underlying immigration status.
- Airlines and other carriers are able to accept BRPs expiring on or after 31 December 2024 as evidence of permission to travel to the UK, provisionally until 31 March 2025.
- It is free for people with BRPs 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.

This factsheet is designed to help people who currently prove their immigration rights using a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP).

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 a BRP are encouraged to create a UKVI account now at www.gov.uk/eVisa to access their eVisa. It is free, and straightforward for BRP holders to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa. BRP holders may continue using their BRP card till it expires. Once expired, they should keep their BRP card as it may help with future applications to stay in the UK.

Airlines and other carriers are able to accept BRPs expiring on or after 31 December 2024 as evidence of permission to travel to the UK, provisionally until 31 March 2025. This will be kept under review. People travelling in the early part of the year are therefore advised to continue carrying their expired BRP, as this will add to the range of checking options already available to carriers.

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 Commonwealth citizens who have the right of abode in the UK do not need an eVisa. 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 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. They can also link their travel document (such as passport) to their UKVI account to facilitate straightforward international travel.

eVisas 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 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 this data. Further information on how the Home Office handles data can be found [here on GOV.UK](#).

During this transition period, people with expired BRPs and with continuing immigration permission 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.

What do BRP holders 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. 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 create a UKVI account to access their eVisa at www.gov.uk/eVisa, even if they have not received an email invitation.

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 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 people 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.

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 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.

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.

Who is affected by this change?

Everyone that uses a BRP who does not already have an eVisa is affected by this change, as BRPs are all due to expire at the end of 2024.

What should visa holders do when travelling internationally?

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.

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.

Airlines and other carriers are able to accept BRPs expiring on or after 31 December 2024 as evidence of permission to travel to the UK, provisionally until 31 March 2025. This will be kept under review. People travelling in the early part of the year are therefore advised to continue carrying their expired BRP or EUSS BRC, as this will add to the range of checking options already available to carriers.

Passengers travelling to and from the UK will remain subject to the usual immigration checks and requirements, and anyone seeking to enter the UK whose underlying immigration status has expired will be liable for refusal of entry.

This measure provides additional options to carriers and passengers in the event that automated checks on travel permissions are not possible. Existing measures include that carriers can call the dedicated 24/7 carrier support hub to confirm a passenger's immigration status.

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 unnecessary delays.

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.

Passengers can also generate a share code using the 'view and prove' service and provide this to the carrier. It is possible to do this at the airport, but passengers can also generate a code in advance of travel at www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status and take it with them (it is valid for 90 days).

What if a visa holder loses or misplaces their BRP?

Lost or stolen BRPs must be reported to the Home Office via www.gov.uk/biometric-residence-permits/lost-stolen-damaged. It is no longer possible to request a replacement BRP.

People who do not have a BRP but have a passport, can use this alongside their Global Web Form (GWF) number or Unique Application Number (UAN), which can be found on their decision letter or email, to create a UKVI account.

Those who do not have their reference number, will be able to request it during the UKVI account creation process at www.gov.uk/get-access-evisa. During the process, they will be directed to the 'Request Your Reference' service if they are unable to provide their reference number.

Those who do not yet have a UKVI account, and that were granted permission to stay or settlement in the UK before 31 October 2024 and do not have a passport or a BRP card, can now create a UKVI account to access their eVisa www.gov.uk/eVisa.

For people who have been granted permission to stay or settlement in the UK on or after 31 October 2024, and did not have a valid passport when they applied, the Home Office will create their UKVI account and send them information about how to access their eVisa within 14 days of their decision letter or email date.

Those who already have a UKVI account, can access their eVisa by logging into the view and prove service at www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status.

What if a visa holder already has a UKVI account and an eVisa as well as a BRP?

If a person already 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 in their decision letter or email, or at www.gov.uk/guidance/using-your-uk-visas-and-immigration-account. People 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.

What happens if visa holders do not create an account to access their eVisa?

BRP holders should take steps to create a UKVI account and access their eVisa before it expires to prevent any unnecessary delays in proving their rights. Airlines and other carriers are able to accept BRPs and EUSS BRCs expiring on or after 31 December 2024 as evidence of permission to travel to the UK, provisionally until 31 March 2025. This will be kept under review. People travelling in the early part of the year are therefore advised to continue carrying their expired BRP or EUSS BRC, as this will add to the range of checking options already available to carriers.

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.

Should expired BRPs be returned to the Home Office?

It is not necessary to return an expired BRP to the Home Office. Expired BRP cards should be retained as it may help with future applications to stay in the UK.

Is there help and support available?

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.

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 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.

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.

Support is now also 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. Details of support available, including the list of organisations is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/evisa-community-support-for-vulnerable-people.