



Baroness Anderson of Stoke-on-Trent
Baroness-in-Waiting [Government Whip]
and Spokesperson for the Cabinet Office
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

Baroness Coussins,
House of Lords,
London,
SW1A 0PW

15 January 2026

Dear Lady Coussins,

I am writing in response to a question you asked in the House on 18 December 2025, following my Oral Statement on the UK-EU Common Understanding Negotiations.

You asked, in the context of our association to Erasmus+ in 2027, whether the Government would reintroduce group passports. I can confirm that our association to Erasmus+ will include schools for the purposes of trips and exchanges. The benefits extend to those of school age, as well as those in further and higher education, adult learners, youth workers and sport sector professionals. It will ensure individuals can participate in high-quality international mobilities, cooperation projects and wider partnerships.

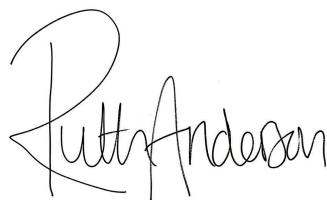
On the matter of group passports, I can confirm the following. From 12 October 2025, the European Union (EU) introduced a new digital border process: the Entry/Exit System (EES). A group passport is not machine-readable, which means it cannot be processed automatically by digital border control systems.

While we continue to issue collective passports, we have not received confirmation from the EU as to how long they will continue to be accepted for travel following the introduction of the new digital process.

We therefore strongly recommend that each child/young person who is travelling as part of a group holds their own passport that meets the entry requirements of the country or countries to which they are travelling.

Thank you for your engagement on this important matter. I will place a copy of this letter in the House library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruth Anderson".

**Baroness Anderson of Stoke-on-Trent
Baroness-in-Waiting [Government Whip]
and Lords Spokesperson for Cabinet Office**