

**EU EXIT BRIEFING PACK**  
**Information prepared for the event of the UK leaving the EU**  
**Information correct at 8 Feb 2019**

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*Please note that this pack should be distributed as instructed.*

## **I. OVERVIEW OF THIS PACK**

This briefing pack is intended to provide UK Defence military and civilian personnel based in the UK and Europe with overarching guidance in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal. **Whilst it has been produced with this audience in mind, the information provided is drawn from existing guidance to all UK citizens and is readily available on GOV.UK. Further information specifically tailored to the UK Defence Population will be issued subsequently.**

This pack seeks to address specific areas that have been previously identified as topics of interest to personnel currently based in Europe. This is not an exhaustive brief. Personnel are therefore encouraged to raise any further queries through their Chain of Command, who can pass to the central Ministry of Defence EU Exit team. Links to guidance on GOV.UK are also contained within this pack.

The EU Exit team within the Ministry of Defence continue to work in close cooperation with the Department for Exiting the EU and other Government departments to appropriately advise and guide you through any concerns.

### **Next steps on EU Exit**

Securing a deal remains the Government's top priority. A majority of MPs have said they would support a deal with changes to the backstop. The Government will now take this mandate forward and seek to obtain legally binding changes to the Withdrawal Agreement while guaranteeing no return to a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

The Prime Minister remains confident that a majority in Parliament for leaving the EU with a deal can be secured.

The Government will talk to the EU about how to address Parliament's views. The Government recognise there is limited appetite for such a change in the EU - these discussions will not be easy. However Parliament has made it clear what it needs to approve this Withdrawal Agreement.

The Prime Minister has also confirmed her commitment to working with Parliamentarians across the house to restore faith in our democracy and get on with building a country that works for everyone.

Parliament has clearly indicated that it does not want the UK to leave the EU without a Withdrawal Agreement and Future Framework. However simply opposing no deal is not enough to stop it. The Government is redoubling its efforts to secure a deal that Parliament can support.

### **No Deal**

Leaving the EU with a deal remains the Government's top priority. This has not changed.

However a responsible Government must plan for every eventuality, including a no deal scenario. Before Christmas the decision was taken to intensify and accelerate no deal planning to ensure we are fully prepared.

In December, Cabinet agreed to proceed with the Government's next phase of no deal planning and this is now being set in motion. It is recommended that businesses and individuals now also ensure they are prepared and enact their own no deal plans as they judge necessary.

## **II. KEY GUIDANCE**

### **a) Immigration**

#### **Living in an EU country after the UK leaves the EU**

Continuing to live in an EU country after the UK has left the EU depends on the EU and individual Member States, and whether they reciprocate the UK's offer on Citizens' rights in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

The UK Government has guaranteed the rights of EU citizens in the UK to continue to live their lives broadly as they do now. Many Member States have already given political assurances to UK nationals about their residency rights. The European Commission has also published a No Deal Contingency Action Plan which calls upon EU Member States to take a generous approach to UK nationals who are already resident in their territory. This includes a call for Member States to take measures so that all UK nationals legally residing in a Member State on 29 March 2019 will continue to be considered as legal residents of that Member State without interruption. However, the communication states that in a no deal scenario UK nationals in the EU may be subject to third country national rules which may affect some UK nationals' right to stay and work in the country they are living in. The UK Government will continue to work with the EU and all Member States to make sure UK nationals are given firm reassurances as soon as possible.

The residency status and rights of Defence personnel may differ to that of the generic guidance being offered on GOV.UK. This will depend upon the basis of your posting. You will be informed through your Chain of Command if this is the case.

#### **Staying in an EU country with an EU spouse**

EU citizens with non-EU spouses, long-term partners or other family members are usually entitled to register them in their EU country of nationality. The right to register non-EU family members should include registering UK nationals as family members once the UK leaves the EU and UK nationals are no longer EU citizens. For further details see [the EU's guidance on registering EU family members in another EU country. \(http://ow.ly/YE3f30nD06U\)](http://ow.ly/YE3f30nD06U)

#### **Working in an EU country without a visa and residency status**

If you are working in the EU as an employed or self-employed person and you have a UK-issued A1/E101 form, you will remain subject to UK legislation for the duration of the period shown on the form. However, after 29 March 2019 the form may no longer be recognised by the EU country/or countries you work in. You should contact the relevant EU country's authority to see if you need to start paying any social security charges. We are in contact with Member States on changes for UK nationals in a no deal scenario and will provide updates as and when information becomes available.

#### **Settled and pre-settled status for EU citizens and their families**

On 21 January 2019, the Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons that the application fee for the EU Settlement Scheme will be waived. For those who have already applied the cost of the application will be refunded.

If you're an EU citizen, you and your family will be able to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. This includes those married to a British citizen. If your application is successful, you'll receive either settled or pre-settled status.

The EU Settlement Scheme will open fully by 30 March 2019. The deadline for applying will be 30 June 2021 if there is a deal, and 31 December 2020 if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

You will usually be entitled to settled status if you have:

- Started living in the UK by 31 December 2020.
- Lived in the UK for a continuous 5-year period ('continuous residence').
- You must not be a serious or persistent criminal or a threat to national security.

Five years' continuous residence is defined as residency for 5 years in a row within the UK for a period of at least 6 months in any 12-month period, except for:

- One period of up to 12 months for an important reason (for example, childbirth, serious illness, study, vocational training or an overseas work posting).
- Compulsory military service of any length.

You will only need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme once if you receive settled status.

If you do not have 5 years' continuous residence, you will usually receive 'pre-settled status' instead. You will be entitled to stay in the UK for a further 5 years from the date you receive pre-settled status. You can apply to change your status as soon as you have 5 years' continuous residence. If you apply from 30 March 2019 onwards, your application will be free.

## **b) Passports**

British passports will still be valid for travel within and outside of the EU if the UK leaves without a deal. However, the rules for travel to most countries in Europe will likely change if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. Specifically, after 29 March 2019:

- You should have at least 6 months left on your passport from the date of arrival. This applies to adult and child passports.
- If you renewed a 10-year adult passport before it expired, up to 9 extra months may have been added to your new passport's expiry date, making it valid for more than 10 years. Any extra months on your passport over 10 years may not count towards the 6 months that should be remaining for travel to most countries in Europe.
- HM Passport Office has provided an [online checker](http://ow.ly/yzX630nD0r2) (<http://ow.ly/yzX630nD0r2>) on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) (<http://ow.ly/tZg130nD0vj>) to allow you (British passport holders) to see if you have enough validity to travel.

### **Travel around the EU with a British passport**

The entry requirements for British passport holders, including those with passports issued by the Crown Dependencies (Guernsey, Isle of Man, and Jersey) and Gibraltar, travelling to Schengen area

countries<sup>1</sup> will change after the UK leaves the EU in the event of a no deal exit. You will be considered a third country national<sup>2</sup>.

After 29 March 2019, you'll need to check the details of your passport and, if necessary, apply for a new one before you travel to a Schengen area country. According to the Schengen Borders Code, third country passports must;

- have been issued within the last 10 years on the date of arrival in a Schengen country, and:
- have at least 3 months' validity remaining on the date of intended departure from the last country visited in the Schengen area. Because third country nationals can remain in the Schengen area for 90 days (approximately 3 months), the actual check carried out could be that the passport has at least 6 months' validity remaining on the date of arrival.

If your passport does not meet these criteria, you may be denied entry to any of the Schengen area countries, and you should renew your passport before you travel.

For countries that are in the EU but not in the Schengen area, you'll need to check the entry requirements for the country you're travelling to before you travel.

The easiest way to [renew your passport](http://ow.ly/pkA930nD0xn) (<http://ow.ly/pkA930nD0xn>) is online. [Other ways of applying to renew your passport](http://ow.ly/Y3tR30nD0Ax) (<http://ow.ly/Y3tR30nD0Ax>) are also available.

### **c) Pet passports**

To make sure your pet can travel from the UK to the EU after 29 March 2019 in any scenario, you should contact your vet at least 4 months before travelling to get the latest guidance.

#### **Rules for pet travel**

The rules for taking your pet to any EU country will change if the UK leaves the EU without a deal and is treated as an [unlisted country](http://ow.ly/6XKI30nD0Cc). (<http://ow.ly/6XKI30nD0Cc>)

You must get your dog, cat or ferret microchipped and then vaccinated against rabies before it can travel.

However, to allow effective contingency planning in the worst-case scenario of the UK not being granted third country status, you'll need to take the following steps to make sure your pet can travel after 29 March 2019:

1. You must get your dog, cat or ferret microchipped and then vaccinated against rabies before it can travel. Your pet must have a blood sample taken at least 30 days after the rabies vaccination. You'll need to talk to your vet about whether you need a rabies vaccination or booster before this test.
2. Your vet must send the blood sample to an [EU-approved blood testing laboratory](http://ow.ly/i2DL30nD0DB). (<http://ow.ly/i2DL30nD0DB>)

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<sup>1</sup> The following are members of the Schengen Agreement: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. These EU countries are not in the Schengen area: Ireland, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Cyprus.

<sup>2</sup> Third-country nationals are citizens of countries (like Australia, Canada and the USA) which do not belong to the EU or the European Economic Area.

3. The results of the blood test must show that the vaccination was successful (Your pet must have a rabies antibody level of at least 0.5 IU/ml).
4. You must wait 3 months from the date the successful blood sample was taken before you travel.
5. You must take your pet to a Official Veterinarian (OV), no more than 10 days before travel to get a health certificate.

### **UK nationals living abroad**

If you're living in Europe and are planning to travel with your pet using a UK-issued pet passport, you should speak to your local vet. They'll be able to help you understand the impact of the UK leaving the EU without a deal and ensure you're compliant with [EU Pet Travel Regulations](http://ow.ly/Husd30nD0FA). (<http://ow.ly/Husd30nD0FA>)

If you have a pet passport issued by an EU member state, you can use it to bring your pet to the UK.

To return your pet to an EU country from the UK, you'll need to ensure it has a successful rabies antibody blood test.

If your pet has a successful blood test before leaving the EU, you will not need to wait the 3 months before travelling.

### **Return to the UK**

Your pet must have one of the following documents when returning to the UK:

- an existing EU pet passport (both for UK and EU citizens)
- the EU health certificate issued in the UK used to travel to the EU
- a UK pet health certificate (issued outside the UK for travel into the UK only)

Check the [routes before you travel](http://ow.ly/fU8y30nD0GB). (<http://ow.ly/fU8y30nD0GB>) On existing approved routes your documents and microchip will be checked. If you're not travelling on an approved route talk to your vet about what preparations, you need to make before travel.

There will be no change to the current requirements for pets entering the UK from the EU after 29 March.

### **d) Flights**

If there is no deal with the EU, airlines wishing to conduct flights between the UK and the EU would have to seek individual permissions to operate from the respective states (be that the UK or an EU country). In this scenario, the UK would envisage granting permission to EU airlines to continue to operate. We would expect EU countries to reciprocate in turn. It would not be in the interest of any EU country nor the UK to restrict the choice of destinations that could be served, though.

As always, it is important to take out comprehensive travel insurance before travelling abroad. You should make sure you understand the terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy, and that the policy is sufficient to cover possible disruption. If you have questions about what your travel insurance policy covers, or whether the policy is sufficient to cover possible disruption, you may wish to contact your insurer. [can be removed if MOD provides travel cover for all personnel even on private journeys]

The EU has recently published a draft Regulation which would provide the right for UK airlines to fly to and from the EU for one year. These plans alongside, the DFT's aviation technical notices, clearly demonstrate that in the event of a no deal, both sides are committed to maintaining

connectivity. Alternatively, bilateral arrangements between the UK and an individual EU country could be put in place, specifying the conditions under which air services would be permitted. By definition any such agreement would be reciprocal in nature. The European Commission has previously acknowledged that a basic level agreement on air services would be desirable in the event of the UK leaving with no deal.

## **e) Vehicles**

### **Driving in the EU**

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, then after exit you will be subject to the prevailing domestic laws of individual countries regarding driving. Your driving licence may no longer be valid, by itself, when driving in the EU. After 29 March 2019, if you visit and drive in an EU country, for example on holiday, you would need both:

- Your UK driving licence.
- The appropriate International Driving Permit (IDP).

If there is no deal with the EU, you would need to obtain an International Driving Permit (IDP) to drive in the EU. An IDP is a document which when carried with your driving licence means you would be able to drive outside of the UK including in EU countries. There are different types of IDP covered by different conventions<sup>3</sup>. Which one you need depends on which country you are driving in. You may also need an IDP to hire a vehicle when you are abroad.

You may be turned away at the border or face other enforcement action, for example fines, if you don't have the correct IDP.

### **Obtaining an IDP**

From 1 February 2019 both types of IDP became available to purchase through Post Offices. The fee for the IDP is currently £5.50. Currently getting an IDP over a Post Office counter takes around 5 minutes on a turn-up-and-go basis.

### **Vehicle insurance**

If the UK leaves the EU in March 2019 without a deal in place regarding the implementation period and future arrangements, access to the Green Card-free circulation area would cease. This would mean that UK motorists driving a UK registered vehicle would need to carry a Green Card<sup>4</sup> as proof of third party motor insurance cover when driving in the EU, EEA, Andorra, Serbia and Switzerland.

You can request a Green Card from your insurance provider free of charge, but insurers may decide to reflect production and handling costs in a small increase to their administration fees.

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<sup>3</sup> There are 2 types of International Driving Permit required by EU countries. Each is governed by a separate United Nations convention. One type is governed by the [1949 Geneva Convention on Road Traffic](#). The other type is governed by the [1968 Vienna Convention on Road Traffic](#).

<sup>4</sup> The Green Card is an international certificate of insurance issued by insurance providers in the UK, guaranteeing that the motorist has the necessary third party motor insurance cover for travel in the country being travelled to.

## **f) Healthcare cover**

### **Paying for healthcare in EU countries**

UK nationals living in, working in, or visiting the EU may find that their access to healthcare in EU Member States will change after 29 March 2019. This will depend on decisions made by each country. However, the UK is seeking bilateral agreements to maintain healthcare rights as a top priority.

For people visiting the EU, we recommend buying travel insurance to ensure you can travel safely. You should make sure you understand the terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy, and that the policy is sufficient to cover possible disruption. The FCO has guidance on what your travel insurance policy should cover.

If you already have travel insurance to cover your trip, your insurer should let you know if there will be any changes to the way your policy is serviced that will affect you after the UK leaves the EU. If you have questions about what your travel insurance policy covers, or whether the policy is sufficient to cover possible disruption, you may wish to contact your insurance company.

If your travel is business related, then please check with your chain of command / Line management before making alternative arrangements at your own expense.

## **g) Banking, insurance and other financial products accounts and transfers**

We expect that the majority of people will see limited, or no, difference after the UK leaves the EU, and will be able to use and rely on their bank accounts, insurance, personal pensions or annuities, and other services whether they are provided by a firm based in the UK, Europe or elsewhere in the world.

Your firm should contact you if it needs to make any changes to your product or the way it provides it. However, if you have any concerns about whether you might be affected, you should contact your firm.

## **h) Weapons**

The European Firearms Pass (EFP) is a form of passport for firearms and is designed for use by those who are travelling with their firearms between EU countries. EFPs are valid for personal travel only, so do not apply to military personnel travelling with their weapons in an official capacity.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, UK residents will no longer be able to use a European Firearms Pass. You should check the requirements of the EU country you are travelling to with your firearm or shotgun. You will need to comply with whatever licensing or other requirements each EU country imposes, as well as UK import and export licensing requirements.

This guidance also applies to UK residents who are due to be in an EU country with their firearm when the UK leaves the EU.

Export licenses will generally be required for exports of firearms to EU countries. There may be exemptions for firearms travelling as personal effects.

EFPs would no longer be recognised for EU visitors to the UK. Their sponsors are required to apply for a Visitor's Permit but it will no longer be a legal requirement to show a valid EFP. This does not weaken current firearm controls as the police will continue to assess an applicant's fitness to hold a firearm as part of their consideration of the Visitor's Permit application.

**Find out more about:**

- [Travelling with a European Firearms Pass if there's no Brexit deal](http://ow.ly/KrsJ30nD0Jc) (<http://ow.ly/KrsJ30nD0Jc>)
- [Police Service of Northern Ireland \(PSNI\) firearms information](http://ow.ly/HWeb30nD0Kq) (<http://ow.ly/HWeb30nD0Kq>)
- [UK export licensing requirements.](http://ow.ly/xSGd30nD0L8) (<http://ow.ly/xSGd30nD0L8>)

## **i) Using your mobile phone in the EU after 29 March**

### **After March 2019 if there's a deal**

If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, surcharge-free roaming would continue to be guaranteed during the Implementation Period. Following the Implementation Period the arrangements for roaming, including surcharges, would depend on the outcome of the negotiations on the Future Economic Partnership.

### **After March 2019 if there's no deal**

If the UK were to leave the EU without a deal, the costs that EU mobile operators would be able to charge UK operators for providing roaming services would no longer be regulated after March 2019. This would mean that surcharge-free roaming when you travel to the EU could no longer be guaranteed. This would include employees of UK companies travelling in the EU for business.

However, the Government would legislate to ensure that the requirements on UK mobile operators to apply a financial limit on mobile data usage while abroad is retained in UK law. The limit would be set at £45 per monthly billing period, as at present (currently €50 under EU law). The Government would also legislate, subject to parliamentary approval, to ensure the alerts at 80% and 100% data usage continue.

Leaving without a deal would not prevent UK mobile operators making and honouring commercial arrangements with mobile operators in the EU - and beyond the EU - to deliver the services their customers expect, including roaming arrangements. The availability and pricing of mobile roaming in the EU would be a commercial question for the mobile operators. Therefore, surcharge-free mobile roaming in the EU may not continue to be standard across every mobile phone package from that point. Roaming may also be offered with different terms and conditions. This might affect the amount of calls that you can make, texts you can send and data you can consume, including applying limits that are less than the amount available in your bundle when you're in the UK.

However, we should be clear that surcharge-free roaming for UK customers may continue across the EU as now, based on operators' commercial arrangements. Some mobile operators (3, EE, O2 and Vodafone - which cover over 85% of mobile subscribers) have already said [they have no](#)

[current plans to change their approach to mobile roaming after the UK leaves the EU.](http://ow.ly/EE1U30nD0M3)  
(<http://ow.ly/EE1U30nD0M3>)

In the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the Government's advice to consumers is to:

- Check the roaming policies of your mobile operator before you go abroad.
- Consider what your operator is saying about surcharge-free roaming post-EU exit.
- Check your operator's terms and conditions in detail - particularly if you are a heavy user of mobile services in the EU.
- Be aware of [your rights to change mobile operator](http://ow.ly/KSzf30nD0MQ) ("switching").  
(<http://ow.ly/KSzf30nD0MQ>)
- Be aware that [Ofcom rules allow cancellation of your contract free-of-charge if your operator makes certain price increases](http://ow.ly/Rx9S30nD0Ok). (<http://ow.ly/Rx9S30nD0Ok>)
- Know how to turn off your mobile data roaming on your mobile device if you're worried about being charged for data usage in the EU.
- Ensure you understand the alternatives to using mobile networks when abroad. Wi-Fi is widely available, which would allow you to make calls, send texts and use data for free or with little charge.
- Understand which services might be expensive to use and which are likely to be cheap. For example, streaming live television or sending large video clips (MMS) could be expensive as they use large amounts of data.

### III. USEFUL LINKS

[25 November Political Declaration](http://ow.ly/qKVE30nD0Rq) (<http://ow.ly/qKVE30nD0Rq>)

[25 November Withdrawal Agreement](http://ow.ly/hubA30nD0SK) (<http://ow.ly/hubA30nD0SK>)

[25 November Explainer for the Political Declaration](http://ow.ly/3Qxy30nD0TE) (<http://ow.ly/3Qxy30nD0TE>)

[14 November Explainer for the Withdrawal Agreement](http://ow.ly/6U3U30nD0Um) (<http://ow.ly/6U3U30nD0Um>)

[25 November Explanatory slides for the Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration](http://ow.ly/SFf630nD6aW)  
(<http://ow.ly/SFf630nD6aW>)

[17 December PM Statement on European Council](http://ow.ly/gx4c30nD0Wm) (<http://ow.ly/gx4c30nD0Wm>)

[The UK's exit from the EU: Important information for UK nationals](http://ow.ly/Qx1p30nD0WV) (<http://ow.ly/Qx1p30nD0WV>)

[How to prepare if the UK leaves the EU with no deal](http://ow.ly/B8S130nD0XZ) (<http://ow.ly/B8S130nD0XZ>)

[Policy paper on citizens' rights in the event of a no deal Brexit](http://ow.ly/Zmyz30nD0YR) (<http://ow.ly/Zmyz30nD0YR>)