



EU & YOU: BREXIT UPDATE

Due to the extension period of EU 'Exit Day to 31st October 2019, there are some important updates of which you need to take note!

The Prime Minister has agreed an extension to the EU Exit process with the leaders of the 27 EU Member States (EU27). The key points are that:

- The UK and the EU27 have agreed a flexible extension of the Article 50 period for six months to 31st October 2019.
- If the Withdrawal Agreement is ratified by both parties before 31st October, the extension will end (withdrawal would take place on the first day of the following month).
- During the period of extension, the UK will continue sincere cooperation as a full Member State with all the relevant rights and obligations.

Anybody staying or rebasing after 'Exit Day' is strongly advised to engage with any changes to rules that could affect you when you move.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR A NO DEAL

PETS

There will be **no change** to travelling with pets in Europe before the UK leaves the EU.

WHEN THE UK LEAVES THE EU...

The UK is likely to be treated as an unlisted country if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. In this case, you will need to **complete the steps outlined in the 'EU & You' booklet** that was published in February.

What should you do? Ensure you have a valid EU Pet Passport if you got your pet over here, and ensure your pet is up to date with all vaccinations and medication. Please seek advice from your vet.

CUSTOMS

There will be **no change** to current procedures, as long as the UK remains in the EU, but please remember that it will take at least 28 days for the BFG deregistration process for motor vehicles, trailers and caravans. You can find a helpful diagram of this process at <https://bfgnet.de/leaving-bfg/unit-move/c-i-vlo.html#timeline>.

WHEN THE UK LEAVES THE EU...

In the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal, **you will need to meet the criteria for either a Transfer of Residence (ToR) relief, or Returned Goods Relief (RGR)**, to avoid paying customs duty or import VAT.

The rules that will apply for you to qualify for **ToR relief** are:

- You have been in Germany for a minimum of 12 months
- The goods or vehicle has been in your possession for a minimum of 6 months
- You will retain ownership of the goods or vehicle in the UK for a further 12 months following your return to the UK

The rules that will apply for you to qualify for **RGR** are:

- You purchased the goods or vehicle in the UK, VAT paid, before leaving the country on assignment (of which you will need to provide proof)
- You, as a member of the Armed Forces, Crown Service, or entitled dependant, have had the goods or vehicle outside the UK for no longer than 6 years (otherwise ToR will apply)

What should you do? Make sure you give yourself enough time for all the processes, and please familiarise yourself with the rules of reliefs. If you have any queries you are advised to contact BFG-HQ-CI-0GpMailbox@mog.gov.uk

WEAPONS

There will be **no change** as long as the UK remains in the EU: you can still use your European Firearms Pass (EFP) until 'Exit Day'.

WHEN THE UK LEAVES THE EU...

You are advised to check the requirements of the EU country and comply with their licensing requirements, as well as UK import and export licensing requirements.

What should you do? You must obtain a BFG Form 38U for your privately owned firearm, and follow the instructions from German customs.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL EVENTUALITIES

HEALTHCARE

Your UK citizen's rights to healthcare provision under the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) **will continue** until 'Exit Day', but you are also advised to obtain comprehensive travel insurance.

WHEN THE UK LEAVES THE EU...

Your healthcare in Germany (but not in the rest of Europe) is provided through BFGHS and will not be affected by the UK's exit from the EU, as this is a SOFA arrangement.

What should you do? Renew your EHIC as soon as possible, if it will expire between now and 'Exit Day'.

IMMIGRATION AND THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME

Applications to the EU Settlement Scheme are now open until 31st December 2020.

If you have EU, EEA or Swiss national dependants, they will be able to return to the UK under current rules until 29th March 2022 (even if they have not lived in the UK before). They will **be able to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme once they have been to the UK, or now if they have already lived in the UK prior to posting**. After this date such family members will be able to return to the UK by applying through the applicable UK Immigration Rules.

WHEN THE UK LEAVES THE EU...

Dependants who cannot show that they were in the UK before posting **will need to travel to the UK before a specific date** in order to qualify for the EU Settlement Scheme. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, this date will be 31st December 2020. If there is not a deal, this date will be 'Exit Day' (currently 31st October 2019). If your dependant is unable to demonstrate that they were in the UK before, posting you should contact the EU Exit Team as soon as possible at SPOEEUX-EUExitGrpMailbox@mod.gov.uk with the subject 'EU Settlement Scheme'.

What should you do? If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss national moving to the UK either BEFORE or AFTER 'Exit Day', you are strongly advised to apply for EU Settlement Status as soon as you can.

TRAVELLING IN EUROPE

Flights

There should be **no changes** to flights or aviation security before and after the UK leaves the EU.

Mobile Phones

There will be **no change** to surcharge-free roaming before the UK leaves the EU.

WHEN THE UK LEAVES THE EU...

Mobile Phones

After the extension period, **guaranteed free mobile roaming will end** if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. The government has said it will ensure that roaming charges are limited to £45 per month.

International Driving Permits (IDP)

You are **still encouraged to obtain an IDP** to cover all eventualities. Remember to check which IDP you need depending on the country you're travelling to. All IDPs are available from counters in British Post Offices, and your local Forces Post Office.

Green Cards

You are **still encouraged to obtain a motor insurance green card**, as this is evidence of your motor insurance cover when driving abroad. You should ask your insurance company for a green card for your specific insurance policy.

GB Sticker

Even if you have a GB identifier on your number plate, **it is recommended that you display a GB sticker** on the rear of your vehicle.

Passports

New rules governing passport validity for travel to Europe are expected to come into force when the UK leaves the EU. **You will need to have six months left from the day of your arrival**, excluding any extra months, added if you renew your passport early. You can check your passport's validity using HM Passport Office's online checker at www.passport.service.gov.uk/check-a-passport.

What should you do? If you will be travelling in the EU after 'Exit Day', ensure you have the relevant IDPs, green card, GB sticker, a valid passport and take note of your provider's policy on roaming charges.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

There should be **no change** to financial services before the UK leaves the EU.

WHEN THE UK LEAVES THE EU...

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

What should you do? Your financial services provider should contact you regarding any changes. However, if you have any concerns about whether you might be affected, you are advised to contact your financial services provider.