

eVisas

A guide for customers 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.
- Customers 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 customer's underlying immigration status.
- It is free for customers 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 customers 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 '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 a digital proof of their immigration status. 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.

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 to abode. Updates on this will be provided in due course.

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 BRP and brings a range of 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](#).

As physical documents that evidence immigration status expire, customers who have created a UKVI account will be able to use the view and prove service to prove their rights.

What do BRP holders need to do?

Customers who have a BRP and are living in the UK will need to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa, unless their immigration leave expires before 31 December 2024. 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.

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 Home Office 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.

If your BRP expires on 31 December 2024 you should create a UKVI account and access your eVisa. You should keep your BRP card as you may need the reference number for future applications to stay in the UK.

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.

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 customers do when travelling internationally?

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 the passport when travelling internationally. This will provide a more convenient customer journey, and enhanced border security.

What if customers lose or misplace their BRP?

If a customer has lost their valid BRP then they should apply for a replacement in the usual way. As with all BRPs, if their leave extends beyond the end of 2024, their replacement BRP will expire on 31 December 2024, and they will need to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa to prove their rights.

Once the replacement is received then customers should visit www.gov.uk/evisa for details of how to create a UKVI account and access their eVisa.

What if customers already have a UKVI account and an eVisa as well as a BRP?

If customers hold a BRP as well as an eVisa, then they do not need to create do anything to anything. 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.

What happens if customers 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. Customers with expired BRPs will not be able to use them to travel internationally.

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

Further information, including details of the eVisa support available, can be found at www.gov.uk/evisa.