

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TRAVELING WITH A NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD AS A BENEFICIARY OF THE EU-UK WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT

1. I am a beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement with a status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). Can I use my national identity card to enter the UK?

The UK requires that EU citizens not protected by the Withdrawal Agreement must travel on a passport as they can no longer use a national identity card to enter the UK.

However, EU citizens who are Withdrawal Agreement beneficiaries continue to have the choice between using a valid passport or national identity card (*identity documents issued by EU Member States exclusively to their own nationals*) to enter the UK.

Therefore, those citizens who:

- have settled or pre-settled status under the UK's [EU Settlement Scheme](#), or Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man's settlement schemes;
- have applied to the UK's [EU Settlement Scheme](#), other than as joining family member, but have not had a decision and have a certificate of application;
- have an [EU Settlement Scheme family permit](#), or the equivalent from Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man;
- have a [frontier worker permit](#); or
- are an "[S2 Healthcare Visitor](#)"

may continue to enter the UK with their valid national identity card.

This right is for life. The UK may, however, require that after 31 December 2025 national identity cards must have a biometric chip (because entry must be compliant with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards).

When travelling to or from the UK, individuals who have status under the EU Settlement Scheme should travel with a document that has been registered on their UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account. This is so that their status can be easily identified from their travel document. Failure to do so could result in problems boarding services to the UK or delays at the border.

There is [an online service](#) available to EU Settlement Scheme status holders which enables them to update their details in their UKVI account, including identity / travel documents.

2. Are carriers or airlines obliged to check my EU Settlement Scheme Status?

Carriers or airlines are not currently required by the UK to establish an EU citizen's immigration status, or their entitlement to travel on a national identity card, when deciding whether to bring them to the UK. They only need to check that they have a valid passport or national identity card.

While carriers' or airlines' liability charges will not be imposed by the UK authorities where they bring a passenger to the UK on a national identity card when they are not entitled to use one – this will change in future once technological systems are in place that allow carriers to check whether people have the right to travel on a national identity card or not. If passengers are refused entry at the UK border, it is generally a requirement for the carrier bringing them to the UK to return them.

3. In case I am requested, how do I prove to carriers or airlines that I have a status under the EU Settlement Scheme?

EU citizens who have obtained pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme only hold a digital status (this is referred to as an "eVisa") and are not issued with physical documentation. The digital status (eVisa) is accessed by logging into the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account.



Carriers or airlines are not required to check this status, or a person's continuing entitlement to travel on a national identity card, although holders of EU Settlement Scheme status can use the online '[View and Prove](#)' service to demonstrate their status.

If passengers wish to share their status, they need to log onto the service and generate a 'share code', which can be given to the carrier or airline. The carrier or airline can then use the 'share code' (and the individual's date of birth) to enable them to check the passenger's status information, using the 'Check someone's immigration status' service.

Alternatively, passengers can show their status by logging into their UKVI account and showing the photo page that confirms the person has status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Non-EU family members who have obtained pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme will hold a UK-issued biometric residence card, or in limited cases an EUSS travel permit for travel back to the UK where the person can replace their biometric residence card. Before they phase out, biometric residence cards can be used as a visa exemption document, where the person is of a nationality which normally requires a visa (or visa exemption document) to travel to the UK.

4. What if I cannot access the 'View and Prove' system or my UKVI account to show my status at the airport?

While carriers or airlines are not required to establish whether you have status under the EU Settlement Scheme, you may find it useful to travel with a copy of the e-mail from the UK Home Office which indicates that you have pre-settled or settled status, or with a Certificate of Application which proves that you have made an application to the scheme.

If you have pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, you will not be required to provide evidence of your status at the UK border. You should use the passport or national identity card that's linked to your digital status to enter the UK.

If you use a document which is not registered to your UKVI account, you may experience delays at the border whilst Border Force checks your EU Settlement Scheme status.

5. I was denied boarding by the airline because my national identity card was mistakenly considered as not good for travel to the United Kingdom. What can I do?

[Your EU air passenger rights](#) continue to apply when you fly on any airline from the EU to the UK. When you fly from the UK to the EU, these rights only apply if you are using an EU airline.

If you have presented yourself in time for check-in with a valid flight reservation, and you are denied boarding by the airline, although you have the correct travel document, you are entitled to:

- compensation
- the right to choose between reimbursement, re-routing or rebooking at a later stage
- assistance (such as refreshments, food, accommodation if you are rebooked to travel the next day)

This also applies where the airline considered your valid national identity card as inadequate travel documentation to travel to the UK, when in fact it was an appropriate travel document, thanks to your status as a beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement.

Airlines need to assess carefully if there are reasonable grounds for denying boarding based on travel documentation. Therefore, unless the airline can demonstrate reasonable grounds to deny boarding, you will always retain the above rights.

If you think your rights have not been respected, there are several forms of redress you can use. You should however always send your complaint to the airline first, using either the complaint form provided by the airline or the [EU air passenger rights form](#).

More details about your rights and how to claim them can be found on [Your Europe](#).

Please note that the EU passenger rights regulations only address situations where passengers cannot travel due to being denied boarding by the airline. If you miss your flight for other reasons (e.g. health, security and/or customs checks at the airport of departure), your right to reimbursement or re-routing will depend on the type of ticket (i.e. whether refundable or not; possibility to rebook, etc.) as specified in the airline's terms and conditions.

6. My application to EU Settlement Scheme is pending – I was living in the UK by 31 December 2020 and I have a Certificate of Application but have not yet been granted a status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Can I still use my national identity card to enter the UK?

EU citizens who have made a valid application to the EU Settlement Scheme and received a Certificate of Application (issued after the application has been verified) can continue to use their national identity card to enter the UK.

EU citizens who have made a valid in-time application (by 30 June 2021) to the EU Settlement Scheme will not generally be asked or required to show evidence of their residence in the UK by 31 December 2020 when entering the UK, as the Certificate of Application should be sufficient to demonstrate a pending EU Settlement Scheme application and saved rights of entry and residence under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016.

Where EU citizens resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 have made a valid late application to the EU Settlement Scheme (on or after 1 July 2021), UK policy states such EU citizens may be asked or required to show evidence of residence in the UK by 31 December 2020 when entering the UK, in addition to the Certificate of Application to demonstrate a pending application.

7. I have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme as a “joining family member” – I have a Certificate of Application but have not yet been granted a status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Can I still use my national identity card to enter the UK?

If you applied to the EU Settlement Scheme as a “joining family member” from outside the UK and you have not yet received a decision on your application, you are not generally able to use your Certificate of Application and national identity card to enter the UK.

If you have been issued with an EU Settlement Scheme family permit, you can use this document to enter the UK with your national identity card.

If you were issued with an EU Settlement Scheme family permit and have now applied to the EU Settlement Scheme as a “joining family member” inside the UK, you can travel in and out of the UK using your EU Settlement Scheme family permit, your Certificate of Application and your national identity card.

If you applied to the EU Settlement Scheme as a “joining family member” after entering the UK as a visitor, the UK Home Office strongly advises you not to try to travel in and out of the country until you are granted status. If you try to travel before you are granted status you may not be permitted to re- enter the UK.

8. I have made an application to the EU Settlement Scheme with my passport which has now expired, and I only have my national identity card. Will I have issues proving I have a status under the EU Settlement Scheme?

It is strongly recommended that holders of EU Settlement Scheme status travel in and out of the UK using the travel document linked to their status.

Initially, the travel document linked to the status will be the document that was used to make the EU Settlement Scheme application. However, the UKVI account allows for new travel documents to be added to the profile after status has been granted, which means that multiple travel documents (passports and national identity cards) can be linked to one's status.

If the status holder has obtained a new travel document, they should immediately update their UKVI account details to include the new document on their UKVI account. This can be done by logging into the UKVI account and following the update my details links. Adding current travel documents to the UKVI account will reduce any unnecessary delays at the border, as Border Force may need to check a person's status if they try to enter the UK using a travel document that is not linked to the UKVI account.

Please note that there can be a delay between adding the new travel document to the UKVI account and the updated document being verified by the Home Office. Therefore, it is a good idea to retain the existing travel document linked to the UKVI account until the new travel document has been verified as linked to the account. Once the new travel document has been added to the UKVI account, this is the document used to log into the account. Any older travel documents will be retained on the UKVI account and can be used for travel as long as they remain valid.

Guidance on how EU citizens can view and prove their status, as well as update their details, is available on the "[Update your UK Visas and Immigration account details](#)" page.

9. I travelled abroad on my passport but I lost it. Can I re-enter the UK on my national identity card?

It is recommended that anyone travelling in and out of the UK uses the same travel document to enter and exit the country. If it is not possible to travel on the same travel document – for example, if you lost your passport abroad – you will still be able to enter the UK using a national identity card even if you exited on your passport (and vice versa). As noted above, it is strongly recommended to have all your travel documents linked to your UKVI account to avoid being delayed at the border when you return to the UK.

10. Can I enter the UK with a temporary passport, regardless of whether I am a beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement or not?

Yes, it is possible to enter the UK with a (non-biometric) temporary passport, if it is valid.

11. I am not a beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement and do not have a status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Can I exit the UK using a national identity card?

Yes. However, the national identity card must be accepted for entry to the country of destination. Therefore, if you wish to leave the UK using a national identity card, you must check that the country you are travelling to will allow you to enter using a national identity card rather than a passport.

12. I am not a beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement and do not have a status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Could I still use my national identity card when I am only transiting in the UK?

EU citizens seeking to enter the UK, including in transit to another destination, require a valid passport. National identity cards are no longer accepted for entry unless citizens are a beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement.

If EU citizens do not have a passport where required, they are liable to be refused entry to the UK.

13. Where can I find out more about visiting the UK?

For more information, go to the GOV.UK page here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visiting-the-uk-as-an-eu-eea-or-swiss-citizen>.

For more about the Withdrawal Agreement see [Commission Notice — Guidance Note relating to the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community Part Two – Citizens' Rights](#) (C/2020/2939, OJ C173, 20 May 2020, p. 1) that this document supplements, without amending it.