



Resources and information about applying for eVisas

Background

In 2020 the government made the decision to “short date” Biometric Residence Permits (BRPs) so that they end on the 31 December 2024.

The plan was/is that physical proof of immigration status would end on 31 December 2024, and be entirely replaced with a digital only system, via the UK Visa and Immigration Portal (UKVI).

Despite years to prepare, the system was not properly considered, and a vast number of people were left in the position of being unsure about how to demonstrate their immigration status.

Following issues with the European Union Settlement Scheme, among others, concerns have been raised repeatedly that the switch risked seeing people unable to prove their status.

Unfortunately, concerns, such as those raised through ILPA's Open Letter, [here](#), to the Deputy Director of UK Visas and Immigration, did not result in action earlier.

While some have been able to set up an account, there have been issues of people being unable to access their UKVI accounts to start the process of setting up their e-visas, with some being locked out entirely.

It is important to remember that not everyone will be negatively affected by this. Many people have been using digital versions of their status for years without issue. It is important to be informed, though, about what you need to do if you are one of the individuals required to set up a digital status, and about any issues that could potentially occur.

What we know

All information is as of 5 December. It is important to note that it is changing rapidly.

On 4 December the Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for Migration and Citizenship, [Seema Malhotra, confirmed that](#), while not scrapping the deadline for 31 December entirely, people would continue to be able to use expired Biometric Residence until at least 31 March 2025.

“We have also listened to concerns about the risk to customers who are travelling after 31 December, where their underlying status has not expired. In order to smooth the transition to eVisas, we have decided to allow carriers to accept a BRP or EUSS BRC expiring on or after 31 December 2024 as valid evidence of permission to travel until at least 31 March and this date will be kept under review. Customers travelling in the early part of the year are therefore advised to continue carrying their expired BRP, as this will add to the range of checking options already available to carriers.”

Currently it appears as though the focus is on working with carriers and border officials to ensure that people are still able to travel. There does not appear to have been information on what happens with regards to the specifics of demonstrating an individual's right to work, rent etc.

Where to find more information

– please note this is general information and we are not responsible for what is published by third parties. Migrant Voice is unable to provide legal assistance or direct advice on this issue.

1. If you haven't set one up already, then there is more information about setting up a UK Visas and Immigration Account from the Home Office [here](#)
2. A current link to the Home Office portal for setting up an account can be found [here](#)
3. If you have any issues with setting up a UKVI account, ILPA and the3million have developed a reporting form [here](#)
4. The assistance contact details for the Home Office in relation to eVisas can be found through the form [here](#)
5. Citizens Advice have published more guidance on how to set up and access a UKVI account [here](#)
6. For more information on what the statement from Seema Malhotra on 4 December means to people moving to eVisas, please [read this piece by Free Movement](#).
7. Right to Remain have also put together a toolkit to help guide people through the process, which can be found [here](#)
8. [A list of grant-funded organisations who may be able to provide direct advice on evisas can be found here](#)