



Home Office

# General Partner Pack: ID cards removal

## Changes to travelling to the UK using EU, EEA and Swiss ID cards

To support Home Office stakeholders in communicating to their networks and members.



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# What's changing

- From 1 October 2021, most EU, EEA and Swiss citizens can **only travel to the UK using a valid passport**, unless they have:
  - ✓ applied to the EU Settlement Scheme, or have an application pending.
  - ✓ or otherwise have protected rights under the Citizens' Rights Agreements.
- Until this date, European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss citizens can currently travel to the UK with a valid passport **or** a national identity (ID) card.
- In 2019, just **under 10 million\* people used an ID card** rather than a passport to book a flight to enter the UK. This equates to around a third of all EEA and Swiss air passengers.
- The change from 1 October means **an ID card will no longer be accepted** for travel to the UK, unless the exemptions apply.
- Anyone travelling to the UK on an invalid travel document is liable to be **refused entry at the border**.



# Why is it changing

- ID cards are amongst **the least secure travel documents** and they are often used by organised crime groups. Phasing these out will help to deter those who would abuse the system.
- The end of free movement on 31 December 2020 means EU, EEA and Swiss citizens **now follow the same rules for entering the UK** as travellers from the rest of the world.
- The removal of ID cards will **strengthen our borders and pave the way for a future digitised border**, delivering a more streamlined and seamless customer experience for travellers entering the UK.

# EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will no longer be able to use an ID card to enter the UK unless they are exempt.

## Only the following EU, EEA, and Swiss citizens will be exempt from this change:

- ✓ who have received settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)
- ✓ who have made an application to the EUSS but have not yet received a decision on their application
- ✓ have an [EU Settlement Scheme family permit](#)
- ✓ who are an [S2 Healthcare Visitor](#)
- ✓ with a frontier worker [permit](#)
- ✓ who are Swiss nationals and have a [Swiss Service Provider](#) from Switzerland visa

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens in the groups above can still use their ID cards to travel to the UK at least until 31 December 2025. They'll also be able to use them after that date, if the cards meet the security standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

**This will also not apply to Gibraltar ID cards issued to British citizens or to passport cards issued to Irish citizens, they will continue to be accepted for travel to the UK.**

- This change will come into effect from 1 October 2021.
- Between now and then, travellers using ID cards to enter the UK may be reminded that they will no longer be able to use them in future.
- We encourage all EU, EEA and Swiss travellers to use a passport where possible. This allows them to use e-Gates; the quickest and most efficient method of crossing the border.

# Supporting you with this change

- It is vital **all passengers are properly documented** for travel to the UK.
- Anyone travelling to the UK on an ID card is liable to be **refused entry at the border, unless they are exempt.**
- To support you in providing essential guidance about this change to your network, **we have developed a suite of assets you may use to help stakeholders prepare** and understand their responsibilities.
- The following section of **this pack outlines key messages and provides communication products** for use on channels including social media, via email updates and e-newsletters.
- **Your help and support in communicating this guidance is crucial.** We want travellers to be prepared for this change and we hope this pack makes it as easy as possible for you to share updates with your audience and stakeholders.



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# Communications materials



# Key messages

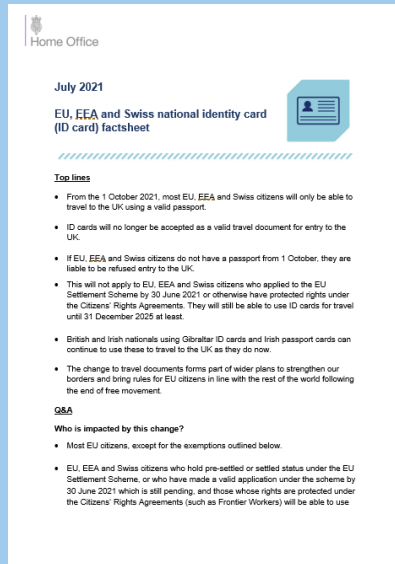


**You may use these when communicating the change to your network:**

- From the 1 October 2021, most EU, EEA and Swiss citizens will need a valid passport to travel to the UK.
- ID cards will no longer be accepted as a valid travel document and it will not be possible to enter the UK using one.
- If EU, EEA and Swiss citizens do not have a passport from 1 October, they are liable to be refused entry to the UK.
- EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who hold pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, or who have made a valid application under the scheme which is still pending, and those whose rights are protected under the Citizens' Rights Agreements (such as Frontier workers) will be able to use their national identity cards to enter the UK until 2025 at least.
- British nationals using Gibraltar ID cards, and Irish nationals using Irish passport cards, can continue to use these to travel to the UK as they do now.



# Factsheet



This includes key lines and Q&As to help you communicate the changes to your stakeholders.

You may use this to develop your own key lines and answer frequently asked questions.

## What's included:

- What's changing and why
- Who it impacts
- What people need to do

This is available in the [asset library](#).



# Digital and social assets



Digital assets for you to use to communicate on social media and digital platforms.

We suggest the below copy to accompany any social posts:

- From 1 October 2021, most EU, EEA and Swiss nationals will need a passport to travel to the UK, find out more on GOV.UK
- Travelling to the UK using an EU ID card? From 1 October you'll need to use your passport to enter the UK. Find out more on GOV.UK

Please link to the GOV.UK site: [Visiting the UK as an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen](#)



The assets are available in the [asset library](#).

# Newsletter and website copy



Here's some copy that you can use in newsletters or for updating your websites or guidance.

Copy is available in the [asset library](#).



# GOV.UK



The GOV.UK website has the latest guidance and information all in one place to support you with communicating the changes.

Please include a link to the site in your materials.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visiting-the-uk-as-an-eu-eea-or-swiss-citizen>



# Get in touch

We hope you find this pack useful.

If there is something you think is missing from this pack that would be helpful for your channels, please do let us know.

Translated assets and more social assets will be available before 1 October. Thank you.

For any questions, feedback, or to discuss how we can work together to communicate this change please contact:

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# Thank you

