

eVisas

A guide for customers who use a Biometric Residence Card (BRC) to prove their rights

- Government is replacing physical immigration documents with a digital proof of immigration status called an eVisa.
- BRC holders who have not been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), or under another immigration route, will need to take action to secure immigration status.
- Customers who have a BRC and have been granted status under the EUSS already have a UKVI account and access to their eVisa (also referred to as an EUSS 'digital status') and do not need to do anything.
- Customers who held a BRC but who have become British or Irish citizens do not need to do anything.
- 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 Card (BRC).

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 a BRC?

A BRC is an immigration document issued by the Home Office which can be used to confirm the holder's rights, including the right to work and access to any public services or benefits they are entitled to.

There are two types of BRC, both issued to family members of EU, EEA and Swiss citizens:

- **EEA BRC:** this was issued to customers before Britain left the EU, and under 'TYPE OF PERMIT' will say 'FAMILY MEMBER – EU RESIDENCE'.
- **EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) BRC:** this is currently issued to customers who have made a successful application to the EU Settlement Scheme to

secure their ongoing immigration rights. All EUSS BRCs will expire on 31 December 2024, and under 'TYPE OF PERMIT' will say 'EU SCHEME SETTLEMENT.'

What BRC holders should do if they have an EEA BRC

Customers may no longer have UK immigration status, if they hold an EEA BRC, issued to them before the UK left the EU, even if it appears not to have expired, and they:

- Have not applied to the EUSS
- Have not obtained another form of UK immigration status, or
- Have not become a British or Irish citizen

This because the UK has left the EU and EU law no longer applies.

To continue living in the UK they should obtain an immigration status as soon as possible. The deadline for applying to the EUSS, for EU, EEA or Swiss citizens or their family members who were resident in the UK by 31 December 2020, was 30 June 2021. However, they may still be able to apply if they have a later deadline, such as those applying as joining family members, or where they have 'reasonable grounds for their delay in applying.

Customers can still apply if they're eligible and can show 'reasonable grounds' for why they could not apply by the deadline or in the time since the deadline passed. at www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme, where they will also find information on the range of support available. As part of their application, they should provide details of their EEA BRC. They may also be eligible to apply for another form of immigration status and can find details of how to do so on GOV.UK. They should not travel internationally until they have obtained a proof of their immigration status.

If they make a valid application to the EUSS their rights will be temporarily protected. If they are granted status through the EUSS then they will automatically have a UKVI account (see below) created for them, through which they can access their eVisa. If they successfully apply for a different form of immigration status then they will receive instructions on how to create a UKVI account to access their eVisa in their grant email or letter. Further details on what an eVisa is, and how to access and use it, will be provided if they are granted immigration status.

What should customers do if they have an EUSS BRC?

If customers have an EUSS BRC then they already have an eVisa, and do not need to take any action to obtain one. If they have applied for status through the EUSS as a family member of an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, then a UKVI account will have been created for them, through which they can access their eVisa in addition to their BRC.

They can find information on how to use their eVisa in their grant email or letter, or at www.gov.uk/guidance/using-your-uk-visas-and-immigration-account.

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 should BRC holders do when travelling internationally?

If they have not applied to the EUSS and have an EEA BRC, then they should obtain an immigration status before travelling internationally. They can make a late application, and find out more about the EUSS at www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme.

If they have applied to the EUSS and have an EEA or EUSS BRC, then they should continue to carry their in-date BRC and passport with them when travelling internationally, and continue to carry it when travelling until the BRC expires.

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.

What should customers do if they lose or damage their BRC?

Customers should replace a lost or damaged BRC in the usual way, and should visit www.gov.uk/uk-residence-card/report-a-lost-or-stolen-card for information on what to do if their BRC has been lost or damaged.

If they need or wish to travel internationally, they must obtain a replacement before travelling at www.gov.uk/uk-residence-card/replace. Any replacement BRC must be carried by the customer when they travel internationally. A replacement BRC will

expire on 31 December 2024, as the Home Office gradually phases-out physical immigration documents.

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