

Dear Colleague,

Re: UK Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme

I am writing to inform you of changes to the Immigration Rules which have been laid in Parliament today, the 9th of March.

One of the government's priorities is securing the UK's border and keeping our people safe by ensuring that everyone wishing to travel to the UK (except British and Irish citizens) has permission to do so in advance of travel. To fill the current gap in advance permissions the government is introducing an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme. The ETA Scheme will apply to those passengers visiting the UK or transiting the UK who do not need a visa for short stays. British and Irish citizens will not be required to obtain an ETA.

These rules set out how the scheme will be administered. The rules make clear who is required to apply for and obtain an ETA prior to travelling to the United Kingdom; the form or manner in which an application for an ETA may be made, granted or refused and specify the conditions which must be met before an application for an ETA may be granted. The Rules also stipulate how long an ETA will be valid for, the conditions under which it may be varied or cancelled and any exceptions to the requirement to obtain one.

As you may be aware, the UK and Ireland have been giving consideration to whether there is scope for a workable UK/Ireland data-sharing solution to determine whether a person is a lawful resident of Ireland and could therefore potentially be exempt from the ETA requirement. I am pleased to confirm that the Government will be exempting Third Country Nationals legally resident in Ireland from the requirement to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorisation when travelling to the UK on a journey within the Common Travel Area. In order to benefit from this exemption, if required by a UK immigration official, non-Irish residents of Ireland will need to present physical evidence which demonstrates that they are legally resident in Ireland, The Home Office will provide guidance in due course on acceptable evidence.

The ETA scheme will be implemented in a phased manner, on a nationality basis, over the next two years. Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan, will be the first countries to benefit from the ETA scheme, allowing them to move to non-visa national status. The Home Office will provide further details about which countries will be next to benefit from the ETA scheme in due course.

Information and guidance about the scheme can be found [here](#)

Further Information

We would be grateful for your help in preparing visitors for this change, and to support you we have developed the attached [partner pack](#) which contains:

1. Key messages
2. Stakeholder factsheet
3. Ireland and Northern Ireland stakeholder factsheet
4. Social media assets and supporting post copy
5. 'What is an ETA?' guidance video
6. ETA GOV.UK webpage

The products are intended for sharing externally and we encourage you to share these widely through your own channels and with your relevant stakeholder networks. The partner pack can also be shared with your stakeholders for their use.

We will also be issuing a **press notice** (please see below) and **posting on Home Office social media imminently** and encourage you to amplify, retweet and share where possible.

Next Steps

The introduction of ETAs will be a significant change for many people who can currently travel to the UK without any prior interaction with the Home Office. We will support rollout with a global marketing communications campaign, which is being developed to drive awareness and action. Amongst our key stakeholders will be Carriers & their Industry Bodies, the travel sector, and friends and relatives of travellers in the UK. We know a large percentage of visitors to the UK will be travelling to visit family & friends here, so we need to educate UK residents as well as international messaging.

We recognise your organisation will play an important part in supporting the promotion of this new permission to travel and that you will have many questions. We will be implementing a programme of extensive engagement over the coming months to raise awareness of the ETA scheme.

Sector events: Weeks commencing 20th and 27th March

Our first set of events will be a series of sector specific broadcasts. At these sessions, attendees will receive an overview of the ETA scheme and the opportunity to ask questions. We anticipate large numbers at these events, so we will make the use of Slido to enable attendees to pose questions before, during and after each session. Although events have been tailored for specific sectors, we welcome attendance from all to any session that suits their requirements. As mentioned, this is the first in a series of planned events, and we will look forward to engaging with your organisation going forward.

Week Commencing 20th March

Date	Time	Event	Eventbrite Link to register to attend	Slido link to ask questions
20 March	10:00- 11:15	Interactive Carriers	Eventbrite Carriers - Interactive	Slido Carriers - Interactive
	13:00- 14:15	Non Interactive Carriers	Eventbrite Carriers - Non-Interactive	Slido Carriers - Non-interactive
21 March	13:00 - 14:15	Tourism Sector	Eventbrite-Tourism Sector	Slido Tourist Sector
22 March	13:00- 14:15	Education	Eventbrite-Education Sector	Slido Education Sector
23 March	13:00-14:15	Business Visitors	Eventbrite-Business Visitors	Slido Business Visitors

Week Commencing 27 March

Date	Time	Event	Eventbrite Link to register to attend	Slido Link to ask questions
27 March	10:00 – 11:15	Interactive Carriers	Eventbrite-Carriers - Interactive	Slido-Carriers - Interactive
	13:00 - 14:15	Non interactive carriers	Eventbrite - Carriers - Non-Interactive	Slido - Carriers - Non-Interactive
28 March	13:00 - 14:15	Tourism	Eventbrite-Tourism Sector	Slido - Tourist Sector
29 March	13:00 - 14:15	Education	Eventbrite - Education Sector	Slido - Education Sector
30 March	13:00 -14:15	Business	Eventbrite - Business Visitors	Slido - Business Visitors