Brexit FAQs

Passports, Immigration and Border Force

Q: How will my passport be affected?

A: You may need to renew your British passport earlier if you’re travelling after Brexit.

On the day you travel, you’ll need your passport to both:

- have at least 6 months left
- be less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left)

If you do not renew it, you may not be able to travel to most EU countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

You can use a tool to check whether your passport is valid for the country you’re visiting.

It usually takes 3 weeks if you need to renew your passport. There’s a premium service if you need it sooner.

These rules do not apply to travel to Ireland. You can continue to use your passport as long as it’s valid for the length of your stay.

https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/schengen-visa-countries-list/
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/passport-rules-for-travel-to-europe-after-brexit

Q: Do these rules just affect UK passports?

A: The new rules will apply to passports issued by the UK, Gibraltar, Guernsey, the Isle of Man and Jersey.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/passport-rules-for-travel-to-europe-after-brexit

Q: Will UK citizens need a visa to enter an EU country?

A: If there is a deal, there will be no changes to how you enter the EU or Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland until at least 31 December 2020. You will continue to be able to travel or work without a visa during this time. If there’s no deal, you will not need a visa for short trips, according to European Commission proposals. You could stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. The government website advises passengers to check back for updates. Travel to Ireland will not change, even if there’s no deal. You’ll continue to be able to travel and work there in the same way as before.
Q: Will there be other requirements for UK citizens at the border of EU countries?

A: If there’s no deal, at border control in an EU country, you may need to:
• Show a return or onward ticket
• Show you have enough money for your stay
• Use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.

Q: Do EU Citizens require 6 months validity on their passport to enter the UK?

A: EU citizens can still enter the UK using a passport which expires in less than 6 months.

Q: Do these changes impact children’s passports?

A: Yes, all passports are impacted by this change and need to have at least 6 months left before your date of arrival.

Q: Can EU citizens still use Heathrow’s e-gates?

A: EU citizens will be able to enter and leave the UK as they do now, using e-gates when travelling on a biometric passport.

Q: What will EU citizens need to show at the UK Border?

A: What you need to show at the UK border will not change, even if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. You’ll need to show a valid passport or national identity card if you’re a citizen of either:
• an EU country
• Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland

Q: Will EU citizens need a visa to enter the UK?

A: If you’re an Irish citizen, you’ll be able to enter the UK without a visa, as you can now. You’ll be able to enter the UK without a visa if you’re a citizen of any other EU or EEA country, or Switzerland. The government is proposing to end free movement, but this is still subject to approval by Parliament. Once free movement has ended, if you’re a citizen
of any other EU or EEA country, or Switzerland, you’ll still be able to enter the UK without a visa but only for up to 3 months. The government website advises EU citizens to continue to check the website for updates.

Q: Can I still use my European Identity Card to enter the UK?

A: HMG have confirmed that EU citizens will be able to continue to use European Identity Cards to enter the UK after we leave the EU.

Q: I’m a UK citizen. Which lane should I join at immigration at Heathrow?

A: UK citizens will be able to enter and leave the UK as they do now, either using the UK & EU lane, or using e-gates when travelling on a biometric passport.

Q: I’m visiting the UK after Brexit – what do I have to do?

A: After 31 Oct, you may need to take some extra steps before your trip. Check what you’ll need to do and how to prepare here:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visiting-the-uk-after-brexit

Security

Q: Will security at Heathrow change after Brexit?

A: If there is no EU Exit deal, most passengers will not experience any difference in aviation security screening. The UK will continue to apply robust aviation security measures and prioritise passenger safety and security. The European Commission has also proposed measures to avoid extra security screening of passengers from the UK when transferring to onward flights at EU airports:


Q: Will my security experience at Heathrow change after the UK leaves the EU?

A: Even if there’s no deal, the government says that airport security procedures will not change for direct flights to and from the UK.

https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-brexit

Q: How much time do I need to allow at security after Brexit?
A: You should have received check-in instructions with your booking. If you can’t find them, your airline or travel agent will be able to help.

However, as a general guide you should plan to be at check-in / bag drop:

- **Long-haul and El Al**: three hours before scheduled departure  
- **UK and European flights**: two hours before scheduled departure.

If you have already checked in online, and don't have bags to drop, please follow your airline’s advice on timings; you should still aim to be at security control by the times above.

**Q: Are there any changes to Fast track security?**

A: No, there are no changes to the fast track service

**Q: Can I still take liquids under 100ml**

A: Yes, there is no change to the liquid 100ml rule

- Only limited quantities of liquids may be carried through airport security into the departure lounge. This includes bottled drinks, suntan lotion, fragrances, cosmetics, toiletries and all frozen liquids.

The following restrictions apply to all liquids, creams, gels, pastes and aerosols taken through security control:

- Liquids may only be carried in containers holding 100ml or less.  
- They must be carried separately in a single bag which is:
  - Transparent and resealable
  - No larger than 20cm x 20cm (8in x 8in)
  - Able to close properly with all the items inside.
- At security control, place the bag in the tray with your other items.
- Liquids in containers over 100ml will not be permitted through security – please pack them in your hold baggage instead.

The following exceptions may be made to the 100ml rule:

- **Baby food or baby milk**: breast milk can be carried in the cabin; when it is stored in a clear, transparent container or bag. Flasks cannot be permitted. The volume of each container / bag should not exceed 2litres. Breast milk should be in a liquid format and not frozen. When travelling without an infant only breast milk can be carried in quantities greater than 100ml, this does not apply to formula milk or other baby juice / food. Please check with your airline as individual hand baggage allowance can vary.
• You may also wish to take advantage of our pre-order service for collection after security by calling us on 0800 678 5324 or email us.

• **Liquid medicines**: You are only permitted to carry quantities of liquid medication in excess of your personal liquid allowance where it is needed during the course of your flight. All medication should be accompanied by documentary proof of authenticity, such as a prescription or letter from a medical practitioner confirming that you need them for your journey. Liquid medication that is not required on the flight should be carried as hold luggage. Find out more about travelling with medicines.

Explosive or flammable liquids, and those that are considered toxic, are not permitted in either hand or hold luggage.

**General travel advice**

**Q:** Is my flight likely to be delayed or disrupted as a result of Brexit?

**A:** We recommend that you check directly with your airline for any queries about your flight status: [https://www.heathrow.com/more/contact-us/airline-contacts](https://www.heathrow.com/more/contact-us/airline-contacts)

**Q:** What should I do if my flight is delayed or cancelled over this period?

**A:** There will be no change to the standard process if your flight is delayed or cancelled. Please ensure you liaise with your airline should your flight be delayed or cancelled.

**Q:** What do I do if my inbound flight is delayed and I am connecting through the airport?

**A:** Tell a member of staff as soon as you land – they’ll do whatever they can to help you get to your connecting flight in time, including telling you the quickest way to the gate. If flight delays mean that you miss your onward flight, go to your airline desk when you arrive at Heathrow. Your airline representative will tell you what you can do.

[https://www.heathrow.com/more/contact-us/airline-contacts](https://www.heathrow.com/more/contact-us/airline-contacts)

**Q:** Will my travel insurance cover me if my flights are cancelled as a result of the EU Exit?

**A:** Some travel insurance policies only cover certain types of disruption. Check your provider’s terms and conditions to make sure you have the cover you need if your travel is cancelled or delayed. Your consumer rights will not change, even if there’s no deal. This means that if your travel is cancelled or delayed you may be able to claim a refund or compensation. Check your booking’s terms and conditions to find out more. In any case,
we always recommend that you contact your insurer before travelling to be sure of all terms and conditions.

https://www.gov.uk/visit-europe-brexit

Q: Will my passenger rights be affected if we leave the EU with no deal?

A: No, for air passengers on a flight departing the UK, the same passenger rights which apply today would continue to apply after the UK left the EU with no deal. Find out more:


Q: How can I stay up to date with all the latest travel information?

A: Please visit the travel and advice pages on the government websites for the latest travel information

- https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice
- https://euexit.campaign.gov.uk/

Q: I am a UK citizen. Is my EHIC card still valid when travelling to the EU?

A: In a no-deal scenario, your European Health Insurance Card will no longer be valid. You will need to purchase comprehensive travel insurance to cover any healthcare costs while travelling to the EU.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance

**Customs (leaving the EU with a Deal)**

Q: How many cigarettes can I bring back to the UK after Brexit?

A: Under a transition deal, the rules around bringing cigarettes and other goods into the UK are likely to remain unchanged. Generally, there are no limits to the amount of cigarettes you are permitted to bring back to the UK, but you’re more likely to be asked a few questions around personal use, how you paid for them, why you bought them etc, if you bring in over 800 cigarettes.

The following link is a useful guide to refer to when bringing goods into the UK:

https://www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods/arrivals-from-eu-countries
Q: How much alcohol can I bring back to the UK after Brexit?

A: Under a transition deal, the rules around bringing alcohol and other goods into the UK are likely to remain unchanged. Generally, there is no limit to the volume of alcohol you are permitted to bring back to the UK, but you’re more likely to be asked a few questions around personal use, how you paid for it, why you bought it etc, if you bring in over 110 litres of beer, 90 litres of wine, 10 litres of spirits or 20 litres of fortified wine.

The following link is a useful guide to refer to when bringing goods into the UK:
https://www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods/arrivals-from-eu-countries

Q: What items can/can’t I bring back to the UK after Brexit? Will the prohibited items list change?

A: Under a transition deal, the rules around banned and restricted goods being brought into the UK are likely to remain unchanged. Goods including those listed below will be seized by Customs:

- illegal drugs
- offensive weapons, for example flick knives
- self-defence sprays, for example pepper spray and CS gas
- endangered animal and plant species
- rough diamonds
- indecent and obscene materials
- personal imports of meat and dairy products from most non-EU countries

Some goods are restricted - like firearms, explosives and ammunition. You need a special licence to bring them in to the UK.

Some food and plant products are also restricted if they:

- Are not free from pests and diseases
- Are not for your own use
- Were not grown in the EU


Q: How much cash am I allowed to carry into the UK after Brexit?

A: Under a transition deal, the rules around bringing cash into the UK will likely remain unchanged.
**Brexit FAQs**

**Travelling in the EU:**
If you bring cash to the UK from another EU country, you do not need to declare it. You may need to declare cash you take in to other EU countries - check with the authorities in the country you’re travelling to.

**Travelling outside the EU:**
You must declare cash of €10,000 or more (or the equivalent in another currency) if you take it between the UK and any non-EU country. Cash includes:

- notes and coins
- bankers’ drafts
- cheques of any kind (including travellers’ cheques)

If you’re travelling as a family you need to declare cash over €10,000.

If you do need to declare any cash, download and fill in form C9011 (link below) or get a copy at the port or airport. More information: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/import-and-export-cash-declaration-c9011](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/import-and-export-cash-declaration-c9011)

**Q:** I’m waiting for a parcel and I’ve seen online that it’s currently being held at Heathrow. Is this because of Brexit? Where is it?

**A:** Depending on what the parcel contains, there may be import duty that requires payment before being released by Customs. Your Courier will be best placed to provide information on the status of your parcel and what to do next.

**Q:** I’m having a parcel delivered and it must travel through Heathrow, will Brexit mean it’s delayed or caught up at the border?

**A:** Under a transition deal, import and export procedures should remain unchanged at the UK border.

**Q:** Are there going to be long queues to get through Customs after Brexit?

**A:** Under a transition deal, travel to and from the EU will remain the same as now until at least 31 December 2020, so procedures should remain as they are now, with queues not expected to be materially affected.

**Q:** Which channel do I go through after collecting my luggage after Brexit? I’m confused!

**Brexit FAQs**
A: Under a transition deal, there will be no change to the rights and status of EU citizens currently living in the UK until 30 June 2021. If:

You’re from an EEA country and Switzerland

- You can use the EU/EEA channel to get your passport or identity card checked - this is usually faster than the other channels.
- You can use automatic ePassport gates at some airports if your passport has a ‘chip’ on it and you’re 12 or over. If you’re between 12 and 17, you must be accompanied by an adult.
- These gates use facial recognition technology to check your identity against the photo in your passport.

You’re from a non-EEA country

- Your carrier will give you a landing card - fill this in before you arrive at border control.
- Your passport, landing card (and visa if you have one) will be checked.
- You’ll usually be asked why you’re coming to the UK.
- Keep documents that show the reason for your visit in your hand luggage, so you can show them if asked, for example your travel itinerary, work permit or university letter.

Q: When will the UK customs laws be changing? Will they be changing at all?

A: Existing customs rules will continue to apply throughout the transition period. Currently, the UK Government has stated that when the UK leaves the EU it is going to leave the EU’s single market and Customs Union. During negotiations within the transition period, it is aiming to secure frictionless movement of goods between the UK and the EU. Under a transition deal, it is likely that customs laws will change, but will depend on negotiations with the EU.

Q: What new or different items will I have to declare at Customs once Brexit has happened?

A: Under a transition deal, there are unlikely to be any changes to declarations at the Customs border. Find out more:

https://www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods/arrivals-from-eu-countries

**Customs** (leaving the EU without a Deal)

Q: How many cigarettes can I bring back to the UK after Brexit?
A: If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, it is likely that the guidelines around the limits on bringing goods (including cigarettes) in from non-EU countries will apply to goods being brought in from EU countries as well.

Currently, in respect of tobacco, the allowances are as follows:
You can bring in one from the following:

- 200 cigarettes
- 100 cigarillos
- 50 cigars
- 250g tobacco

You can split this allowance - so you could bring in 100 cigarettes and 25 cigars (both half of your allowance).

Any amounts over these allowances will need to be declared to Customs. This can be done by visiting the Red Customs Channel before exiting Baggage Reclaim or online (once the HMRC system is activated)

The following link is a useful guide to refer to when bringing goods into the UK:

https://www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods/bringing-goods-into-the-uk-after-brexit

Q: How much alcohol can I bring back to the UK after Brexit?

A: If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, it is likely that the guidelines around the limits on bringing goods (including alcohol) in from non-EU countries will apply to goods being brought in from EU countries as well.

Currently, in respect of alcohol, the allowances are as follows:
How much you can bring depends on the type of drink. You can bring in:

- Beer - 16 litres
- Wine (not sparkling) - 4 litres

You can also bring in either:

- Spirits and other liquors over 22% alcohol - 1 litre
- Fortified wine (for example port, sherry), sparkling wine and alcoholic drinks up to 22% alcohol - 2 litres

You can split this last allowance, for example you could bring 1 litre of fortified wine and half a litre of spirits (both half of your allowance).
Any amounts over these allowances will need to be declared at Customs.

The following link is a useful guide to refer to when bringing goods into the UK:
Q: What items can/can’t I bring back to the UK after Brexit? Will the prohibited items list change?

A: If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the rules around banned and restricted goods being brought into the UK are likely to remain unchanged. Goods including those listed below will be seized by Customs:

- illegal drugs
- offensive weapons, for example flick knives
- self-defence sprays, for example pepper spray and CS gas
- endangered animal and plant species
- rough diamonds
- indecent and obscene materials
- personal imports of meat and dairy products from most non-EU countries

Some goods are restricted - like firearms, explosives and ammunition. You need a special licence to bring them in to the UK.

Some food and plant products are also restricted if they:

- Are not free from pests and diseases
- Are not for your own use
- Were not grown in the EU


Q: How much cash am I allowed to carry into the UK after Brexit?

A: If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, it is likely that any cash brought in from an EU country will be treated as if it had been brought in from a non-EU country.

The current limits between the UK and non-EU countries is as follows:

**Travelling outside the EU**
You must declare cash of €10,000 or more (or the equivalent in another currency) if you take it between the UK and any non-EU country. Cash includes:

- notes and coins
- bankers’ drafts
- cheques of any kind (including travellers’ cheques)

If you’re travelling as a family you need to declare cash over €10,000.
If you do need to declare any cash, download and fill in form C9011 (link below) or get a copy at the port or airport.
Q: I’m waiting for a parcel and I’ve seen online that it’s currently being held at Heathrow. Is this because of Brexit? Where is it?

A: If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, parcels from the EU would be treated the same as if they originated in a non-EU country. Customs clearance’s may be required and may cause delays in parcels being delivered to you. Your Courier will be best placed to provide information on the status on your parcel and what to do next.

Q: I’m having a parcel delivered and it must travel through Heathrow, will Brexit mean it’s delayed or caught up at the border?

A: There may be delays at the UK border in the weeks following a no deal scenario. Depending on the item being brought into the UK, you may be liable for VAT and customs charges. These charges will depend on the value of the item, where it came from and who sent it. These charges will be applied by Border Force on behalf of HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). You’ll need to pay any fees before your parcel will be released.

Q: Are there going to be long queues to get through Customs after Brexit?

A: In a no deal scenario, when travelling to an EU country, you will no longer be able to use the “fast track EU/EEA” lanes. This may initially result in longer queues depending on the infrastructure of the airport you are travelling to.

Q: Which channel do I go through after collecting my luggage after Brexit? I’m confused!

A: In a no deal scenario, when travelling to an EU country, you will no longer be able to use the “fast track EU/EEA” lanes, as you will be subject to the same passport checks as non-EU nationals when visiting an EU country.

When arriving into the UK there will no longer be a blue EU channel. The appropriate channel to go through, green or red, will depend on whether you have any items in your luggage that require a Customs declaration prior to leaving the airport.

Q: When will the UK customs laws be changing? Will they be changing at all?

A: If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, there would be immediate changes to the Customs procedures that apply today. It is generally expected that the same Customs and excise rules in relation to goods moving between the UK and non-EU countries would also
apply to movements between the UK and the EU. Customs duty may also become due on imports from the EU.

**Q: What new or different items will I have to declare at Customs once Brexit has happened?**

A: If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, the rules around what items to declare at Customs will reflect those that are currently in place when bringing in items from non-EU countries.

Your duty-free allowance means you can bring in a certain amount of goods for your own use without paying duty or tax. When you’re bringing in goods you must:

- transport them yourself
- use them yourself or give them away as a gift

You cannot combine allowances with other people to bring in more than your individual allowance. More information: [https://www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods/arrivals-from-outside-the-eu](https://www.gov.uk/duty-free-goods/arrivals-from-outside-the-eu)

**Recruitment**

**Q: I am an EU citizen; can I still apply for jobs on the Heathrow website before Brexit?**

A: Yes, you can still apply. There will be no change to the rights and status of EU citizens currently living in the UK until 30 June 2021, or 31 December 2020 if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. This means that there will be no change to our recruitment processes regarding right to work checks up to and after the date on which the UK leaves the EU. Until the UK Government introduces new legislation, an EU or EEA passport or national identity card conveys a right to work in the UK and therefore at Heathrow.

[https://www.gov.uk/legal-right-work-uk](https://www.gov.uk/legal-right-work-uk)

**Q: I am an EU citizen; will I still be able to apply for jobs on the Heathrow website after Brexit?**

A: Yes, you can still apply. There will be no change to the rights and status of EU citizens currently living in the UK until 30 June 2021, or 31 December 2020 if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. This means that there will be no change to our recruitment processes regarding right to work checks up to and after the date on which the UK leaves the EU. Until the UK Government introduces new legislation, an EU or EEA passport or national identity card conveys a right to work in the UK and therefore at Heathrow.
Animals

Q: I'm travelling through Heathrow to Europe with my pet after Brexit, will they still be ok to travel?

A: Yes, you will still be able to travel with your pet from the UK to the EU but you may need to allow more time to prepare and will need to make sure your pet has the correct documentation. Find out more: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit

Q: I'm travelling with my pet to Europe after Brexit, is there anything I need to do to prepare?

A: You should contact your vet at least 4 months before you are planning to take your pet to the EU to discuss what steps you may need to take to make sure your pet is able to travel.

A: To make sure your pet is able to travel from the UK to the EU after EU Exit in any scenario, you should contact your vet before travelling to get the latest advice.

Stay up to date with all the latest Government information here:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit

A: Pet travel requirements will change depending on what category of ‘third country’ the UK becomes when it leaves the EU. You can find out what you need to do to prepare on the UK Government’s website:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit

A: We recommend you check the Government’s website for all the latest information on pet travel after the UK leaves the EU: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit.

You can also contact the Heathrow Animal Reception centre: https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/animal-health-welfare/heathrow-animal-reception-centre/Pages/default.aspx

Q: I'm British but live in Europe and am travelling to the UK with my pet after Brexit, they have a UK pet passport, will this still be valid?
A: If you're travelling with your pet using a UK-issued pet passport, you should speak to your local vet to make sure you're compliant with EU Pet Travel Regulations.

Find out more: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit#uk-nationals-living-in-the-eu

Q: Will me and my pet be able to travel to the UK after Brexit?

A: To make sure your pet is able to travel to the UK following the EU Exit, you will need to make sure your pet has the correct documentation and meets the requirements. Find out more: https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad

Q: Will me and my pet be able to travel to the UK after Brexit with their European pet passport?

A: If you have a pet passport issued by an EU member state, you can use it to bring your pet to the UK.

Find out more: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit#uk-nationals-living-in-the-eu

Q: What about travelling with protected plants, animals or items containing them? (i.e. selected musical instruments, fashion items, antiques etc.)

A: The government has issued advice to help minimise disruption in the trade of protected animals and plants in the event of a ‘no deal’ EU exit. In this scenario, protected animals and plants would need a permit to be transported between the UK and the EU and would only be able to travel through designated ports.


Retail

Q: Have there been any changes to retail pricing at Heathrow?

A: The UK Government has not currently made any changes affecting retail pricing at Heathrow. We will keep our passengers up to date as more information is made available.

Q: Will there be any changes to retail pricing after Brexit?
Brexit FAQs

A: The UK Government has not currently made any changes affecting retail pricing at Heathrow. We will keep our passengers up to date as more information is made available.

Q: Will I still need to show my boarding pass at shops?

A: Yes. There have been no changes to legislation affecting retail pricing so passengers must follow our normal process and present their boarding passes to determine whether they are travelling within the EU or not.

Q: Will my personal allowance change? (e.g. How much you can buy in the shop? Any limit on the quantities of alcohol/tobacco?)

A: Changes to personal allowance could be announced, but exactly what those changes will be are still being discussed by the government and regulators. We will make sure that if any changes are decided on they will be communicated and implemented as soon as we are able to.

Q: Can I still shop during my connection?

A: Yes.

Q: Have there been any changes to VAT reclaim process?

A: The current process for VAT refunds for EU citizens has not changed. We will make sure that if any changes are decided, they will be communicated and implemented as soon as we are able to.