

## Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA): Stakeholder factsheet

### Background

- Each year the UK welcomes millions of visitors from around the world. From holidays to short term study or business trips, the UK is a dynamic, diverse, and exciting destination.
- We are making improvements to deliver a more streamlined, digital immigration system which will be quicker and more secure for the millions of people who pass through the UK border each year.
- Visitors to the UK need an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) if they do not need a visa for short stays of up to six months, or do not already have a UK immigration status.
- Visitors who transit through the UK by crossing the UK border need an ETA, if required for their nationality.
- An ETA is a digital permission to travel – it is not a visa or a tax and does not permit entry to the UK – it authorises a person to travel to the UK.
- Applying for an ETA is quick and simple. Most applicants currently get an automatic decision in minutes when applying through the UK ETA app, which means spontaneous trips to the UK are still possible.
- Visitors are advised to allow three working days for a decision on their application, this is to take account of the small number of cases which may need further review. Visitors can find more information about applying for an ETA on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
- An ETA costs £16 and permits multiple journeys to the UK for stays of up to six months at a time over two years or until the holder's passport expires – whichever is sooner.
- The introduction of ETAs is in line with the approach many other countries have taken to border security, including the US and Australia, and helps prevent the arrival of those who present a threat to the UK.

### Eligibility for an ETA

- Eligible visitors, including children, who do not [need a visa](#) for short stays or who do not have any other UK immigration status need an ETA to travel to the UK.

- British and Irish citizens do not need an ETA.
- People with status under the EU Settlement Scheme do not need an ETA.
- Further information on who does not need an ETA is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

### Applying for an ETA

- The easiest way to apply for an ETA is through the 'UK ETA app', which can be downloaded from the [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.homeoffice.app) or [Apple App Store](https://apps.apple.com/uk/app/uk-eta-app/id6444444444). People can apply on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) if they do not have access to a smartphone.
- Applicants usually get a decision within three working days but may get a quicker decision if they use the UK ETA app.
- To apply for an ETA, applicants need to:
  - Pay the £16 fee
  - Provide contact and passport details
  - Provide a valid photo, complying with our rules for digital photos on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
  - Answer a set of questions
- Visitors must travel using the same passport they used when they applied for an ETA.
- As with all our fees, the cost of an ETA is kept under review.
- Further information on how to apply before coming to the UK is available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

### Frequently asked questions

#### How do people know if they need to obtain a visa instead of an ETA?

- If a person intends to visit the UK for longer than six months, they need to obtain a relevant visa. They may also need a visa for stays of less than six months for purposes other than visit, transit and some business visits.
- People can check if they need a visa by using the [visa checking tool on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/visa-checking-tool)

#### Do British dual citizens need an ETA?

- [Dual citizens](https://www.gov.uk/dual-citizens) with British or Irish citizenship do not need an ETA.
- We recommend that all British citizens travel on a valid British passport to avoid unnecessary delays at the border. UK passports can be renewed at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

- As an alternative to travelling with a valid British passport, British dual citizens can evidence their citizenship in another passport by obtaining a certificate of entitlement on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
- We recognise that the introduction of the ETA is a substantial change for British dual citizens of ETA eligible nationalities. In the current transition period, we do not expect carriers to deny boarding to passengers who cannot produce a valid British passport or certificate of entitlement.
- In the future, British dual citizens who do not possess a valid British passport or certificate of entitlement may encounter difficulties at the point of boarding or at the UK border. It is advised that passengers in this position begin to make the necessary arrangements now, to avoid such complications at a later date.

### **What do people do if they apply through a fraudulent website?**

- People should visit the official [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website to find more information about applying for an ETA.
- Anyone can report suspected internet immigration scams through our [internet scams tool on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/report-immigration-scams)
- People can verify if they hold a valid ETA or if their application has been received using our [ETA Webchat](https://www.gov.uk/eta-webchat)

### **How does ETA work in Northern Ireland?**

- People arriving in the UK, including those travelling from Ireland into Northern Ireland, need to enter in line with the UK's immigration framework, including obtaining an ETA if required.
- This includes those travelling from Ireland into Northern Ireland for day trips or trips of up to six months for tourism, visiting family and friends, business or short-term study.
- British and Irish citizens do not need an ETA.
- Legal residents of Ireland, from a nationality that does not usually need a visa to visit the UK (e.g. European and US nationals), do not need an ETA when traveling within the Common Travel Area (CTA), if they can show proof of legal residency. Full guidance can be found at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

### **What happens if someone is not able to obtain an ETA?**

- If an applicant's ETA application is rejected, they will be told the reason and can apply again.
- If an applicant's ETA application is refused, they cannot appeal and instead need to [apply for a visa](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-a-visa) if they still wish to seek permission to come to the UK.

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