



Ministry  
of Defence

# Brexit update

07 December 2018



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## Overview

This update is intended for Service Personnel, their families and Defence civilians currently based in European Union Member States, including those in the Sovereign Base Areas and Gibraltar. This has been provided by the European Union (EU) Exit team within the Ministry of Defence.

The United Kingdom will leave the EU on 29 March 2019. The Withdrawal Agreement and Political Declaration on the UK's Future Partnership were agreed with the EU on the 25 November. This marks the culmination of a long and difficult process of negotiation between the UK and the EU, putting us close to a Brexit deal.

The UK Government remains confident that we will achieve a mutually advantageous deal with the EU. However, it is the duty of a responsible Government to continue to prepare for a range of scenarios, including the unlikely event of 'no deal'.

The EU Exit team within MOD is coordinating all EU Exit related business affecting Defence, working with other Government departments to assess the impacts on Defence personnel and where possible provide solutions.

The MOD understands that ongoing uncertainty causes concerns for some staff and their families overseas. The MOD, with the support of your chain of command and supporting organisations, is actively monitoring the situation and will keep you updated on the key developments likely to affect you and your family members. We are already looking at a range of matters that may affect our people when the UK leaves the EU. These include issues around travel, immigration, employment status of dependants, and education.

We are working closely with different organisations across Government to understand potential impacts and minimise any disruption. Our people are our priority, and we know that you and your families want clarity as soon as possible. We will support you throughout the process and communicate relevant information as soon as it becomes available.



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# Immigration rules and how they may affect you

The MOD is working with the Home Office to ensure that it understands and addresses circumstances affecting our personnel. As further advice and guidance becomes available we will ensure this is communicated to you at the earliest opportunity.

## **Defence personnel with spouses or partners who are EU nationals**

For all non-UK EU nationals, including but not limited to, those who are spouses or partners of Service personnel the [EU Settlement Scheme pilot: applicant information](#) contains eligibility criteria to be granted settled status in the UK. This can be found at the link above. We will update you once the Home Office publishes its new guidance relevant to the UK Armed Forces community in the EU.

## **Defence personnel living in the EU**

The Withdrawal Agreement protects the rights of around one million UK nationals in the EU and over three million EU citizens in the UK, so they can continue living their lives broadly as they do now.

In the unlikely event of a 'no deal' scenario, the Prime Minister has said that EU nationals living in the UK will be able to stay. The Government is urging the EU and all its Member States to give UK nationals in the EU the same reassurances.

Further information is available [here](#) about the rights of citizens in the unlikely event of a no deal scenario. We expect central further guidance to be published and will share this with you when it becomes available.



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## Further information

We do not want, nor expect, a 'no deal' scenario. But, as any responsible Government would do, we have been preparing for this possibility. The UK Government has published technical notices setting out the impact of a no deal scenario on specific issues and providing advice to business and citizens on how they can prepare accordingly. These can be found on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website, including:

- [UK nationals in the EU: essential information](http://ow.ly/xFp030mKpnE) <http://ow.ly/xFp030mKpnE>
- [Taking your pet abroad and returning to the UK if there's no Brexit deal](http://ow.ly/KjNW30mKpuW) <http://ow.ly/KjNW30mKpuW> (you will need to allow for a 4-month processing time)
- [Travellers to the EU with a UK passport - what to expect on day one of a 'no deal' scenario](http://ow.ly/w5bE30mOGcO) <http://ow.ly/w5bE30mOGcO> (additional 3 months on top of ordinary expiration allowances on the life of your passport is required)
- [Travelling in the Common Travel Area if there's no Brexit deal](http://ow.ly/FD9D30mKqtN) <http://ow.ly/FD9D30mKqtN>
- [Driving in the EU if there's no Brexit deal](http://ow.ly/X9L930mKqyp) <http://ow.ly/X9L930mKqyp> (an international driving permit may be required)
- [Vehicle insurance if there's no Brexit deal](http://ow.ly/yCFX30mKqA6) <http://ow.ly/yCFX30mKqA6> (you may need to get a green card from your vehicle insurance provider)
- [Financial services legislation under the EU \(Withdrawal\) Act 2018](http://ow.ly/sXvh30mKqD8) <http://ow.ly/sXvh30mKqD8>
- [Details on how to apply for the European Health Insurance Card](http://ow.ly/Om4x30mTTJp) <http://ow.ly/Om4x30mTTJp>

### **Vehicle Taxation**

If the UK leaves the EU without a Withdrawal Agreement, the rules on the movement of goods to the UK from the EU will change. As a result, import VAT could be due on vehicles you bring into the UK from an EU Member State. MOD is seeking further guidance from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and advice on what this means for our defence people in the EU. We will share this with you when it becomes available.



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## Do I need to do anything now?

You are encouraged to review the current guidance provided in the links under the further information section. We will provide advice and instructions through your chain of command and supporting management about what you need to do to be prepared for the UK's exit from the EU.

We also encourage you to discuss with your chain of command any further information you would like to receive.

## When will we know more?

The UK have reached a deal with the leaders of the other 27 EU Member States on a Withdrawal Agreement that will ensure our smooth and orderly departure on the 29 March next year. It is now the duty of Parliament to examine this deal in detail, to debate it respectfully, to listen to constituents and decide what is in the national interest. We will keep you updated on key developments affecting the Defence community in EU Member States.

This update is the first in a series that we will send to our personnel. We will continue to provide material to your chain of command and management as and when it is available.

We are creating a Defnet intranet page and a Gateway page with updated information. The links to these will be shared with you when they become available.