

JULY 2021



British Embassy  
Paris

# VOISINS VOICES

A BRITISH EMBASSY PARIS NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME

Welcome to the July edition of Voisins Voices! In this edition, we look at updates to our Travel Advice, applying for residency in France under the Withdrawal Agreement, driving licences, and our next online outreach meeting. As always, our online Living in France Guide has the most up to date information - please click on this [link to see](#) more detail and register to be notified of updates.

Do please forward this to any friends, family, or new acquaintances living in France. To get added to the distribution list, simply email [France.Enquiries@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:France.Enquiries@fcdo.gov.uk) or follow this [link and fill](#) in the form with your email address and name.

## British Ambassador to France: July Article for Connexion France

Each month the British Ambassador to France, Ed Llewellyn, shares an insight into his role through [The Connexion](#). Here is his latest:

### By Ed Llewellyn

I'd like to open this month's column by speaking directly to any Britons in France who arrived before January 1, 2021, and who have not yet applied for their Withdrawal Agreement Residency Permit.

**Please apply today, even if you are reading this in July and have missed the June 30 deadline.**

The portal remains open for now and you should apply as soon as possible. It's important you still apply to regularise your status and to protect your rights in France.

If you're not sure where to start, see our online Living In France guide, and for those people who need additional support, the government-funded UK Nationals Support Fund can provide more tailored help. If you've applied and are waiting to hear back, please be reassured that prefectures are working their way through applications. If it has been several months, check your prefecture website in case they have posted information about processing times.

If you have a particular concern, you may wish to contact them directly, or the Interior Ministry via the email address in the application portal.

I am delighted this month to be able to give you some good news about driving licences. If you have a valid UK licence issued before January 1, 2021, you can drive in France until it expires, at which point you can exchange it for a French licence. If your licence was issued after January 1, 2021, you should exchange it within one year from the date of your residency permit.

If your UK licence has expired, or has less than six months' validity remaining, you should apply to exchange it on the Agence Nationale des Titres Sécurisés (ANTS) website. Although you won't be able to drive immediately, once your application is registered, you will receive a document confirming your right to drive, which you can use until your new licence arrives.

You can find more information about this in our Living in France guide.

June has been a busy month.

At the beginning of the month, I travelled to Toulon where the Royal Navy's Carrier Strike Group completed three days of joint exercises with the French Navy's aircraft carrier FS Charles de Gaulle, aircraft and ships. The landmark UK Carrier Strike Group deployment will cover 26,000 miles, visiting more than 40 countries and it was fantastic to be there as it arrived in France: a powerful example of our two countries' long-standing co-operation on defence.

I was reminded again of our long history of working together at the opening of the British Normandy Memorial, a few days later. Under a blazing June sun, I inaugurated the monument which records the names of all those under British command who died in the Normandy campaign of 1944. We were honoured to be joined by a British veteran who now lives in Normandy – David Mylchreest – and an American, Charles Shay, a combat medic on Omaha Beach.

Sadly, Covid meant veterans were unable to join us from the UK, but many watched the ceremony online and I hope it won't be long before they are able to visit in person.

Later in June, in Cornwall, world leaders gathered for the G7 Summit in Carbis Bay. I remember accompanying the Prime Minister to the G7 Summit in Biarritz two years ago, and the sunny, coastal pictures reminded me of that trip.

This year, the G7 made great progress on climate change, distributing coronavirus vaccines across the world, agreeing a deal to create a fairer global tax system, and improving access to education for girls.

With that, I will wish you a lovely July. I hope you are able to make the most of the (hopefully) pleasant weather, and the re-opened cafes, restaurants, shops and museums.

## Applying for Residency in France

**The French authorities have confirmed that the Withdrawal Agreement residency application portal will remain open until 30 September for anyone who missed the June deadline.**

Don't delay - get your application in as soon as you can to protect your rights in France. The earlier you apply, the better.

France is taking a flexible approach to late applications in line with the Withdrawal Agreement. When applying, say why your application is late in the comments section of your online application.

You must apply for residency in France under the Withdrawal Agreement even if:

- you are married to a French or EU national
- you are applying for French nationality
- you've lived in France for many years
- you already have a carte de sejour citoyen UE/EEE/Suisse

For more information on the process, take a look our Living in France guide:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-france>.

When you're applying for residency, don't forget to check your emails regularly, including your junk folder. Your Prefecture may ask for more information and responding promptly will help keep your application moving. You should attend the first appointment you are given by the prefecture, as far as possible. A number of UK nationals are still waiting for their appointments, so please inform the Prefecture if you really cannot make the slot you are given due to exceptional circumstances.

There are a number of organisations dedicated to helping British nationals living in France in applying for a Withdrawal Agreement residency permit. Check out [our past newsletters](#) for a profile on each of them and find their contact details below.

# Travel Update

As of 8 July, **the FCDO no longer advises against non-essential travel to France**. France remains on the UK's amber list, but the recommendation for people to not travel to amber countries has now been removed. You should continue to check [FCDO travel advice](#) before booking travel. See below for details on travelling between the UK and France.

## New French Anti-Covid Measures

From **21 July**, people attending events and cultural spaces with over 50 people will be asked to demonstrate their COVID-19 status through the “pass sanitaire”.

From **1 August**, you will need this to access a range of leisure facilities (bars, restaurants, museums, cinemas), hospitals, retirement homes and modes of transport such as long distance train and bus journeys and planes.

You can find more information on how to access the “pass sanitaire” (for those resident in France) or (for those visiting France) how to demonstrate that you are fully vaccinated in our [Travel Advice](#).



## Travel to the UK from France

On 16 July, it was confirmed that changes to the rules for arrivals in the UK from Amber List countries would not apply to France ([Full details here](#)). This also affects those transiting through France from another country.

### Travellers to the UK must:

- [Complete a passenger locator form](#)
- [Have proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within 3 days of departure \(if 11 years or over\)](#)
- [Quarantine for 10 days](#)
- [Complete COVID-19 tests on days 2 and 8 of your quarantine](#)

Travellers also need to complete an attestation to justify leaving France. Returning to your country of residence or origin is permitted. [Full details here](#)

You may be denied boarding if you do not comply with these requirements, or fined if found to have broken the rules.

If you entered France from a red-listed country less than ten days before you arrive in England, then you will need to use [managed quarantine](#).

There are a small number of exemptions to these rules, which you can find [here](#).

In England, you can still use the Test and Release scheme to end quarantine early, [if you test negative after 5 days](#).

If you are travelling to Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, you can find specific information [here](#).

## Travel to France from the UK

The UK is currently on the French amber list. [You can read more about what this means here.](#)

Travellers who are fully vaccinated do not need an essential reason to travel to France and do not need to self-isolate on arrival. From 18 July, fully vaccinated adults no longer need to present evidence of a negative test result before travel.

Fully vaccinated travellers will need to present the following documents:

- proof of vaccination status. If you live in England, France will accept the NHS app or your NHS letter to demonstrate your COVID-19 vaccination status. If you live in Scotland or Wales, France will accept your respective NHS letter to demonstrate your COVID-19 vaccination status. Your NHS appointment card from vaccination centres is not designed to be used as proof of vaccination and should not be used to demonstrate your vaccine status;
- a completed 'sworn statement' (déclaration sur l'honneur) form self-certifying they are not suffering from symptoms associated with coronavirus and have not been in contact with confirmed cases in the preceding fortnight. [This can be found on the French government's website.](#)

Those under 18 are also exempt from the need for a COVID test or an essential reason for travel, and do not need to self-isolate on arrival in France, if they are accompanied by a fully vaccinated adult.

Those travelling to France from the UK who are not fully vaccinated will only be permitted to travel for essential reasons (further explanations [here](#)).

They will also need:

- [a completed International Travel Certificate to confirm their essential reason for travel.](#) In exceptional circumstances, the French Consulate in London may be able to assist with travel for an essential reason not listed on the International Travel Certificate.
- a completed 'sworn statement' (déclaration sur l'honneur) form self-certifying they are not suffering from symptoms associated with coronavirus and have not been in contact with confirmed cases in the preceding fortnight, and that they will self-isolate for seven days after arrival. [This can be found on the French government's website.](#)
- (for those aged 12 or over) evidence of a negative test taken within 24 hours of departure.

And they will need to self-isolate for 7 days after arrival, then take another PCR test following this period of self-isolation. You can find general advice on travelling abroad from the UK [here](#).

Children under 18 travelling unaccompanied must also follow the above requirements for travellers who are not fully vaccinated.

# Driving Licences

**The UK has reached an agreement with France on mutual recognition of driving licences.** Our agreement means those with a valid UK licence can continue to drive in France.

If your licence has expired or is due to expire in the next 6 months you should apply to exchange it with the Agence Nationale des Titres Sécurisés (ANTS) [via their online platform](#).

[Our Ambassador Ed Llewellyn explains what you need to know in this video.](#)

## Your driving licence questions answered:

### **Do I need to exchange my UK driving licence if I live in France?**

If your licence was issued before 1 January 2021, you can use it in France until it expires. Paper licences are usually valid until you are 70. For plastic photocard licences, the expiry date is on the front. Check the expiry date.

When your licence has less than six months' validity remaining or if it has already expired, you can exchange it for a French one by applying to the Agence Nationale des Titres Sécurisés (ANTS) via their online platform: <https://permisdeconduire.ants.gouv.fr/>.

If your licence was issued on or after 1 January 2021, it will be recognised for 12 months from the date of issue of your residency permit (carte de séjour). If you intend to stay in France for longer, you must exchange your UK licence for a French one during this 12-month period by applying to the Agence Nationale des Titres Sécurisés (ANTS) via their online platform: <https://permisdeconduire.ants.gouv.fr/>.



### **Can I drive in France if my UK licence has expired?**

No. Expired licences are not recognised by the French authorities. Paper licences are usually valid until you are 70. For plastic photocard licences, the expiry date is on the front. Check the expiry date.

If you are resident in France and your UK licence has expired or has less than six months' validity remaining you can exchange it for a French one by applying to the Agence Nationale des Titres Sécurisés (ANTS) via their online platform: <https://permisdeconduire.ants.gouv.fr/>. When your application is registered, you will receive a document confirming your right to drive (une Attestation de Dépôt Sécurisée), which you can use to drive in France until your new licence arrives.

### **Can I renew my UK licence with the DVLA if I am resident in France?**

No. You may not renew your licence with the DVLA if you are not resident in the UK. If I am resident in France, can I use my UK licence in other EU countries? Rules vary between countries so you should check the relevant country page on [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) before travelling.

### **If I am resident in France can I get an International Driving Permit (IDP) if I need one to accompany my UK licence in another country?**

Yes. As long as your UK licence is recognised in France, you can apply for an IDP via the Agence Nationale des Titres Sécurisés (ANTS). This applies to paper and photocard licences.

### **Can I use my UK licence if I am visiting France?**

Yes, if you are visiting France and have a valid UK licence, you do not need to carry an additional International Driving Permit (IDP).

### **I applied to ANTS last year, will my application be processed?**

If your licence has expired or has less than six months' validity remaining, your exchange will be processed. If your licence is not due to expire, your application will not be processed.

### **Can I exchange my UK licence if it is not due to expire?**

If your UK licence was issued before 1 January 2021, you do not need to apply to exchange it before it is due to expire. If you do not have a valid reason to request an exchange, your application will be rejected.

For more information on driving in France, please see the driving in France section of our Living in France guide: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-france...>

## Online Outreach Events

Our online event for British citizens on Microsoft Teams is open for registration!  
This will be the last one this summer. We will advertise the September dates soon.

**Tuesday 20 July from 6PM to 7.30PM:** [Register now.](#)



# SETTLED IN FRANCE?

**ONLINE OUTREACH MEETING  
FOR UK NATIONALS IN FRANCE**

**20 July 6PM-7.30PM**  
Register at →  
<https://bit.ly/OnlineOutreach2007>

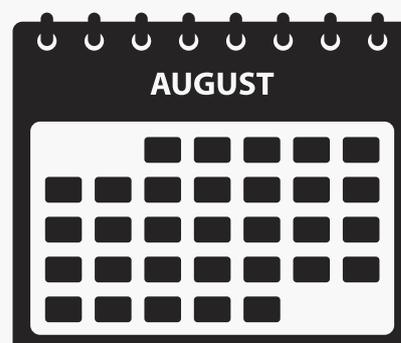
 **ITS TIME TO TAKE ACTION, FIND OUT MORE  
AT GOV.UK/LIVING IN FRANCE**

-  Check
-  Change
-  Go

## Outreach and Facebook Q&As

**Our outreach sessions and Facebook Q&As  
will not run over August,  
but will return in September.**

If you have any urgent query,  
our consular assistance team is available 24/7  
on 01 44 51 31 00  
or via this webform:  
<https://www.contact-embassy.service.gov.uk/>.



## PARTNERSHIP PACKS

We have printed a set of Partnership Packs - handy booklets explaining what UK nationals living in France need to do to protect their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement. If you know of an organisation that would find these useful, please contact [France.Enquiries@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:France.Enquiries@fcdo.gov.uk), giving the name of the organisation and its address, and stating whether you could best use a pack of 20 or of 50.

## UK NATIONALS SUPPORT FUND

In France, [four British Government funded organisations](#) can help UK nationals secure their residency rights. They provide practical support to individuals finding it harder to complete applications, including pensioners, disabled people, those living in remote areas or who have mobility difficulties, and those who face language barriers or barriers in accessing technology.

### **IOM - The International Organisation for Migration (Brittany, Normandy, Ile de France, Hauts-de-France, and Pays de la Loire)**

Visit the [IOM website](#)

Email: [UKnationalsFR@iom.int](mailto:UKnationalsFR@iom.int)

Hotline: 08 09 54 98 32

### **FBN - The Franco-British Network (Dordogne, Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes)**

Visit the [FBN website](#)

Email: [The Franco-British Network](#)

Hotline: 05 19 88 01 09

### **Church of England - Diocese in Europe (Nouvelle Aquitaine, Occitanie, Grand Est, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Centre-Val de Loire, Corsica)**

Visit the [Diocese in Europe Residency Support Project website](#)

Hotline: 05 32 80 00 05

### **SSAFA, The Armed Forces Charity (veterans across France)**

Visit the [SSAFA website](#)

Email: [ukvie.support@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:ukvie.support@ssafa.org.uk)

Hotline: 08 05 11 96 17

# USEFUL LINKS TO ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE OR SUPPORT

Please visit the webpages below for more information. The links and contact details can signpost you in the right direction and also connect you to those who can provide support or offer help with technical matters if you need it.

Key websites:

- Living in France Guide: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-france>
- France Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/france>
- Sign up to the Business Newsflash: [bit.ly/WeeklyNewsflash](http://bit.ly/WeeklyNewsflash)
- French government website: [www.brexit.gouv.fr](http://www.brexit.gouv.fr)
- Healthcare in France: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-in-france-including-martinique-and-guadeloupe>
- NHS advice on planning healthcare abroad: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/moving-abroad/planning-your-healthcare/>
- If you use social media, do also follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ukinfrance> and on [Twitter](#) @BritishinFrance

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