

If you wish to apply for an extension of stay in the UK on form FLR(M), please read these guidance notes and the separate UK Visas and Immigration photograph guidance before making your application.

## CONTACTING US

Our main website address for contacting us is given below.

OUR WEBSITE [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk)

For information about immigration law and policy, the services offered by our Public Enquiry Offices, to see and download application forms and related guidance, and to book an appointment to apply in person.

## OUR PUBLIC ENQUIRY OFFICES

Our Public Enquiry Offices (PEOs) are for premium service applications only. Their addresses and opening times are given below. For details of the services and facilities provided by each of the PEOs, please go to our website.

Belfast	Drumkeen House, Drumkeen Complex, Upper Galwally, Belfast, BT8 6TB Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00 - 16:00
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Cardiff	General Buildings, Ground Floor, 31-33 Newport Road, Cardiff, CF24 0AB Monday to Friday 9:00 - 16:00
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Croydon	Lunar House, 40 Wellesley House Road, Croydon, CR9 2BY Monday to Friday 8:00 - 16:00
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Glasgow	Festival Court, 200 Brand Street, Govan, Glasgow, G51 1DH Monday to Thursday 8:30 - 16:30, Friday 8.30 - 16:00
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Liverpool	The Capital Building, 6 Union Street, Liverpool, L3 9AF Monday to Friday 8:30 - 16:00
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Sheffield	Vulcan House, 6 Millsands, Sheffield, S3 8NU Monday to Friday 9:00 - 16:00
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Solihull	Dominion Court, 41 Station Road, Solihull, Birmingham, B91 3RT Monday to Friday 9:00 - 16:00
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## GUIDANCE NOTES

### 1 FOR WHICH APPLICATIONS MUST YOU USE FORM FLR(M)?

Form FLR(M) must be used if you are applying for an extension of stay and your partner is:

- a British citizen in the UK
- present and settled in the UK
- in the UK with refugee leave or humanitarian protection

You and any children under 18 applying with you must be in the UK to apply.

Anyone applying for an extension of stay in the above-mentioned categories must apply - also on form FLR(M) - for a biometric immigration document, otherwise known as a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP).

For more information about this, please read Biometric Residence Permit on pages 6 and 7 of these guidance notes.

### 2 QUALIFYING FOR AN EXTENSION OF STAY

To qualify for an extension of stay in the categories for which you have to use form FLR(M), you must meet the relevant requirements in Part 8 Section 1 of the Immigration Rules, which are on our website.

If you are applying for an extension of stay (rather than indefinite leave to remain) even though you have completed or are about to complete 2 years permitted stay as the partner of the same person, give the reason in section 4 of the application form and explain in more detail in a letter if necessary. Possible reasons are that you have not yet obtained a relevant qualification demonstrating your knowledge of the English language and life in the UK; or that you prefer to apply for an extension of stay because of personal circumstances to do with your relationship with your partner.

### 3 WHO MAY APPLY ON THIS FORM?

You and your children under 18 if they are applying as your dependants.

Children aged 18 or over may not be included; they must each apply individually and pay the specified fee, as must any children under 18 if there is some reason preventing them from applying with you.

### 4 THE FEE

If you do not pay the specified fee, the application will be invalid and will be returned to you.

We will not refund the fee if we refuse the applica-

tion or if you withdraw it.

Please note the following:

- When making large or multiple payments using your credit card, the anti fraud measures that banks operate sometimes stop the full payment being taken. This is because either the maximum limit on a single transaction, or the number of transactions allowed in a given period of time, has been exceeded. To prevent this you must ensure that you inform your bank of your intention to make large or multiple payments in advance so that your bank allows the full payment to be taken when you submit your application.

For information about methods of payment, please see the payment details guidance on page 2 of the form.

For more information about the current fees, please go to our website.

### 5 WHEN TO APPLY

You and any children under 18 applying with you should apply before the end of your/their permitted stay in the UK.

### 6 MAKING SURE YOUR APPLICATION IS VALID

Paragraphs 34-34I of the Immigration Rules specify certain requirements with which an application on a form specified for the purpose of the Rules must comply. To make a valid application, you must:

- apply on the current version of form FLR(M).
- pay the specified fee by one of the methods specified in the payment guidance.
- provide photographs of yourself, your partner and any children under 18 applying with you as specified in the application form and which meet the mandatory format standards specified in the photograph guidance.
- complete sections 1, 6 and 8 of the form as required and section 3 if any children under 18 are applying with you.
- make sure the relevant declarations in section 12 are signed by you and your partner.
- send the application by prepaid post to UK Border Agency or make it in person at a Public Enquiry Office.

If you fail to do any of these things, your application will be invalid and we will return it to you. This

could result in the loss of appeal rights if your permitted stay has run out by the time you make a valid application.

## **7 ENSURING YOUR APPLICATION IS COMPLETE**

You do this by completing every relevant section of the form as required and providing all the documents specified for your particular application, including your passport and those of any children who are applying with you.

If you do not do this, we reserve the right to decide your application on the basis of the information and documents provided.

It is important, therefore, to provide an explanation if you cannot give us all relevant information or documents when making your application.

## **8 COMPLETING THE FORM**

Please use a black pen to complete the form; write names, addresses and similar details in capital letters.

In the payment details and other sections where you give personal details and addresses, leave an empty box between each part of the name and of the address.

Please note that we always use the personal details in an applicant's passport or travel document for official purposes, including any Biometric Residence Permit issued if the application is successful.

Take care to complete all sections as required, including the Personal History section. Follow the guidance on page 2 of the form when completing the payment details. Read the notes in various sections of the form.

As already emphasised in part 7 of these notes, you must enclose a letter of explanation if you are unable to provide all the required information or any relevant specified documents.

## **9 PHOTOGRAPHS**

For your application to be valid, it is mandatory to provide the following photographs:

- Two identical passport-size photographs of yourself with your full name written on the back of each one.
- One passport-size photograph of your partner with his or her full name written on the back of it.
- Two identical passport-size photographs of

any children under 18 applying with you with their full name written on the back of each one.

The photographs you provide must also comply with the mandatory format requirements specified in the separate UKBA photograph guidance. The application will be invalid if they do not.

Please ensure that you place the photographs in a small sealed envelope and attach it to section 1 of the form as instructed there - and without any staples, clips, pins or anything else which could mark or damage the photographs.

The photographs will be checked against the images taken when your biometric features and those of any children applying with you are enrolled.

## **10 DOCUMENTS**

Documents provided with the application must be originals.

Copies of any kind are not acceptable unless there are valid reasons for not being able to provide the original document. In such circumstances, we may accept a copy certified by the body or authority which issued the original (for example, a copy of a savings book certified by the building society or bank), or by a notary.

The reasons for not being able to provide the original document must be explained in a covering letter. We are unlikely to grant your application without the original document.

Any documents which are not in English must be accompanied by a reliable English translation.

Make sure passports or travel documents are signed.

## **11 APPLYING BY POST - THE ADDRESS**

If you are applying by post, the address to which you must send an application on form FLR(M) is:

**UK Border Agency**  
Leave to Remain - FLR(M)  
PO Box 495  
Durham  
DH99 1WR

Posting it to any other address will not only delay your application but could make it invalid. This address is only to be used when sending your application. Please use the address given in part 15 for any other correspondence about your application.

If you use Recorded or Special Delivery, this will help us to record the receipt of your application. Make sure that you keep the Recorded or Special Delivery number.

We will return your passport(s) and other documents by Recorded Delivery. If you would like them to be returned by Special Delivery, you must provide a prepaid Special Delivery envelope which is large enough.

You will receive a letter of acknowledgement within a few days of your application being received, unless there is a problem concerning the payment of the fee. The validity of your application will then be checked and we shall contact you in writing if your application is invalid.

## 12 APPLYING IN PERSON

We offer a service to people to apply in person at our Public Enquiry Offices (PEOs). This service is available only for applications which are straightforward and do not require further enquiries.

**Appointments.** To apply in person, you must book an appointment in advance with one of the PEOs. You can do so online at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/book-appointment>.

For applications made in person at a public enquiry office, the total fee includes a £100 appointment fee, which may be retained should the applicant fail to attend their appointment without good reason.

**Please note that Biometric Residence Permits will be posted to successful applicants within 7 working days of your appointment; they cannot be issued on the day itself.**

The PEO addresses, opening times and website address for appointments are given on the front page of these guidance notes.

For the latest information about their opening times and services, please see our website.

## 13 DECISION TIMES

For the latest information on our service standards for deciding charged applications please go to our website.

Applications which are not straightforward or which need further enquiries take longer to decide. These include applications by people who have remained here unlawfully after the expiry of their permitted stay.

As we cannot tell in advance how long it will take to decide particular cases, our general advice is not to make any non-urgent travel arrangements until your passport(s) or travel document(s) are returned to you, followed by your Biometric Residence Permit(s) if your application is success-

ful.

## 14 YOUR STATUS WHILE YOUR APPLICATION IS BEING CONSIDERED

If you and any children under 18 apply before the end of your permitted stay in the UK, your/their existing immigration status, including any permission to work, will continue until your/their application(s) is/are decided.

## 15 CONTACTING US AFTER YOU HAVE APPLIED

If you need to contact us after you have applied, please do so as follows.

To send us more information about your application, write to the following address (not the one to which you posted your application):

### **UK Border Agency**

Initial Consideration Unit - FLR(M)  
Lunar House  
40 Wellesley Road  
Croydon  
CR9 2BY

and give the following details in your letter:

- the applicant's full name, date of birth and nationality
- any Recorded or Special Delivery number
- the date on which the application was posted or made in person
- the Home Office reference number if you have one.

If you need your passport because you have to travel urgently and unexpectedly, use the return of documents request form at [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/contact/return-of-documents/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/contact/return-of-documents/).

Your application will be treated as withdrawn if your passport is returned for travel abroad before we are able to decide the application.

## 16 OBTAINING APPLICATION FORMS

You can obtain application forms, the accompanying guidance notes and the UKBA photograph guidance from our website at [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk)

## 17 OTHER ENQUIRIES

For enquiries other than obtaining an application form, consult our website [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk).

We also have the following freephone textphone number: **0800 38 98 28 9**.

## 18 CHOOSING AN IMMIGRATION ADVISER

Immigration advisers are regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC).

Their website at [www.oisc.gov.uk](http://www.oisc.gov.uk) contains a list of authorised advisers. It also has links to websites for solicitors, barristers and legal executives.

If you have a complaint about an immigration adviser or need other information, the OISC contact details are:

### Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner

5th Floor,  
Counting House  
53 Tooley Street  
London  
SE1 2QN

Telephone: **0845 000 0046**

Alternatively the Solicitors Regulation Authority, which regulates solicitors in England and Wales, can help you find a solicitor if you contact them on **0870 606 2555** or visit their website at [www.sra.org.uk](http://www.sra.org.uk)

The address and telephone number for any complaints about a solicitor are:

### Legal Complaints Service

Victoria Court  
8 Dormer Place  
Leamington Spa  
Warwickshire CV32 5AE

Telephone: **0845 606 6565**

## 19 COMPLAINTS ABOUT OUR SERVICE

If you wish to make a complaint about our service, please refer to the complaints page on our website for detailed information on how to do so.

## 20 DATA PROTECTION NOTICE

We will treat all information provided by you in confidence but may disclose it to other government departments, agencies, local authorities, the police, foreign governments and other bodies for immigration purposes or to enable them to perform their functions.

We may also use the information provided by you for training purposes.

The information in the payment details page will be known to the private contractor engaged by the Home Office to process fee payments.

## 21 THE REQUIREMENTS YOU NEED TO MEET

In order to qualify you will need to meet the following requirements.

**a) We will need to be satisfied that your relationship with your partner is genuine and continuing, and that you intend to live together permanently.**

We will carefully consider the information and documents that you provide. If we have any concerns about whether your relationship is genuine or continuing we will make further enquiries, and may invite you for interview. Guidance on how we consider whether a marriage is genuine can be found on our website:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/IDIs/chp8-annex/section-FM2.1.pdf?view=Binary>.

**b) You must meet the suitability requirement**

This relates to your character and conduct, your previous immigration history, whether you owe money to the NHS, and whether you have co-operated with our enquiries. Further information can be found on our website.

**c) You must meet the immigration status requirement**

You must not be in the UK as a visitor, or with leave for 6 months or less (unless you are here as a fiance or proposed civil partner), or here with temporary admission. Your current stay in the United Kingdom must be lawful. You should not be here illegally or have remained here once your permission to stay has ended. We can however, overlook a period of up to 28 days where you have stayed here after your leave to remain ended.

**d) You must meet the financial requirement**

You need to meet the financial requirement if you made your first application to enter or remain here as a partner after 9th July 2012.

You can meet the financial requirement through:

- \* Income from employment or self employment of your sponsor
- \* Income from your employment or self employment if you are in the UK
- \* Certain income from sources other than employment
- \* State or private pensions of you and your sponsor
- \* Maternity allowances or bereavement benefits received in the UK
- \* Cash savings over a certain level - this will depend on what you are applying for and the level of other income that you and your sponsor have.

You will be exempt from the income threshold if your sponsor receives a specified disability-related benefit or carers allowance in the UK.

The amounts required to meet the financial requirement are;

Partner - £18,600

1 child in addition to partner £22,400

2 children in addition to partner - £24,800

3 children in addition to partner - £27,200

There will be an increase of £2,400 for each additional child.

Information about this requirement, including the evidence you must provide, can be found on our website;

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/IDIs/chp8-annex/section-FM-1.7.pdf?view=Binary>

In addition you must have adequate accommodation for you and your partner and any dependents that live with you. The property must be occupied only by you, your partner and dependents. Further information about accommodation requirements is on our website: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

### **e) You must meet the English language requirement**

A person under 65 who is applying for leave to remain as a spouse, civil partner, fiancée(e) or proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner of a British citizen or person settled in the United Kingdom needs to show that they can speak and understand English. You can do this if:

- You are a national of a specified English speaking country
- You have passed an English language test in speaking and listening at level A1 of the Common European Framework of Reference or above, with a Home Office approved provider
- You have an academic qualification recognised by UK NARIC as equivalent to the standard of a Bachelor's or Master's degree or PhD in the UK. This must have been taught in English.
- You are exempt from this requirement if you are over 65, have a physical or mental condition which prevents you from meeting this requirement or there are exceptional circumstances which would prevent you from meeting it.

Guidance on how to meet the English language requirement can be found on our website:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/partners-families/citizens-settled/spouse-cp/can-you-apply/english-language/>

## **22 BIOMETRIC RESIDENCE PERMITS**

On 25 November 2008, under the provisions of The Immigration (Biometric Registration) Regulations, Biometric Residence Permits were introduced for certain foreign nationals applying for permission to remain in the UK. The requirement to apply for such a Biometric Residence Permit is gradually being extended across the whole range of immigration applications.

Everyone applying for an extension of stay in the categories for which form FLR(M) has to be used must apply for a Biometric Residence Permit.

Further information about these measures, which are based on powers contained in the UK Borders Act 2007, can be found on our website.

### **a. What is a Biometric Residence Permit?**

The Biometric Residence Permit is a residence permit which holds your biographic details (name, date and place of birth) and biometrics (see 22b), and shows your immigration status and entitlements while you remain in the UK.

This replaces the practice of placing a UK residence permit in the passport of anyone granted permission to remain in the UK. If you are issued with a Biometric Residence Permit, you will receive a leaflet giving more information about it and explaining your obligations as a Biometric Residence Permit holder.

### **b. What are biometrics?**

Biometrics are the unique physical characteristics that can be used to identify you, such as a facial image and fingerprints. These are the biometrics which we enrol (ie record) for the purposes of the Biometric Residence Permit. We do so by taking a digital photograph of all applicants and the fingerprints of applicants aged 6 and over.

### **c. Having your biometrics enrolled**

If you are required by law to apply for a Biometric Residence Permit, you must make arrangements to have your biometrics enrolled as part of the application process.

- Applying in person (premium service applications)

If you wish to apply in person, you must book an appointment. Your biometrics and those of any children under 18 applying with you will be enrolled at your appointment. You can book an appointment online at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/book-appointment>.

- Applying by post

If you apply by post, provided the specified application fee has been paid, you will be sent a notification letter telling you to arrange for your biometrics to be enrolled within 15 working days. Currently, this can be done by booking an appointment at Home Office biometric enrolment centre (see 22d), or by going to one of a small number of Post Office branches.

The option of attending a Post Office branch is currently available only to single applicants aged 16 or over who live near one of the Post Office branches providing this service. The letter will supply all relevant information for anyone using the Post Office service. There is more information about this at our following website address:

[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/contact/contact-space/post-office-biometric-enrolment/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/contact/contact-space/post-office-biometric-enrolment/)

#### **d. Attending a biometric enrolment centre**

You can book an appointment at a Home Office biometric enrolment centre online at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/book-appointment>

Before booking an appointment you will have to register to use the service by creating a customer account. To do this you must have a valid email address. Once registered, you will be sent password details which then allow you to access your account and book an appointment. Please note you will need your case reference number which will be found at the top of the notification letter we will send to you.

When the appointment has been booked, you will be given a booking reference number (BRN) which you should enter in the BRN space in the notification letter. If you have given us your e-mail address, we will confirm the appointment by e-mail (within 24 hours) but we will not send a letter confirming it.

If you have given us your mobile telephone number, we will send a text message reminder 48 hours before the date of the appointment.

In all cases when attending an appointment, you must bring your appointment notification letter with you. Please make sure that it has your booking reference number on it.

#### **e. The enrolment procedure**

The enrolment procedure is as follows. You will be asked to place your fingers, followed by your thumbs, on a glass screen for your 10 digits to be scanned. We will then take a photograph of your face.

The same process will be carried out for any chil-

dren under 18 applying with you, except that any children under the age of 6 will only have their photograph taken.

The biometrics enrolled will then be recorded as part of your/their application(s).

Any children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult when their biometrics are enrolled (see Children under the age of 16 at 22g).

In some circumstances, you may be required to attend an identity interview if we require further information to establish your identity.

#### **f. Biometric enrolment fee**

As part of your application you are required to enrol your biometric information. You will be charged an additional handling fee for this service, payable to the Post Office Ltd. You must pay the fee by cash or debit card when you attend Post Office Ltd to enrol your biometrics. Each dependant included on your application must also pay this fee when they enrol their biometric information. Do not send the biometric enrolment fee with your application fee.

Applicant on some immigration routes are exempt from paying an enrolment fee at the Post Office Ltd. If you are in one of these categories you will be informed of this when we send you a biometric notification letter.

Your application may be rejected as invalid if you do not enrol your biometrics when requested. For more information about enrolling biometrics and the current fee, please visit the following section of our website;

[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/contact/enrol-biometric/](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/contact/enrol-biometric/)

#### **g. How and when will you be notified of the outcome of your application for an extension of stay and for a Biometric Residence Permit?**

If your application is successful, you will not be issued with a residence permit in your passport. You will be issued with a residence permit in the form of a Biometric Residence Permit, which you will receive within the following timescales:

- Applying in person

If your application is successful, you will be sent a Biometric Residence Permit or Permits for yourself and any children applying with you by secure delivery. The Biometric Residence Permit(s) should reach you within 7 working days of your appointment. Biometric Residence Permit(s) cannot be

issued on the day itself.

- Applying by post

If your application is successful, your passport(s) and other documents will be returned to you with a decision letter. You will then be sent a Biometric Residence Permit or Permit(s) for yourself and any children applying with you by secure delivery. The Permit(s) should reach you within 7 working days of the date of the decision letter.

If you do not receive the Biometric Residence Permit(s) within 10 working days you should e-mail:

[BRPDelivery@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:BRPDelivery@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

providing the following information:

- full name;
- date of birth;
- nationality;
- passport number;
- case reference number;
- delivery address; and
- a contact telephone number.

Alternatively, this information can be sent to: **Freepost RRYX-GLYU-GXHZ, Returns Unit, P.O. Box 163, Bristol BS20 1AB**

#### **h. Children under the age of 16**

For legal reasons, we cannot enrol the biometrics of children under the age of 16 unless they are accompanied by a responsible adult.

If any such children are applying with you as your dependants, we would expect you to be with them when their biometrics are enrolled. If not, the person accompanying them must be a responsible adult aged 18 or over who is either the child's parent or guardian, or a person who for the time being takes responsibility for the child. Any such person must be named on the application form.

If the person accompanying the child(ren) under 16 is not their parent or guardian, the responsible adult named on the application form must bring with them a letter confirming that they are authorised to take responsibility for the child(ren) when they have their biometrics enrolled. They will also be asked for an acceptable form of identity, such as a passport or driving licence, which will be checked against the details given on the application form.

#### **i. What if you fail to have your biometrics enrolled?**

If you make a postal application and receive a notification letter requiring you to have your biometrics enrolled within 15 working days but fail to do so,

you will be sent a warning letter. This letter will tell you what you must do to comply with the requirement to have your biometrics enrolled and what will happen to your application if you fail to do so as instructed in the letter.

#### **j. What if you fail to attend a booked appointment?**

If you fail to attend a booked appointment, you will be given another opportunity to enrol your biometrics within a limited period. A letter will be sent to you telling you what you must do to comply with the requirement to have your biometrics enrolled and what will happen to your application if you fail to do so as instructed in the letter.

#### **k. What if you fail to comply with the enrolment process?**

If you fail to co-operate fully with the enrolment process, for example by attempting to obscure your fingerprints or face, you will be warned that your refusal to comply may result in your immigration application being refused on the grounds of non-compliance with regulations made under the UK Borders Act 2007.

#### **l. What about any medical or physical conditions that may require the UK Border Agency to provide you with special arrangements?**

If you and/or any children applying with you have a medical or physical condition which may require special arrangements to be made in order for your biometrics to be enrolled, you must obtain a letter or other document giving the details of any such condition and enclose it with your application.

Appropriate documentary evidence would be a letter from a treating clinician, such as a practising doctor registered with the General Medical Council, giving details of the condition and/or special needs and explaining any arrangements that may be necessary.

#### **m. Do you need to make any special preparations before your biometrics are enrolled?**

There are no special preparations as such. However, if your fingers are not clean, you may have to wash them before we scan your fingerprints.

Similarly, if you have stain (such as henna), paint or similar substances on your fingers, this could prevent us from recording your fingerprints. If that were to happen, you would have to make new arrangements and that would delay the consideration of your application.

**n. What if any Biometric Residence Permit issued to me or any dependants of mine is lost or stolen?**

You must report the loss or theft of your Biometric Residence Permit immediately to the UKBA BRP Management Service by emailing;

[BRPLost@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:BRPLost@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

providing the following information:

- full name;
- date of birth;
- nationality;
- passport number;
- BRP reference number;
- case reference number;
- contact details; and
- when, where and how the Biometric Residence Permit was lost or stolen

Alternatively, this information can be sent by post to: **Freepost RRYX-GLYU-GXHZ, Returns Unit, P.O. Box 163, Bristol BS20 1AB**

You must also report the loss or theft to the police as soon as possible. You will need to provide a police reference number and, if one was issued, a police report when you apply for a replacement card on form BRP(RC).

If you fail to apply for a replacement card within 3 months of reporting its loss, theft or other reason for needing a replacement, you could be liable to a fine of up to £1,000 or curtailment of your stay in the UK.