



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

UK in UAE

>> **Keeping  
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### **CONSULAR NEWSLETTER : October**

Interested in receiving this newsletter direct? Then send your email address to  
[consularcomms.uae@fco.gov.uk](mailto:consularcomms.uae@fco.gov.uk)

#### **Join our consular communications focus group**

The Embassy is looking for volunteers in Dubai and Abu Dhabi to join a focus group to discuss our consular communications. This will require approximately 90 minutes of your time to join us at the Embassy at some point in the future. If you're interested, please send an email to the address above.

#### **Prior approval required to import prescription medication to UAE ([Gulf News](#))**

Tourists and residents of the UAE will now be required to get prior approval from the Ministry of Health and Prevention, to carry medication listed on the Ministry of Health website (see [here](#)), in to the UAE. Travellers will need to create a profile on the Ministry's website and then complete the online form before uploading required documents (such as the original prescription). The electronic form will be reviewed by the Ministry and approval sent to the customer within 5 working days. Click [here](#) to go to the webpage where you can find links to the 'e-service' (where you can create an account and complete the required form), the [guidelines for carrying medication into the UAE](#) and [guidance on completing the online form](#).

#### **Expats allowed to retire on five-year visa ([The National](#))**

Last month the UAE Cabinet approved a plan giving Expats aged over 55 the opportunity to secure a five-year retirement visa. The new rules will be active from 2019. The requirements to qualify for a long-term visa include owning properties worth at least 2 million AED, at least 1 million AED in savings, or an active income of more than 20,000 AED per month. Currently regulations state an expat must retire at 65.

#### **Have you downloaded the Ministry of Interior App?**

The MOI App is a handy app which enables users to access services to manage personal and/or business affairs. For example you can pay and check for traffic fines, obtain a criminal record certificate for a new job or order other official documents. It even has a one click SOS tool which will alert emergency services to locate and assist you. You can find out more details [here](#).

#### **British Passports lose option to add 9 month's validity to renewals**

From September 2018, Her Majesty's Passport Office (HMPO) will no longer add any additional validity to UK passports. International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) best practice recommends that the passport is valid for up to 10 years for adults, and 5 years for children. This change is to ensure that British passports meet the international standards relating to maximum validity as recommended by the ICAO, and therefore ensures compliance with global entry requirements.



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### **Police cracking down against littering from cars** ([Gulf News](#))

Police in the UAE are coming down hard on irresponsible motorists caught throwing rubbish out of car windows. Abu Dhabi Police have warned residents that littering from a car is a violation of The UAE's Federal Traffic Law and can be punishable with a 1,000AED fine and six black points. The rule is not restricted to large items but also applicable to tissue paper, aluminium cans or cigarette butts. In the first quarter of this year the police fined 85 motorists for littering.

### **Abu Dhabi residents can now pay fines for minor criminal offences online** ([Khaleej Times](#))

If you have been convicted of a minor criminal offence that only involves a fine (and not a jail sentence), you can now pay the court fines electronically on the Abu Dhabi Judicial Department's (ADJD) website and get clearance without visiting the Abu Dhabi Courts. Once the fines are paid you will receive an SMS showing they have been cleared by the Courts.

### **Dubai residents now able to check on line for financial cases and travel bans** ([Gulf News](#))

Dubai Police have launched a smart app which allows residents to check their criminal status in financial cases registered at police stations in Dubai. The technology allows people to also check if they have a travel ban as a result of financial cases against them. See this article in Gulf News for more information on how to do this.

### **Dubai's Rental Dispute Centre launches new Rental Good Conduct Certificate** ([Gulf News](#))

For anyone who has experienced difficulties as a landlord or tenant this service should help to improve things! A new Rental Good Conduct Certificate will allow landlords and tenants to check on the other's rental history. Download the Dubai Rental Dispute Centre App and select 'Rental Good Conduct Certificate'.

### **Contact Numbers:**

British Embassy - Abu Dhabi Tel: 02 610 1100; Dubai Tel: 04 309 4444

### **Be Travel Aware:**

Follow the links for information on the FCO's [Travel Aware Campaign](#). You can also sign up for our [Travel Advice](#) alerts, or follow the advice on Facebook [here](#).

### **Social Media sites:**

Click on the icons below to follow us on Facebook, Twitter forums. We would like to hear from you on these forums.



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