

Readout Facebook Q&A

22 October 2019

Due to the developing nature of these subjects, please make sure to check our [Living in Switzerland Guide](#) & [Preparing for EU Exit Switzerland](#) as well as the [Living in Liechtenstein Guide](#) & [Preparing for EU Exit Liechtenstein](#) for the latest information

QUESTION	ANSWER
What are the primary changes that Brexit will have on our lives here in Switzerland?	<p>In short, after Brexit you will be able to continue living your life in Switzerland broadly as you do now.</p> <p>As you may be aware, UK reached 6 continuity agreements with Switzerland in the areas of trade, aviation, land transport, insurance, citizens' rights and transitional migration. These agreements apply in any Brexit scenario, and will ensure that the UK's relationship with Switzerland continues to thrive.</p> <p>The citizens' rights deal protects your rights acquired before Brexit as a resident in Switzerland, including residency, access to healthcare, family reunification, service provision and mutual recognition of professional qualifications.</p>
Is there an anticipated delay in the renewal of passports in the new year in relation to the passports turning from EU to UK versions? Is there a timeline for this change yet? If not what do we do for renewal?	<p>Your EU-branded passport will remain a valid after Brexit, and you can continue using it as normal. You shouldn't need to take any action before it expires.</p> <p>However if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, then the rules for travelling in Europe will change. You will need to have at least six months validity on your passport to enter the Schengen area. This includes Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Any extra months beyond the normal 10-year validity period that may have been added to your current passport will not count towards these six months. Please use our online tool "Check a passport for travel to Europe after Brexit" on GOV.UK to check the validity of your passport before travelling, bearing in mind it can take up to 6 weeks to obtain a new passport</p>
If the UK crashes out of the EU with no deal, will British nationals in Switzerland have to pay a new Customs duty on goods ordered online from the UK ? For example, I order books from Samuel French UK, Christmas cards, etc from charities, and now and again clothes and other items. After 31 October, if there's no	<p>The UK and Switzerland have a Trade Continuity Agreement which replicates, to the extent possible, the EU-Swiss agreements on trade. Our continuity agreement works in any Brexit scenario, and should minimise disruptions to businesses and consumers in the UK and Switzerland.</p>

<p>deal will these orders be subjected to a higher import tax when they arrive in Switzerland ?</p>	<p>On the specific goods you mention, there will be no further customs duties applied, apart from the duties that already exist for these products (e.g. through Swiss Post customs fees and/or equivalent fees).</p>
<p>What will happen to the annual increase in UK state pensions for UK beneficiaries in Switzerland? The latest letter from DWAP says it will end after 3 years. Why are we treated differently to UK resident pensioners?</p>	<p>Thank you for raising this important issue.</p> <p>Please be assured that everyone currently resident in Switzerland will continue to receive an uprated pension for life. This is protected under the UK-Swiss Citizens' Rights Agreement reached in December 2018.</p>
<p>Will I be entitled to receive my AHV pension if I return to the UK after Brexit? If I withdraw my Swiss 2nd pillar pension in a lump sum, will this be taxed on returning to the UK after Brexit?</p>	<p>Thanks for getting in touch.</p> <p>Your rights acquired as a resident in Switzerland are protected after Brexit in any scenario under the UK-Swiss Citizens' Rights Agreement. That includes the right to receive the Swiss state pension if you return to the UK.</p> <p>As this is an important financial decision, you would be well advised to seek professional advice and guidance from a solicitor or financial advisor to fully understand the implications.</p> <p>Our understanding is that before leaving Switzerland, you must announce your departure to your compensation office, which will then forward your application to the Swiss Compensation Fund in Geneva. Your 2nd pillar occupational pension fund savings can be cashed out when you leave Switzerland. A withholding tax is levied by your canton of residence. This tax can be then reclaimed in full or in part when the assets are taxed in the UK, as there is a double-taxation treaty with Switzerland.</p>
<p>My mother frequently travels to Switzerland with her dog (under a UK European Pet Passport). Will the UK continue to be participant to the EU pet passport scheme? If not what measures should pet owners take to travel with dogs between the UK and Switzerland? Thanks</p>	<p>The UK will no longer be part of the EU Pet Travel Scheme after Brexit.</p> <p>EU pet passports will remain valid for travel into the UK. However, UK-issued pet passports would no longer be valid for entry into Switzerland and other documentation (i.e. an EU health certificate, which can be acquired from your local vet) would need to be used. Alternatively, if you have a pet passport issued by Switzerland, you can use it to bring your pet to the UK and back into Switzerland.</p> <p>For further information, please check the latest guidance on GOV.UK and sign up for updates https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit#return-to-the-uk.</p> <p>You may want to contact the pet travel helpline if you need further advice: Email: pettravel@apha.gov.uk Telephone: +44 (0)370 241 1710 Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm (closed on bank holidays)</p>

<p>Follow-up Q: Will the UK continue to be a member of the EU Pet Passport scheme until the end of the transition period (end of Dec. 2020)?</p>	<p>Yes, that is true, the UK will remain in the EU pet passport scheme until the end of the transition period in a deal scenario.</p>
<p>Will we need visas to cross the border to France/Germany/Italy?</p>	<p>You will not need a visa to go to France/Germany/Italy or indeed other countries within the Schengen area.</p> <p>The EU has confirmed, that post-Brexit, UK nationals will be granted visa-free travel to visit to the Schengen area for a short stay (up to 90 days in every 180 days).</p> <p>As with the current rules, we advise that you should carry a valid travel document (i.e. your passport) with you when crossing the border.</p>
<p>Are there plans for the UK to make a deal with Switzerland to exempt UK citizens from the language requirement for permits like several other EU countries have done?</p>	<p>Our understanding is that the language requirements that Switzerland is introducing will not apply to renewals of C permits but may apply when UK nationals apply for a C permit for the first time.</p> <p>We would be interested in exploring an exemption of the language requirements in going forward.</p>
<p>I will leave Switzerland. I will cancel my C Permit .</p>	<p>Hi, under the UK-Swiss Citizens' Rights Agreement, your acquired residence rights in Switzerland are protected. As a C-permit holder, you can leave Switzerland for up to 4 years without losing your permit. You must inform the cantonal migration authorities in your place of residence about your absence before you leave. Swiss law also allows for an absence of up to 6 months for L and B permit holders.</p>
<p>Is the UK going to have an FTA with Switzerland?</p>	<p>Hi, As you may be aware, the UK has reached six continuity agreements with Switzerland in the areas of trade, aviation, land transport, insurance, citizens' rights and transitional migration. Our Trade Continuity Agreement replicates, to the extent possible, the EU-Swiss agreements on trade.</p> <p>Our continuity agreements work in any Brexit scenario, and should minimise disruptions to businesses and consumers in the UK and Switzerland.</p> <p>The UK Government is committed to developing a closer relationship with Switzerland, which is our 4th largest trading partner (after the EU, US and China).</p>
<p>Hello, post Brexit you have said that visas will not required to travel to and from Europe but will EU citizens be able to travel to the UK using just an ID card or will they need to have a passport?</p>	<p>Hi, under the Withdrawal Agreement EU citizens will be able to travel to the UK using a national ID card or a passport, as now, for five years from the end of the implementation period (so until 31 December 2025). After that time, the UK will be able to require EU citizens to use a passport or a secure ID card that conforms to international specifications on biometrics.</p> <p>If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, EU citizens will be able to enter and leave the UK as they do now immediately after Brexit. This includes using e-gates when travelling on a biometric passport, and travelling on EU identity cards. After that time, the UK may decide no longer to accept a national identity card if it does not include a chip that is compliant with International Civil Aviation Organisation standards related to biometric identification. For more information, please check</p>

	<p>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visiting-the-uk-after-brexit and https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control, which will be updated with the latest information as it becomes available.</p>
<p>Yesterday evening, the Third Delegated Legislation Committee of the House of Commons agreed to end the rights of EU/EEA/Swiss & Turkish citizens in the UK to work on a self-employed basis and to own and run businesses in the UK. Leaving aside the utter disaster this could pose for British citizens in EU countries who could be hit by reciprocal arrangements, my question in respect of Switzerland is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surely this contravenes the agreement on citizens' rights already signed between the UK and CH and cannot be applied to Swiss citizens? and 2. If it is implemented in the UK, is CH likely to retaliate by removing self-employment rights for British citizens on anything less than a C permit, as for any other TCN? 	<p>The UK Government will introduce a new immigration system from January 2021. However, the rights of Swiss citizens to move to the UK are protected by the agreements we have reached on Citizens' Rights and Transitional Migration. Swiss and UK nationals covered by the Citizens' Rights Agreement have their right to work protected – including on a self-employed basis.</p>
<p>Is there any restrictions the UK should have for "developing a closer relationship" with CH (ie free trade deal)? I'm wondering if the EU would influence CH in what kind of relationship it would develop with the UK</p>	<p>The UK and Switzerland are both in the process of negotiating their future relationships with the EU. This does not limit our ambition for a deeper relationship with Switzerland, and the UK will be free to strike future trade agreements after we leave the EU.</p>
<p>GENERAL QUESTIONS</p>	
<p>International organisation</p>	<p>We have received many queries from people working in international organisations, with an international permit and living in France. You might be interested to know that international permits (cartes de légitimation) will not be affected by Brexit, as they are not dependent on the UK's membership of the EU. You can continue to work as now.</p> <p>In the context of Brexit, the Swiss authorities have agreed to allow UK family members of international permit holders who hold an FDFA legitimisation card or a Ci permit to swap it before exit day for an EU/EFTA residence permit. In doing so, they will have to give up their FDFA legitimisation card or Ci permit and will no longer be able to exercise the associated rights.</p> <p>In Switzerland, special provisions apply to international permit holders wishing to retire and remain in Switzerland. You have the right to retire in Switzerland if you have lived in Switzerland for 5 years preceding your retirement. However, under these arrangements there is no entitlement to move into Switzerland from France on retirement.</p> <p>If you choose to remain in France, we recommend that you register with your local commune for a carte de séjour to protect your residency rights after you</p>

	<p>leave employment at the international organisation you work at. Please see the Living in France guide for more information (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-france). You can also contact the British Embassy in Paris with any questions you may have on residency in France.</p>
upgrading an L permit to a B permit	<p>Some people have raised to us worries regarding changing an L permit to a B permit. You should know that your permit will not be affected, and you will be able to convert it to a B permit as usual. Your right to continue living in Switzerland after Brexit is protected by the UK-Swiss Citizens' Rights Agreement, which will apply in any Brexit scenario.</p>
Spouse: non-EEA/EU passport holder	<p>People have asked us about travelling as a non-EEA/EU passport holder to the UK From Switzerland. The current rules for EEA Family Permit holders will continue until 31 December 2020. The UK will introduce a new immigration system from January 2021. You can find further information on what is being proposed at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/no-deal-immigration-arrangements-for-eu-citizens-moving-to-the-uk-after-brexit/no-deal-immigration-arrangements-for-eu-citizens-arriving-after-brexit#future-immigration-system.</p>
Cantonal registration as EU	<p>We have previously been asked: if I previously registered in my canton as an EU citizen, will I still be treated as such when I will renew my permit? When the UK leaves the EU, you will no longer be considered an EU citizen. The UK-Swiss Citizens' Rights Agreement protects your right to live and work in Switzerland, which includes your permit. When you need to renew your permit with your local authorities, you will be able to do so as now. You can find more information here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-switzerland</p>
Living in Liechtenstein	<p>For those living in Liechtenstein, you might have questions regarding travelling after Brexit. If the UK leaves the EU with a deal, nothing will change until the end of 2020. During this time, you can continue to travel freely in the Schengen area with your UK passport. What happens after 2020 will form the next part of negotiations on our future relationship with the EU.</p> <p>However, if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, then the rules for travelling in Europe will change. You will need to have at least six months validity on your passport to enter the Schengen area. This includes Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Any extra months beyond the normal 10-year validity period that may have been added to your current passport will not count towards these six months. Please use our online tool "Check a passport for travel to Europe after Brexit" on GOV.UK to check the validity of your passport before travelling, bearing in mind it can take up to 6 weeks to obtain a new passport https://www.passport.service.gov.uk/check-a-passport.</p>