Facebook Q&A – 13 January 2020

IMPORTANT please note:

The information in this document was correct on the date it was issued (13-17 January 2020).

Ensure you have the latest information by checking the Living in the Czech Republic guide at gov.uk/living-in-the-czech-republic.

Contents

esidencyesidency	2
ealthcare	7
/orking, benefits, pensions	8
assports and travelling	12
riving	13
nplementation period	14
ther	15

Residency

Hello from Most. I moved to CZ from the UK in November 2016. I obtained my five-year Temporary Residence Permit in January 2017. I then obtained a Business Licence. I have been working, paying annual tax, pension and health insurance ever since. Is it all over for me come December this year? Any advice greatly appreciated.	You are all set for now. After the end of the transition period (i.e., in 2021), you will need to exchange your residency document for a new one. The details of this haven't been made clear yet by the Czech authorities but we will publish info on this page as soon as we have it.
Is there a deadline for applying for Czech temporary residency? I've been trying to get it done before the 31st this month (the current brexit deadline), but if I don't get accepted by then, is it still possible to obtain residency?	You can apply for your temporary residence permit until the end of the implementation period (i.e., 31 December 2020). During this time, EU free movement law continues to apply to all UK Nationals.
Hi. I am a British citizen married to a French, we moved to Prague as a family with our 7yo in October 2016 due to my husband's work. We all have temporary residency and plan on staying here for a few more years. What steps should I follow next in order to be able to remain with my family in the Czech Republic?	Nothing changes for you during the transition period, you are all set with the temporary residence certificate. In fact, you may be able to apply for a permanent residency already, given you are married to an EU national: https://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/eu-citizens-and-their-family-members-permanent-residence.aspx
I moved to Prague around April last year. I have a temporary residence permit and am currently self-employed here with a živno-license. Come Brexit, what must I do to stay in CZ?	You are all set for now. After the end of the transition period (i.e., in 2021), you will need to exchange your residency document for a new one. The details of this haven't been made clear yet by the Czech authorities but we will publish info on this page as soon as we have it.
I am a U.K. citizen. I have been in a relationship with a CZ girl since November 2017 and moved from Wales to CZ to live with her in Prague in 2018 before work took me to North Macedonia (NMK) in January 2019, although I have returned to Prague pretty much every month since. From April 2020 my work will be more internet based and I would like to move back to Prague to live, and work. I briefly	From the perspective of free movement, all your rights will continue until the end of 2020 as if the UK were still a member of the EU. All UK nationals living in the Czech Republic at the end of this year will be protected for life by the Withdrawal Agreement, as long as they remain in its scope. In short, you can move to the Czech Republic without any obstacles until the end of this year.

had a company set up in Prague in 2017 but closed it in 2018 when I moved to NMK to live and work. I would consider setting up another company if that helped with my move.	
I'm a Brit, working as a private linguist on a business license (Živnostenský list) and working part-time for the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, and have "permanent residency" until 2020 with the booklet-type permit. Will I just have to exchange this for the card-type permit, and do I keep the validity period, or will I have to go through the whole application process again from scratch?	You will not lose your permanent residency, it is yours as long as you fulfil the criteria (e.g., have no long uninterrupted absences from the Czech Republic). The ten year 'validity' only applies to the document, not your permit itself. When your current booklet expires, you will just have to exchange it for a newer-type ID (a biometric card).
The following question has been asked but I'll repeat to make sure it's dealt with. I am a British citizen, have had a temporary resident permit since August 2016 and do business here on the basis of a Živnostenský list. I will be eligible for permanent residence in August 2021. Do I have to do anything before that date in order to remain legally resident in the Czech Republic?	You are all set for now. After the end of the transition period (i.e., in 2021), you will need to exchange your residency document for a new one. The details of this haven't been made clear yet by the Czech authorities but we will publish info on this page as soon as we have it.
Good morning, I moved here in August 19. 1 have a wife here (separated) 2 children, a job, but only temporary residency . So what are my options , as I plan to stay here for the foreseeable future (my daughters are 7&12).	Your certificate of temporary residence in all you need to have your residency rights in the Czech Republic protected by the Withdrawal Agreement. You don't need to do anything at this point. You will be required to exchange your residency document in 2021 - we will publish details on that as soon as they become available. This of course doesn't affect your right to apply for a permanent residency permit after you'll have been in the Czech Republic for five years. If you are married to a EU citizen, you can apply for permanent residency after two years of stay, see: https://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/eu-citizens-and-their-family-members-permanent-residence.aspx

I think the main thing we want to know is whether/how we will be able to stay here after Brexit For those of us who have a živnostensky listek and haven't been here long enough to apply for permanent residence, what will the process be? Can we expect to have to prove a minimum income or number of working hours? Will we need to jump through all the same hoops as our American counterparts currently do, eg proving we have 100,000CZK in the bank? Or considering that I've been paying health and social insurance contributions and filing my taxes for 3 years here, should it be a fairly smooth transition? (yes, I already have my temporary certificate of residence and I changed my driving license to a Czech one)	From the perspective of free movement, all your rights will continue until the end of 2020 as if the UK were still a member of the EU. All UK nationals living in the Czech Republic at the end of this year will be protected for life by the Withdrawal Agreement, as long as they remain in its scope. The Withdrawal Agreement recognizes that people have moved to EU member states while the UK was still an EU member.
I have lived here with a temporary residence permit since 2013. What must I do to remain living here permanently?	You should apply for a permanent residence permit as you've lived here for more than five years. See our Living in the Czech Republic guide for how to apply.
I'm British citizen, I've lived in Czech Republic since August 2016 on a temporary residence permit. Am I able to apply now for a permanent residence permit pre Brexit, even though I have been here less than 5 years?	The five-year requirement still applies. You will be able to apply for permanent residency in August 2021.
When should we start applying to change our current EU residency documents into non-EU ones? Is this even possible before 31 January?	You don't need to change any of your current residency documents until at least the end of this year.
I will need to change my permanent residency address soon and have a few questions 1) At the moment, address changes are free for EU citizens, but non-EU costs 1000czk for updating biometric card. Will we have to pay to	During the implementation (transition) period until the end of December 2020, EU free movement law will continue to apply to all UK nationals in the Czech Republic, i.e. nothing will change for Brits in terms of MVCR processes.

change address? 2) Can we update our address using the existing residence document between 31/01 and 31/12, or will we not be allowed to make changes to existing residency document after 31/01? 3) Can change address at the same time as exchanging to the Biometric card without incurring the additional 1000czk cost for address changes with the Biometric card? 4) On the MVCR.cz website, it indicates non-EU nationals need a travel document (containing the visa or residence sticker) as part of the documentation to change address details. How will this be managed for UK citizens who do not have visa/residence sticker in our passports but will now be non-EU?	
British citizen living in Brno. I received my temporary residency permit last month. After the 31st of January when the UK leaves the EU, would I be required to do anything else?	Short answer: You won't. Longer answer: From the perspective of free movement, all your rights will continue until the end of 2020 as if the UK were still a member of the EU. All UK nationals living in the Czech Republic (and you confirmed that you live here by getting your temporary residency) at the end of this year will be protected for life by the Withdrawal Agreement, as long as they remain in its scope. The Withdrawal Agreement recognizes that people have moved to EU member states while the UK was still an EU member.
I have lived for several year in Prague and am now retired. Will I have any difficulty obtaining a temporary residence certificate?	You will have no difficulty obtaining a certificate of temporary residence. We recommend you apply for it as soon as possible.
I am a British citizen with permanent residence (Trvaly Pobyt) since June 2018 and as an EU citizen would be eligible to apply for Czech citizenship 3 years later. Will Brexit mean that I would have to wait for 5 years, or would I still be eligible after the 3 years?	Unfortunately, you will have to wait for five years. Citizenship is a member state competence and therefore it is not covered by the Withdrawal Agreement. However, your permanent residency already gives you, by and large, the same rights as a Czech nationality.

Guys I have a querie and maybe someone can help me out... I moved from UK to Czech Republic on December 23, 2019, many people say that I have to register with the Czech police, I see on some websites that is not necessary. Is this registration necessary to find a job and start working? Because in UK I have always employed people with European documents and never needed a registration with home office, only N.I.N, (which any European citizen can obtain, the only requirement for it would be a proof of address and an ID/passport) a proof of address and a bank account and that was all. Is there a bigger reason for me to register? The reason I ask is because the registration requires my ehic which is expired and it would take me at least 15 working days to get it here, and I would like to get moving towards the job hunting really soon.

By law, as an EU national you should register your stay with the Czech Foreign Police within 30 days of your arrival if you intend to stay here longer than that. If you stayed in a paid accommodation when you first arrived, the owner may have registered you already. If you fail to do this, you may be liable to a fine of CZK 3,000. A Foreign Police registration is also required when you apply for a temporary residence certificate which is something you should do if you intend to stay in the CZ after the Brexit implementation period (i.e., after December 2020).

When will the Biometric card be available? Will MOI staff be fully trained on the process, if we go immediately after 1 Feb?

(I think it would be really useful if you cover off a summary of what the withdrawal agreement means for people living in Cz; that might answer a lot of general questions and isn't really something that's been particularly well publicised.) There is no need to exchange your documents in February. In fact, all current documents remain valid throughout the transition period (until the end of this year). You will need to exchange them at some point in 2021. The details of that are yet to be made available - we will inform on this page as soon as they are.

The Withdrawal Agreement, among other things, establishes an implementation (or transition) period until the end of 2020, during which all free movement rights continue to apply to UK nationals - basically, as if the UK was still in the EU. All UK nationals living in the Czech Republic at the end of 2020 will have their rights protected for life by the Withdrawal Agreement (subject to some conditions). Things will be different for UK nationals who will arrive to the Czech Republic from 2021 onwards - they will not be protected by the Withdrawal Agreement. Hope this makes things a bit clearer.

My wife (CZ+UK citizen) and I (UK) are planning to move to live and work in Prague from February (great timing!) Any tips on the appropriate guidance / necessary requirements would be much appreciated.

You and your wife will enjoy exactly the same rights under the Withdrawal Agreement as those UK Nationals who arrived to the Czech Republic before Brexit date. After your arrival, you should apply for the temporary residence permit. See our Living in the Czech Republic website for more info: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-the-czech-republic

Healthcare

Will the EHIC card (issued in the UK) still be valid after 31st Jan 2020 during the transitional period? Thank you.	Yes, UK-issued EHICs will remain valid during the transition period. But please note the EHIC is only intended to be used for visits. For longer stay in the Czech Republic or in case of pre-existing conditions, we recommend taking out private insurance for full coverage.
Would you advice to Brits to insure full standard health service in czech republic, during the transition period and after? Thank you!	Your UK-issued EHIC card will remain valid during the transition period and can thus be used for visits in the same way as before. For longer stay in the Czech Republic or in case of pre-existing conditions, we recommend taking out private insurance for full coverage. Future healthcare arrangements between the UK and the Czech Republic will be part of the upcoming negotiations.
Hi. My wife is czech I am a british national. We live between Scotland and the Czech Republic having property and family in both countries. How likely is it that the UK government and the Czech Republic strike a reciprocal health care agreement between the two countries after Brexit?	A Czech-UK reciprocal healthcare agreement will be one of the essential strands of our future relationship with the Czech Republic. We are working closely with our Czech counterparts to ensure such an agreement will be concluded as soon as possible. However, any future relationship negotiations can start only after the UK has left the EU.

Working, benefits, pensions

I'm wondering if the social tax and health insurance will change for those working on the Živnostenský list either during the transition period or afterwards? Especially for those who are here on a temporary residency. It seems that all of the information available is usually for employed people or those with permanent residency or citizenship. Very little for those who have been here less than 5 years and are self employed.	Nothing will change for you during the transition period. In terms of social and health insurance contributions, these may change in the future but not in relation to Brexit, as contributions are tied to your work rather than being EU/non-EU national. Your right to work as self-employed will be protected by the Withdrawal Agreement.
Another issue is NI contributions. I wish to keep my UK State pension if possible and would be interested to know what I need to do to keep that up.	Under the Withdrawal Agreement, the EU's social security coordination rules will continue to apply to all UK nationals living in the Czech Republic at the end of the implementation period (as long as they remain in scope). Both your CZ and UK contributions will be counted towards your pension and you don't need to take any extra steps.
Hi, I am a UK citizen with Permanent permanent residency in Czech. Please can you confirm that the years working and paying into the Czech social system will be credited to my NI contributions and how can I validate this and also what do I need to do once the UK has left the EU.	Under the Withdrawal Agreement, the EU's social security coordination rules will continue to apply to all UK nationals living in the Czech Republic at the end of the implementation period (as long as they remain in scope). Both your CZ and UK contributions will be counted towards your pension and you don't need to take any extra steps.
Good morning. I moved to the Czech Republic in November 2018, having retired with a UK Police Service Pension, I have temporary residency granted 9.1.2019 and will apply for permanent residency at the 5 year point. My wife is Czech I am 52 and work part time here.	The UK leaving the EU will of course not affect your entitlement to your UK Police Service Pension. UK pays pensions worldwide. With regards to your residence permit, since you are married to a Czech

Will I be able to claim my UK state pension when I reach pension age? Do I have to complete any forms NOW in order to claim when the time arrives? Thank you in advance for your help.	national, you should be able to apply for permanent residency after two years of stay and not have to wait five years.
UK State pensioners & future UK State pensioners registered here by the end of the transition period > would you please confirm that these statements are correct? 'For our lifetimes under the Withdrawal Agreement > 'Reciprocal healthcare is agreed, so that those who have an S1 or will be eligible for one when they retire will still have their healthcare funded by the UK. Aggregation of social security contributions is agreed, both before and after the effective date. This covers you if you've worked and paid contributions in more than one EU country. Lifetime export of uprated pensions is agreed - so your UK state pension will be increased annually just as it would be if you were living in the UK.'	Yes, that is correct.
Hello I, since I've been working in CZ and paying insurance etc, I have now a gap in my national insurance contributions in England. How can I fix this?	Under the Withdrawal Agreement, the EU's social security coordination rules will continue to apply to all UK nationals living in the Czech Republic at the end of the implementation period (as long as they remain in scope). Both your CZ and UK contributions will be counted towards your pension and you don't need to take any extra steps.
Retirement Questions: 1) For those of us who will be eligible for a UK state pension, but are decades away from being old enough to claim it, will the UK pension still be uprated or does that only apply for current recipients? 2) If you will have dual state pension entitlement (UK & Czech) by the time you retire, will the UK part be uprated?	Under the Withdrawal Agreement, the EU's social security coordination rules will continue to apply to all UK nationals living in the Czech Republic at the end of the implementation period (as long as they remain in scope). Both your CZ and UK contributions will be counted towards your pension. Your UK State Pension will continue to be uprated and come with the

3) If we need to change our residency and work back to the UK for a temporary but extended period of <5 years (so we retain our Czech residency), will we continue to benefit from the guarantee of the uprated state pension?

associated healthcare cover in the EU.

This applies to people who are not yet at State Pension age once they start drawing their UK State Pension.

4) As in q3 above, but for the S1 scheme.

1. Will the reciprocation of pensions agreement continue after December 2020? 2. What will happen after this time but before an agreement is reached? 3. Will our contributions still count towards our UK pension? 4. Will those of us who are close to retirement age but have only been here for a short while be able to opt out of the Czech pension and contribute to our British one instead?

It's a 'yes' to questions 1-3. Under the Withdrawal Agreement, the EU's social security coordination rules will continue to apply to all UK nationals living in the Czech Republic at the end of the implementation period (as long as they remain in scope). Both your CZ and UK contributions will be counted towards your pension and you don't need to take any extra steps.

As for your last question, you generally cannot opt out of the Czech social insurance scheme if you work here, unless you are for example a working student or a working pensioner.

Re Czech citizenship, Freedom of Movement for EU citizens means they are not required to seek Permanent Residence when living in a member state.

Many Brits have been established in the Cz Rep for many years, and they have filed tax returns, and paid health/social insurance as the Cz Rep is their primary place of residence and primary source of income. Prior to the referendum, there was no obvious bureaucratic reason to obtain permanent residence due to FoM. However, many of us would now like to take Czech citizenship as we feel more strongly connected to the Cz Rep following the ref than to the UK. But the first requirement for citizenship is proof of 3 years' permanent residence (EU) or 5 for non-EU. FoM means many of us have not yet fulfilled that as trvalý pobyt was not a requirement as an EU citizen, and we have only formalised it post-referendum.

Unfortunately, citizenship is a member state competence and not covered by the Withdrawal Agreement. Therefore, UK Nationals will be required to have five years worth of permanent residence after the UK leaves the EU. However, your permanent residency already gives you, by and large, the same rights as a Czech nationality. But the point you make is a valid one. We will make sure Czech Ministry of Interior is aware of the context and why UK Nationals may not have applied for a permanent residency sooner.

Is formalising permanent residence with trvalý pobyt and then waiting the required 5 years (as future non-EU citizens) the ONLY way to fulfill the 5-year rule for citizenship requirement? Or is proof of tax returns/health/social for the equivalent three-/five-year period of time admissable for Brits as proof that we have already been here for the required length of time to apply for Czech citizenship, and that we do in fact meet the required length but without the bureaucratic trvalý pobyt stage? And are there any ongoing discussions with the Cz Rep about this problem?

My wife is a self employed translator in CZ married to me, a British citizen and we are just about to move to England. She would like to continue with her business and CZ clients in the Czech Republic. (Obviously working via email) Should she continue to use her Czech license or must she register as a sole trader in the UK? Which country should she deal with in taxes and insurance etc?

EU free movement law will continue to apply to all EU nationals moving to the UK until the end of this year. Your wife will be able to carry out her business as she would have now. We suggest you get professional advice for taxes, etc.

Your advice to UK nationals was to obtain permanent residency, which I did back in 2017. This may - hopefully- secure our existing rights in CZ, but what if you have 'cross-border' allegiances, ie having family in two different EU countries, or, like me, living in one while working in another. I live in CZ, but work in Germany (currently in the process of retiring), and have access to the healthcare systems in both countries on an E106 basis. What is the future for us? And pensions. Will we have the option of migrating our pension funds to the UK and having them paid from there, if this provides a better post-brexit option for us?

The Withdrawal Agreement will protect the rights of frontier workers like yourself. You will be able to continue living in the Czech Republic while working in Germany. With regards to pension funds, this is yet to be negotiated as part of the future relationship between the UK and the EU.

Passports and travelling

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Hello I have a problem in that my passport expired last year and situations (moving house several times) made it impossible to renew . I was also not sure where the Brexit situation was going and I still don't . I have lived here a long time and have a son that is not officially mine (protection of the family law) . Am I able to get a Czech passport with my out of date British one or do I have to renew it first.?	You can only get a Czech passport if you already hold a Czech citizenship (i.e., are a dual UK-CZ national). It is not clear from your question whether you are. If not, you can apply for a new UK passport by post or online: https://www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports If your question is about getting a Czech citizenship, you can check whether you meet the conditions here: https://www.mvcr.cz/clanek/udeleni-statniho-obcanstvi-ceske-republiky.aspx
My UK passport is also valid until 2020. Will I have to exchange this immediately for a biometric version, and where can I get this? Will the British Embassy in Prague have facilities for this? If not, where is the closest issuer - will I have to go to Germany, Slovakia, or the UK again?	You can apply for a new passport online or by post. Please find the relevant guidance here: https://www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports
I had a situation with my passport being mistakenly cancelled by your office. Why am I not being offered financial help to replace it or to deal with this situation.?	You can address your complaint to the Passport Office: https://www.gov.uk/passport-advice-line
Once the withdrawal agreement has been signed (by the end of January 2020) under the withdrawal agreement British Citizens with permanent residence in Czech Republic will be offered a FREE, straight swap of their permanent residence to the EU third country permanent residence biometric card. Will you be working with the Czech government to offer a dedicated, English speaking fast track service for this or will you leave us to fend for ourselves at the mercy of the Czech immigration system?	All current documents remain valid throughout this year. After the end of the transition period (i.e., in 2021), you will need to exchange your residency document for a new one. The details of this haven't been made clear yet.

Is it still possible to travel around Europe this year? Or does freedom of travel for British people end? I have been invited to Croatia with the family I work for but I'm not sure if I need a visa or not.

EU free movement law continues to apply to all UK Nationals until the end of this year. During this time, you can continue to travel around the EU as you do now.

Driving

Will we be able to get the appropriate international driving permit
in Prague? (as I'm not going back to the UK Just to get one.)

If you live in the Czech Republic, you should not drive on an IDP as these are intended for short-term visitors only. If you still have your UK driving licence, we advise you exchange it for a Czech one.

In July 2019 you asked:

'Are you a UK national living in the Czech Republic and interested in helping us improve our service to the British community here? We would appreciate your help!

We are looking to have a better understanding of your experience of exchanging driving licences as part of the preparations for Brexit. Please click on the link below to answer a few quick questions. This is an anonymous survey and we will not have access to private data, or any data that can identify you.'

Hopefully the information you received was useful in your contacts with the Ministry of Transport.

BUT the inconsistent treatment of UK nationals wishing to exchange their driving licences continues! The latest case *we have been informed about was a person on his third visit to the Vysehrad office being told that his Temporary Residence status was not sufficient and that he needed Permanent Residency status < this is complete nonsense!

Thank you for your feedback. This of course should not happen. We will inform the Transport Ministry that this has occurred at the Vysehrad office.

UK nationals can continue to exchange their UK driving licences throughout this year, as the EU law on free movement will continue to apply to all Brits living in the Czech Republic.

What guidance have the Ministry of Transport issued to their staff nationwide on the exchange of driving licences for UK licence holders (in Czech is fine)? What will be the key dates during the transition period for driving licence exchange?	
A driving licence question. I'm British, hold a Czech driving licence but travel back to UK for work regularly. What changes will impact me regarding driving in UK if any?	You will still be able to drive on your Czech driving licence when visiting the UK.
I am living here and have lost my UK driving licence. How can I apply for a replacement one if I cant apply online as I live here? I also have concerns about NI contributions, can I apply backdated and about pension from UK jobs? (various tiny pensions from jobs of only cc 1 year to 4 years).	Unfortunately, you cannot apply for a UK driving licence from abroad. If you live in the Czech Republic, you should have exchanged your UK DL for a CZ one already. We would suggest you get in touch with Czech authorities to get a CZ driving licence.

Implementation period

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There are currently different areas for EU and non-EU nationals at	You will still be able to use the EU areas/lines at MoI offices. EU free
some MOI offices. Which one do we use after 31/01?	movement law will continue to apply to UK nationals during the
	transition period.

Other

I have been here since 2014, with trade licence, health Insurance and Social Security payments / taxes etc. On Thursday I have an appointment to apply for permanent residence. I do have a problem though. I own a property with 4 cottages and live in one of them. The other 3 are rented out for short term holidays etc. The problem is that there is no official address, only and "Evidence" address. I use a PO box for correspondence. I had a problem with this when I got my Temp residence permit in 2014 and had to persuade a friend to let me use her address (Shes Czech). This is now not available to me. However someone told me that the law had changed and an Evidence address is now acceptable as a permanent address. Can you confirm please?	We are unfortunately unable to confirm this at the moment. But since your meeting is today, it might be best if you confirm the address requirement directly with the Czech authorities. We would certainly be interested to know how your appointment went!
Hello, will there be any changes to buying or selling a home for UK citizens from 2021? (Post-transition period).	There are no limitations on property acquisition and ownership for non-EU nationals in the Czech Republic. You will have the same rights as you do now.
Is this infographic redundant after 31 January or will everything that is stated in the bottom part of it still apply during the transition period up until 31 December 2020? > https://www.brexitinfo.cz//2019/06/BrexitMapA4-EN.pdf	As indicated in the infographic, it applied to a No Deal scenario only. Therefore, it is no longer relevant. EU free movement law will continue to apply to UK nationals in the Czech Republic during the Brexit implementation (also called transition) period, i.e. until the end of 2020. There is no need to change documents now. We continue to recommend that all UK Nationals apply for whatever EU

	documentation they are currently entitled to - either a certificate of temporary residence, or a permanent residence permit.
For all of you with questions about temporary and permanent residence vist the following link: https://www.mvcr.cz/soubor/brexitmapa4-en-pdf.aspx it should make things a little clearer for you	Please note this infographic refers to a No Deal scenario only and is no longer relevant.