

You should not book travel until you have received your new passport. We cannot accept responsibility for any costs incurred if travel is booked and subsequently cancelled before you have received your passport.

When you need a new passport allow plenty of time to renew: Did you know you can renew your passport up to nine months before it expires? Any unused validity (up to nine months) will be added on to your new 10 year passport.

Check the local Embassy/High Commission/Consulate website for details on how and where to apply.

What if I need a new passport urgently?

Should you need to travel urgently and you do not have your passport (including if you have applied for a new one and have not yet received it) the local Embassy/High Commission/Consulate may be able to provide you with an emergency travel document to allow you to travel.

What if I lose my passport?

We are also able to help you with an emergency travel document if your passport has been lost or stolen. You should contact your local British Embassy/High Commission/Consulate for assistance.

Where can I find more information now?

For more information please visit: www.fco.gov.uk



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Changes to Overseas Passport Services



If you are a British national living overseas the way you obtain a British passport, and where you need to apply, is changing. This leaflet explains what is happening and why.

For more than 20 years the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Home Office have run separate passport services. They have now agreed that by 2014, all passport applicants overseas will apply directly to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS – an agency of the Home Office) in the UK. This means that the current network of Regional Passport Processing Centres overseas will close.

Why are we doing this?

Reviews carried out by the National Audit Office and the Public Accounts Committee in 2006 recommended that FCO and IPS work in partnership to achieve value for money, greater security and consistency in decision making. IPS and FCO considered a number of potential working models and concluded in 2009 that the most effective approach would be to develop a single passport issuing authority.

Savings will be achieved through standardising processes and systems, making the best use of the much larger scale IPS passport processing operation and reducing direct staff costs and overheads through the closure of the FCO Regional Passport Processing Centres.

What we have achieved so far

- > Regional Passport Processing Centres have been in place since the end of 2010 processing all overseas passport applications.
- > Since October 2011, all passports are printed in the UK by IPS.
- > All British passport applicants now receive the new UK passport with more sophisticated security features designed to reduce the likelihood of identity theft and passport fraud.

What's next?

- > The current network of Regional Passport Processing Centres will close.
- > By 2014 all passport applicants overseas will apply directly to the IPS in the UK.
- > There will be a global Customer Contact Centre for all passport applicants.

What will this mean for me?

As a British national living overseas you will still have the ability to apply for your passport overseas whether it is a renewal or you are applying for the first time. Your new passport will continue to be the most secure and up to date book available.

Will there be any additional cost?

You will need to pay to send the application (and any supporting documents) to the UK and for the return of the new passport and supporting documents. You will receive your passport and supporting documents separately.

The price of the passport will remain the same until 2014. This is because of the cost of maintaining the overseas passport processing network.

Once completed IPS will review the pricing structure and the cost of passports. No profit is made.

Will it take longer?

The processing time for renewing a passport for the majority of applicants will be four weeks from receipt of correct documentation and the fee. If you are applying for a passport for the first time you should allow at least six weeks, though there are exceptions to these processing times, and it may take considerably longer in some countries. For more information on processing times see the FCO website: www.fco.gov.uk.

What should I do now?

Continue to look after your passport. Identity theft, passport fraud and related crime are on the increase. This is a precious document.

Check when your passport expires and plan ahead.