



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

UK in UAE

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CONSULAR NEWSLETTER : SEPTEMBER 2017

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Smart visa application system goes online

The smart system of applying for and getting entry permits and visas through the UAE Ministry of Interior e-channels went online last month. Now all residents in the country can apply for and print the residence permits for their immediate family members, as well as visit visas for their blood relatives, from home or anywhere else. They do not need to visit typing centres and immigration offices anymore. All individuals, whether a citizen or resident, can register with the ministry's new smart visa system [here](#).

Landmark tax law for UAE issued by Sheikh Khalifa

Sheikh Khalifa has issued The Tax Procedures Law that set the legislative framework which will form the basis for the new tax system in the UAE. It is hoped the legislation will diversify the economy. The law will regulate the administration and collection of taxes, largely VAT and exise, and define the role of the Federal Tax Authority. [Click](#) for more information.

Good news for parents buying car seats

Following a number of changes in traffic laws in July this year, which include all children under 4 years being in an appropriate car seat, there are new regulations in place to ensure retailers cannot sell substandard car seat models in their stores. These include heavy fines, possible closure and even jail terms both for retailers and importers. More information [here](#).

Positive results from the new traffic laws introduced in July

Initial reports found that although there were a large number of traffic offences recorded the first day of the law change in July (1279 to be precise!), Dubai Police recorded a 37% decrease during the first week of July as compared to the last week in June. See more [here](#) or, for a reminder of the traffic law changes introduced on 1st July, click [here](#).

Take care with controlled medication – especially if your family are visiting

The case of an American Citizen being fined and deported after being found with controlled painkillers without a proper prescription highlighted again the importance of being aware and advising visiting family and friends about 'controlled drugs' in the UAE. The American musician was initially sentenced to 2 years imprisonment which, after spending 2 months in prison, was reduced to a 7,000aed fine and deportation. Many tourists enter or pass through the UAE without being aware of the strict regulations relating to controlled drugs. [Click](#) for more information on this case, or for specic queries contact the [UAE Embassy](#).

Moving house in Dubai? Make sure you take this extra step before activating your DEWA!

DEWA announced in June this year that as from 1st July all tenants moving into a new property will need to have their Ejari contract attested before the authority will turn on electricity and water services. Dewa has listed 800 real estate offices in Dubai where this can be done. Click [this](#) link for more information.



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Non-Muslim couples to be able to marry and divorce through churches in UAE

Non-Muslim couples, who were married in church, will have the option to divorce outside of Abu Dhabi's Sharia court system. The new system will allow non-Muslims to get married and divorced through churches of their own faith rather than the Sharia based Abu Dhabi Court. There are also plans to involve Hindu leaders and those of other religions.

Mandatory mediation will be dealt with by religious leaders, such as church pastors, which will avoid the need to take these cases through the court. If the mediation doesn't resolve the issues the church would notify the court of the couples' intention to divorce and the court would then legalise the decision. The decision on whether to take part in the new system will be an individual choice by the church leaders. See more [here](#).

Here's where to sell your used stuff online in the UAE

If you are packing up to leave, or just need to get rid of some clutter, click [this](#) link for information on places to sell your unwanted items and make a few dirhams!

Make sure you are dressed appropriately to respect the culture & religion in the UAE!

A great guide for new arrivals and a good reminder to us old timers! Click [here](#) to find out more!

Check out our Checking In Campaign!

Click [here](#) to see us in the news this time! Have a look at our campaign on Facebook and Twitter giving advice for new expats in the UAE!

Contact Numbers

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

Gov.uk Website

The UK's worldwide pages and consular information have moved to the new government's single website Gov.uk. There is [useful information about the UAE](#) on there.

Social Media sites

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

