

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE

**GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND**

AND THE

GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND

**ON TEMPORARY MIGRATION ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWING THE
WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA**

WISHING to continue the excellent bilateral relations between the Government of Iceland and the Government of the United Kingdom (together referred to as “the Participants”) after the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union;

APPRECIATING the deep economic, social and historical ties between the Participants and affirming the Participants' wish to discuss future trade and mobility arrangements;

RECOGNISING there has been an historic liberal pattern of mobility in place between the Participants and the desire to put in place transitional arrangements in order to facilitate migration between the Participants until new and ambitious long term arrangements have been made;

NOTING that the arrangements set out in this Memorandum of Understanding (“Memorandum”) are based on the assumption that the Participants individually consider reciprocal transitional migration arrangements to be in place;

NOTING that this Memorandum is not legally binding and is without prejudice to any future migration arrangements the Participants may agree to either between themselves or with third countries;

THE PARTICIPANTS HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS:

1. The Participants recognise the benefits of operating a system that provides transitional migration arrangements on a reciprocal and mutually advantageous basis following the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union.
2. This Memorandum records the unilateral commitments made by the Participants to preserve recent historical patterns of mobility between the United Kingdom and Gibraltar (“together referred to as the United Kingdom”) and Iceland for a time-limited period in

the event that the United Kingdom withdraws from the European Union without an agreement which provides for transitional migration arrangements.

3. To admit each other's nationals to reside in their respective countries for an initial period of up to 3 months. Such persons may be required to apply for an immigration status.
4. To allow each other's nationals to apply for an immigration status prior to 31 December 2020 to reside and work (including self-employment), study or be self-sufficient. Such immigration status will be valid for a period of at least 36 months from the date it is granted.
5. To permit third country national family members of each other's nationals to reside in the State in which a national of the other Participant has been admitted for the duration of the national's stay. Such persons may be required to apply for an immigration status that will be valid for a period of at least the remaining duration of the immigration status granted to the national referred to in paragraph 4. Admission may be made subject to the obligation to obtain a visa or equivalent permission to enter the host State.
6. To permit third country national family members of the Participants' nationals admitted to reside to work (including self-employment) and to study.
7. To cooperate to further the purposes of this Memorandum including responding promptly to specific questions and providing, upon request, information to each other on matters concerning their laws, regulations, procedures and judicial decisions of general application as well as the international agreements which may affect the operation of this Memorandum.
8. To publish, or otherwise make publicly available, information for individuals such that they are aware of the operation of this Memorandum.
9. To designate a point of contact responsible for the ongoing dialogue on the understandings set out in this Memorandum through which the Participants will endeavor to solve any issues or questions regarding the operation of this Memorandum.
10. Third country national family member means a spouse, partner or a dependent child under 18 of a national of either the United Kingdom or Iceland who is not themselves a national of either Participant.
11. Any arrangement under this Memorandum may be subject to limitations and restrictions on the basis of a person's conduct in accordance with the provisions of national law of either Participant or on the basis of either Participant's international obligations.
12. This Memorandum is a statement of intent but is not intended as a legally binding document and does not create any legally binding obligations under international law.
13. The Participants recognise that they may take appropriate action in the case of serious economic or societal difficulties arising from giving effect to this Memorandum.

14. This Memorandum will come into operation when the United Kingdom is no longer bound by the obligations in the Agreement on the European Economic Area signed on 2 May 1992 at Porto and will continue in operation until midnight (GMT) on 31 December 2020 unless terminated by either Participant giving written notice to the other. Prior to 31 December 2020 the Participants will consider whether to extend this Memorandum.
15. The Participants intend, as soon as possible, to make the necessary domestic arrangements to give effect to this Memorandum.

The foregoing represents the understandings reached by the Participants upon the matters referred to therein.

Signed in duplicate at [Reykjavik] on [4 November 2019] in the English language.

**For the Government of
the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland:**

For the Government of Iceland:

[Michael Nevin]
[Her Majesty's Ambassador to Iceland]

[Sturla Sigurjónsson]
[Permanent Secretary of State]
[Ministry for Foreign Affairs]