

DECEMBER 2021



British Embassy
Paris

VOISINS VOICES

A BRITISH EMBASSY PARIS NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Welcome to the December edition of Voisins Voices! This edition includes our Ambassador Menna Rawlings' column in The Connexion, her letter to UK Nationals as we prepare for the 1 January residency requirements, updates to our Travel Advice, advice for new arrivals to France, passports, the last online outreach event of the year and a survey from Remain in France Together.

Do please forward this to any friends, family, or new acquaintances living in France. To be added to the distribution list, simply email France.Enquiries@fcdo.gov.uk or follow this [link and fill](#) in the form with your email address and name. As always, our online Living in France Guide has the most up to date information - please click on this [link to see](#) more detail and register to be notified of updates.

Online Outreach Meeting TONIGHT

Tuesday 14 December from 6PM to 7.30PM: [Register now!](#)

Our online event for British citizens on Microsoft Teams is happening tonight! Our policy experts will be on hand to answer questions about applying for residency and living in France.

This will be the last online outreach before you need to be in possession of your Withdrawal Agreement Residency Permit on 1 January 2022.



**SETTLED
IN FRANCE?**

**ONLINE OUTREACH MEETING
FOR UK NATIONALS IN FRANCE**

14 December 6PM-7.30PM
Register at →
<http://bit.ly/OnlineOutreach141221>

**ITS TIME TO TAKE ACTION, FIND OUT MORE
AT GOV.UK/LIVING IN FRANCE**

Check
Change
Go

Menna Rawlings column in The Connexion

The end of a year always feels important. We reflect on the last twelve months and look forward to the next; this December is especially significant for me as I will pass 100 days in post as British Ambassador to France. And what a few months it has been!



Whilst there have of course been bumps along the way, I've seen first-hand the strength and importance of the UK and France working together: whether that's on climate change at the recent COP26 summit in Glasgow or on tackling the organised criminal gangs behind migrant channel crossings.

A highlight was welcoming HRH The Princess Royal to Paris in October. She heard about preparations for the Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics and the 2023 Rugby World Cup, heard about how UNESCO's work promotes women in science as part of its 75th anniversary celebrations, and planted the first overseas Jubilee tree in the Residence garden as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

When I was interviewed by Connexion in September, I spoke about the importance of the Embassy's work to support British people in France. Since then, I've met several of the organisations we've worked alongside during the change of recent years, including British in Europe, Remain in France Together, Brexpat's Hear our Voice, the British Communities Committee, the International Organisation for Migration, the Franco-British Network and the Diocese of Europe Residency Project. Although many of these organisations are drawing their work to a close, I will maintain good links with the British community and be an advocate for British people living in France.

I also mentioned how keen I was to see more of France outside Paris and meet people working with and for the UK elsewhere in the country. I'm pleased to say I've now ticked off Lyon, Marseille, Calais, Dunkirk and Bordeaux (plus beautiful Joigny with my family). Much of our work supporting British people takes place in our offices in Marseille and Lyon: seeing how they go the extra mile to support Brits in difficulty was inspiring.

With the new year just around the corner, those of you who have applied for residency under the Withdrawal Agreement will likely be aware that you should receive your residency permit (or carte de séjour "accord de retrait") before 1st January 2022. If you have not yet heard from your Prefecture about your application, contact them now to highlight that you have not been asked to give your fingerprints. Do keep proof of your correspondence. If you missed your appointment, you should also contact them as soon as possible to clarify your situation. As Prefectures' capacity will be limited during this busy time, please attend the appointment you are given if possible.

If you have questions about your application, follow us on social media to be kept informed of our next online outreach event or Facebook Q&A session. You can also find information about residency, healthcare, driving, and more on our online [Living in France Guide](#).

I know for lots of people the festive season is a time to celebrate with family and friends, including those in the UK. While there are still some border restrictions in place – and travel isn't easy or possible for everyone – I hope many of you will be able to see loved ones from across the Channel very soon. I'm planning a pre-Christmas trip to Wales to see my parents and my brothers, which I'm looking forward to very much: I certainly have 'hireath' (a Welsh word meaning deep longing for something, especially one's home) at this time of the year.

Covid hasn't gone away so if you're planning a trip, check the latest rules on our [travel advice](#) consider signing up to receive an email as soon as anything changes. I certainly can't wait to give my two daughters who live in the UK a huge hug when they pitch up at Gare du Nord on Christmas Eve!

As for next year, I'm looking forward to discovering more of this beautiful country and to strengthening our relationship with France. Trust, partnership, renewal remain my watch-words. Our countries of course have their differences, but ultimately our shared history, interests and values mean we're inextricably intertwined: we stand together, looking ahead.

Finally, I would like to thank my amazing team in our Network for all their incredible support through the ups and downs of my first 100 days in this job. I couldn't wish for more. And of course there is only one way to finish this column...by wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Preparing for 1 January 2022 - Residency

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR WA RESIDENCY PERMIT YET?

Prefectures are working through any pending applications they still have on their books. It is imperative to keep an eye out for correspondence from them, and reach out yourself if you have still not had your fingerprints appointment, or received your card. You need to be in possession of your card from 1 January.



What are the best ways to contact my prefecture?

1) Check their website: Certain prefectures have updated their websites and created specific email addresses you can use. [Check out the example of Alpes-Maritimes here.](#)

2) Contact them directly: Our UK Nationals Support Fund Partners are no longer in operation, but have collated prefecture contact details where available for most departments. [Find them here.](#)

3) Send a recorded letter: Feedback has shown that a letter by recorded delivery can work wonders in terms of driving a response from the Prefecture.

What to do if I have tried to contact my prefecture, but am unable to get through or get an update?

If you have exhausted all the options above, there are further routes to escalate your case.

1) [Contact the Interior Ministry](#), and keep a copy for yourself: This will be useful if you need to prove that you have taken the necessary actions before 1 January 2022. You should also carry your certificate of application (from your initial email confirmation).

2) Inform the British Embassy: [via our webform](#) and reply to the invitation to send in more details, including the name of the prefecture. The Embassy will use this information in engaging with the French authorities.

If you missed your prefecture appointment by choice or accident, contact your prefecture now to rectify the situation. An appointment at the prefecture is a "summons" and a necessary part of the process to get your Withdrawal Agreement Residency Permit. As the deadline by which you need to be in possession of your Withdrawal Agreement Residence Permit approaches, prefectures have less and less scope to re-arrange appointments. Please attend the one you are given and avoid changing it unless it is essential. Missing your appointment, or seeking to change it without good reason may result in your file not being processed in time.

If your application is refused, you will be notified about the appeals process. Read the French government advice on [how to appeal a residency decision](#) (in French). You must follow up with your Prefecture if you are unsatisfied with the outcome of your WA residency application. You have the right to request a justification, and appeal, any unfavourable decision. If you are not provided with the necessary information to do so, contact Your Europe Advice. See more in the "citizens' rights advice and complaints" section [on this page](#). You can also inform the British Embassy [via our webform](#) and reply to the invitation to send in more details, including the name of the prefecture.

If your WARP is lost or stolen, or you need to change your address or correct an error, you should contact your prefecture. The French authorities are working to update the online system which allows all foreign nationals to make such requests and changes. In the meantime, contact your Prefecture to update your situation and get a new card if necessary.

[Fill in this survey if you are having any issues obtaining your WA Residency Permit](#): Remain in France Together (RIFT) wants to bring any issues to the attention of EU Commission and EU Parliament via official channels. Share your experience here.

If you have not yet applied, you can still [apply for your WARP at your local prefecture](#) if you have reasonable grounds for missing the deadline. This is the case if you are in one of the following situations:

- you become an adult after 4 October 2021;
- family members join you in France after 4 October 2021;
- you were unable to complete your application due to legitimate reasons (e.g., reasons relating to your medical condition, force majeure, etc.).

In these cases, contact your prefecture. [Find out more here](#).

[Check out our video on applying for residency under the Withdrawal Agreement here!](#)

New arrivals

Moving to France?

If you settled in France after 1 January 2021, you must apply for a residence permit for non-European nationals at your local prefecture.

British nationals arriving in France after 1 January 2021 are subject to the provisions of the common law, except when they are close family members of a British national settled in France before that date.

All British nationals and family members over 18 who wish to settle in France for a stay of more than three months must hold a residence permit. Minors under 18 years of age are exempt from this obligation unless they need a residence permit to work.

A residence permit must be issued directly in the prefecture. [See more here.](#)

Passports

As a UK national, you do not need to have your passport stamped upon entry to your country of residence if you can prove you were resident there before 1 January 2021 and continue to live there. This also applies when transiting through another EU Member State to reach your country of residence.



Make sure to proactively show proof of your residence in France to a border guard when going through passport control.

Had your passport stamped upon entry or exit to France despite being a resident in the EU?

Some UK nationals have had their passports stamped when leaving or returning to France, including from the UK. If you are a resident in France, this stamp is null and void. Your rights in France are not affected as a result of your passport being stamped. If you have rights under the Withdrawal Agreement you do not need any extra months on your passport to enter or exit EU countries. [See more here.](#)

Note that different rules apply for visitors to France who usually live in the UK. [See Travel Advice.](#)

Menna Rawlings' letter

to British Nationals in France who still have steps to complete as part of their Withdrawal Agreement Residency application



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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you as the British Ambassador to France because you have a pending Withdrawal Agreement Residence Permit application. I am grateful to your local Prefecture for agreeing to send you this on my behalf. You must take action to complete the necessary steps and finalise your application.

This call to action is specifically targeted at you for one of the following reasons:

- You are yet to attend an appointment at the Prefecture to give your fingerprints. This is a necessary part of the process.
- You are yet to provide outstanding supporting documents to enable the prefecture to process your application. Additional information can be requested to give a Prefecture full oversight of your situation.

Please respond to the requests you have received from your prefecture, and contact them if you are not sure why you are receiving this, or believe you have received it in error.

Whilst I understand these are new requirements for you to continue living in France as a legal resident, I strongly urge you to follow up as soon as possible with the Prefecture to ensure your rights are protected under the Withdrawal Agreement. According to French legislation, you must have your residence permit in hand before 1 January 2022.

We are aware that in certain circumstances, appointment summons and/or Prefecture requests have not been getting through. If you have not heard from your Prefecture, please do contact them.

You can also stay up to date with the Embassy:

- Living in France Guide: gov.uk/living-in-france
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ukinfrance/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BritishinFrance>

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Menna Rawlings'.

Menna Rawlings

Travel Update



The French and UK Governments have recently announced some changes to their Covid-19 rules.

The latest information on travel between the UK and France can be found on GOV.UK on the [France Travel Advice](#) and [UK Border Control](#) pages.

[People can also sign up for travel alerts direct to their inbox here.](#)

Following the emergence of the Omicron variant, **all international arrivals to the UK must take a PCR test on or before day 2 and self-isolate until they receive a negative result.** All people aged 12 years and over must take a PCR or lateral flow COVID-19 test before they travel to the UK from France.

In France, people older than 12 need a “pass sanitaire” to access many public spaces, including long distance public transport, ski lifts , restaurants and cafes. You can access the pass sanitaire by demonstrating you are fully vaccinated in line with the EU Digital Covid Status Certification framework, that you have tested negative for Covid-19 within the last 24 hours, or that you have recovered from Covid-19 in the last six months. Children over 12 vaccinated with Oxford/AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna must have received both doses to be counted as fully vaccinated, unless they were vaccinated in France and received one dose after recovering from Covid-19.

The French Government has announced that from 15 December, those who are 65 and over and who have been fully vaccinated for more than six months and five weeks will need to demonstrate that they have received an approved COVID-19 booster injection in order to use vaccination status to access the “pass sanitaire” in France. This will also apply to 18-64 year olds from 15 January.

France has also announced that all arrivals from outside the EU will need to present a negative Covid-19 test, taken 48 hours or less before departure. Travellers arriving in France from the UK who are not fully vaccinated will need an essential reason to enter France. Non vaccinated arrivals from within the EU will need to present a negative test from within 24 hours pre-departure.

Travellers should be aware that Covid-19 entry requirements can differ between the four nations of the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) and they must ensure they are following the advice for their destination.

Healthcare while you travel



Make sure to check that you have your healthcare covered before you travel!

If you make social security contributions in France, you should be entitled to a France-issued European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

All EU-issued EHICs remain valid for necessary care when visiting the UK and other EU Member States. We still recommend taking out comprehensive travel insurance when travelling, including health cover, as an EHIC provides limited coverage. [Click here more information on getting a French EHIC.](#)

If your healthcare is covered by the UK, you should be entitled to a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). Existing UK-issued EHICs also remain valid for necessary care when visiting EU Member States until the expiration date on the card. They do not need to be replaced immediately. Once it expires, it can be replaced with a new GHIC issued by the UK.

USEFUL LINKS TO ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE OR SUPPORT

Please visit the webpages below for more information. The links and contact details can signpost you in the right direction and also connect you to those who can provide support or offer help with technical matters if you need it.

Key websites:

- Living in France Guide: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-france>
- France Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/france>
- Sign up to the Business Newsflash: bit.ly/WeeklyNewsflash
- French government website: www.brexit.gouv.fr
- Healthcare in France: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-in-france-including-martinique-and-guadaloupe>
- NHS advice on planning healthcare abroad: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/moving-abroad/planning-your-healthcare/>
- If you use social media, do also follow us on [Facebook](#) @ukinfrance and on [Twitter](#) @BritishinFrance.