



General Licence – Publication Notice

General licence - INT/2024/4907888

OFSI has the power to issue General Licences for country sanctions regimes under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 (“the Sanctions Act”).

On 3 July 2024, OFSI issued General Licence INT/2024/4907888 under all UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations (see Annex 1 of the General Licence for the list of relevant Regulations) which allows for payments to Visa Application Services Providers from a Designated Person (DP), or on behalf of a DP. Any persons intending to use General Licence INT/2024/4907888 should consult the copy of the Licence on this page for full details of the definition, permissions, and usage requirements.

For the purposes of General Licence INT/2024/4907888:

UK DPs means entities designated (or owned or controlled by an individual or an entity designated) for the purposes of an asset freeze by the UK under the UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations, excluding those designated for the purpose of compliance with United Nations obligations.

Visa Application Service Provider means a company authorised and contracted by the Home Office to provide visa applications services around the world on behalf of UK Visas and Immigration division.

Permitted Payment means any of the following payments:

- Mandatory User Payments for each application;
- Fees for document courier services to and from the Visa Application Centre;
- Fees for specialist appointments to support visa application form completion; and
- Fees for Photo, ID, and Biometric scanning.

Person means an individual or a body of persons corporate or unincorporate but does not include a UK DP.

A Relevant Institution is:

- A person that has permission under Part 4A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (permission to carry on regulated activity).
- A person that is authorised or registered under Part 2 of the Payment Services Regulations (SI 2017/752).
- A person that is authorised or registered under Part 2 of the Electronic Money Regulations (SI 2011/99).

- A person that is a “recognised clearing house”, “third country central counterparty”, “recognised CSD” or “third country CSD” for the purposes of s.285 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.
- A person that is an operator of a recognised payment system (or that is a service provider in relation to recognised payment systems) for the purposes of Part 5 of the Banking Act 2009.

A Relevant Entity means:

- Relevant subsidiaries and parent companies of the Visa Application Service Providers; or the UK Home Office; as set out in the Visa Application Service Providers’ respective UK Home Office commercial contracts.

Under General Licence INT/2024/4907888:

- Visa Application Service Providers may receive Permitted Payments from UK DPs.
- Visa Application Service Providers may remit Permitted Payments to Relevant Entities.
- A Person may make a Permitted Payment to a Visa Application Service Provider (directly or indirectly), for or on behalf of a DP or for the benefit of a DP
- A UK DP, or a Person acting on behalf of a DP, may make Permitted Payments to Statutory Auditors.
- Where a Permitted Payment is made by a Person acting on behalf of a UK DP; the UK DP may pay that Person the same amount as that Permitted Payment; and the Person may receive that amount from the UK DP.

The reporting and record-keeping requirements for Visa Application Service Providers are set out in the General Licence.

General

The permissions in General Licence INT/2024/4907888 do not authorise any act which the person carrying out the act knows, or has reasonable grounds for suspecting, will result in funds or economic resources being made available in breach of the relevant Autonomous Sanctions Regulations, save as permitted under licences granted under those Regulations.

General Licence INT/2024/4907888 took effect from 00:01 on 3 July 2024.

Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation

HM Treasury