

United Kingdom Central Authority (UKCA)

Online Submission Form for Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) and Extradition

Security Statement

The United Kingdom Central Authority (UKCA) has responsibility for MLA and Extradition in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Online Submission Form is solely for requests to the UKCA.

The Central Authority for matters relating to Scotland remains the [Crown Office](#), who continue to accept requests directly by email or post. In relation to tax and fiscal matters in England and Wales, requests should continue to be sent to [HM Revenue and Customs](#) directly by email or post.

In all cases electronic communication is more effective.

Secure By Design

The UKCA adheres to security good practice, taking a risk-managed approach to cyber security and following the principles of the UK Government's [Secure by Design](#) framework. The secure design approach included:

- a detailed threat modelling exercise to identify and understand potential threats to the system;
- a risk assessment in line with ISO 27005 methodology;
- controls selection on the basis of the identified risks;
- controls were incorporated into the system requirements used to design, develop and deploy the system;
- regular security testing, using both Static Application Security Testing (SAST) and Penetration Testing by third party companies under the CHECK scheme.

The programme was overseen by an independent CISSP¹-certified security architect from an external cyber security consultancy.

The UKCA takes cyber security and the security of data very seriously. We appreciate that our partners may have concerns about using an online service to share sensitive information with UKCA. The Online Submission Form was built in-house using the Home Office Forms Framework.

Encryption and Hosting

The Online Submission Form enforces robust encryption in transit (using HTTPS and a minimum of TLS v1.2) between your browser (client) and UK Home Office servers, ensuring security of data transmitted to the UKCA. We use a certificate sourced from Entrust allowing you to verify the certificate and be confident that the Home Office owns the site.

¹ Certified Information Systems Security Professional

Data saved on the Online Submission Form before submission is stored in an encrypted file store, using symmetric cryptography and strong cyphers. User authentication ensures that access to saved requests is only given to the email account that created the original request.

The Online Submission Form is hosted on a platform built and maintained by the UK Home Office. The platform itself is hosted within the UK Government AWS infrastructure, providing protection against denial of service and brute force attacks.

User Authentication

The Online Submission Form uses two-factor authentication combined with domain-level validation against a list of known and approved email domains. Requesting users first enter a valid email address which, if matched successfully, generates a one-time link by email to that address, confirming the user has access to that inbox. The domain list can be updated with offline approval from UKCA.

Part-completed requests that are pending submission can be accessed using the same two-factor authentication process.

Data Privacy

The UKCA takes its responsibilities for the privacy of information shared with it seriously. We comply with all provisions within the EU and UK General Data Protection Regulations including Directive 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 and our services are designed with privacy in mind. For further details please see the Online Submission Form [Terms & Conditions of Use](#) and [Cookie policy](#).

For further information please contact ukcastrategyandtransformation@homeoffice.gov.uk