

GENERAL LICENCE: Payments for Visa Application Services
INT/2024/4907888

1. This licence is granted under all UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations listed in Annex I of this licence (the "Regulations").
2. Any act which would otherwise breach any of the prohibitions set out in the Regulations, is exempt from those prohibitions to the extent required to give effect to the permissions in this licence.
3. In this licence:

"the Visa Application Service Provider" means	A company authorised and contracted by the Home Office to provide visa application services around the world on behalf of UK Visas and Immigration division.
"UK DPs" means	Those individuals or entities designated (or owned or controlled by an individual or 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.
"the UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations" means	Sanctions regulations made under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 (the Sanctions Act) and listed in Annex I of this licence.
"Permitted Payments" means	Mandatory User Payments for each application and fees for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document courier services to and from the Visa Application Centre; • Specialist appointments to support visa application form completion; and • Photo, ID, and Biometric scanning fees.
a "Relevant UK Institution" means	<p>A person that has permission under Part 4A of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (permission to carry on regulated activity).</p> <p>A person that is authorised or registered under Part 2 of the Payment Services Regulations (SI 2017/752).</p> <p>A person that is authorised or registered under Part 2 of the Electronic Money Regulations (SI 2011/99).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A person that is an operator of a recognized 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.</p>
"Relevant Entities"	Means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
"Person" means	An individual or a body of persons corporate or unincorporate but does not include a UK DP.

Permissions

4. Under this licence, subject to the conditions in Paragraphs 7-10 below:
 - 4.1 Visa Application Service Providers may receive Permitted Payments from UK DPs.
 - 4.2 Visa Application Service Providers may remit Permitted Payments to Relevant Entities.
 - 4.3 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.
5. A Relevant UK Institution may process payments made in accordance with paragraph 4 above.
6. This licence does not permit Visa Application Service Providers to receive Permitted Payments from any person designated by the United Nations.

Reporting Requirements

7. Within 14 days of receiving a Permitted Payment, the Visa Application Service Provider must report to HM Treasury, with details and supporting evidence of:
 - i) The name of the UK DPs;
 - ii) The amount(s) paid;
 - iii) The payment route used;
 - iv) The reason for the payment; and
 - v) The date on which the funds were paid.

Record-keeping Requirements

8. A Visa Application Service Provider must keep accurate, complete and readable records, on paper or electronically, of any activity purporting to have been permitted under this licence for a minimum of 6 years.

General

9. The permissions in this licence do not authorise any act which will result in funds or economic resources being made available in breach of the relevant UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations, save as permitted under a licence granted under those Regulations.
10. Information provided to HM Treasury in connection with this licence shall be disclosed to third parties only in compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018.
11. This licence takes effect from 03 July 2024.
12. HM Treasury may vary, revoke or suspend this licence at any time.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the letters 'OFSI' in a stylized, cursive font.

Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation

HM Treasury

Amended 11 September 2025

Annex 1 – UK Autonomous Sanctions Regulations Schedules

<u>Regime</u>	<u>Relevant Regulations</u>
The Republic of Belarus (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Bosnia & Herzegovina (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 11 to 15
The Central African Republic (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The Chemical Weapons (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Counter-Terrorism (International Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Counter-Terrorism (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Cyber (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 11 to 15
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 13 to 17
The Democratic Republic of the Congo (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 12 to 16
The Global Anti-Corruption Sanctions Regulations 2021	Regulations 11 to 15
The Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020	Regulations 11 to 15
The Global Irregular Migration and Smuggling in Persons (Sanctions) Regulations 2025	Regulations 14 to 18
The Guinea (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Republic of Guinea-Bissau (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Iran (Sanctions) Regulations 2023	Regulations 15 to 19
The Iran (Sanctions) (Nuclear) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 12 to 17
The Libya (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The Mali (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The Myanmar (Sanctions) Regulations 2021	Regulations 11 to 15
The Nicaragua (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 11 to 15
The Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 17A
The Somalia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The South Sudan (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 12 to 16
The Sudan (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The Syria (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Venezuela (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15
The Yemen (Sanctions) (EU Exit) (No.2) Regulations 2020	Regulations 12 to 16
The Zimbabwe (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Regulations 11 to 15