



Immigration Service Delivery

Impact of Brexit on UK Nationals and their non-EEA family members residing in Ireland

This information is for:

- UK nationals and non-EEA family members residing in Ireland at the end of the Brexit transition period on 31 December 2020.
- Non-EEA nationals who have submitted applications (including review applications) to Immigration Service Delivery for residence in Ireland as a family member of a UK national.
- Persons who currently hold a valid EU Treaty Rights residence permission on the basis of relationship with a UK National.
- Non-EEA nationals who wish to join their UK national family member in Ireland from the 1 January 2020.

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Frequently Asked Questions - UK Nationals and non-EEA family members residing in Ireland at the end of the Brexit transition period on 31 December 2020

Q1. Brexit will come fully into effect on 31 December 2020, when the UK leaves the EU after the end of the transition period. What does this mean for UK nationals living in Ireland?

- A. If you are a UK national living in Ireland nothing will change. The protections provided by the [Common Travel Area](#) (CTA) mean that UK nationals living here (and likewise Irish citizens living in the UK), will continue to travel freely, live, work and access education, healthcare and social services in each other's country after the UK leaves the EU.

Q.2. Is Brexit dependent on the Common Travel Area?

- A. The Common Travel Area pre-dates Irish and UK membership of the EU and is not dependent on it. The Government of Ireland and the UK Government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, reaffirming their commitment to maintaining the CTA in all circumstances. On the date of the signing, both Governments also issued a Joint Statement.

Q.3 Do UK nationals require any documentation to enable them to reside in Ireland after 31 December 2020?

- A. UK nationals do not require any documentation to continue their lives in Ireland after 31 December 2020, although they may request a Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiary Card under the Withdrawal Agreement if they wish. This card is free of charge and can be obtained by making an appointment with their local Registration Offices nationwide – see link below for more information: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/first-time-registration>.

Applicants should present their original passport for identification purposes and also a document such as a utility bill, tenancy agreement and/or landlord's letter showing they are currently resident in the State, exercising their EU treaty rights prior to the end of the transition period and continuing to do so.

Q.4 Will anything change for Non-EEA family members of UK nationals living in Ireland?

- A. As a non-EEA family member or dependent of a UK national, if you reside here at the end of the transition period in conformity with the Free Movement Regulations and Directive and continue to do so from 31 December 2020 you will continue to hold the same residence permission to live, work or study in Ireland.

You will simply be required to replace your current valid IRP Card, free of charge, for a new one stating that you benefit from the Withdrawal Agreement.

This replacement programme will apply from 1 January 2021 and be administered by the Immigration Service of the Department of Justice for all applicants nationwide through an on-line renewal system available at <https://inisonline.jahs.ie>.

See the [Guidance notes on the completion of the online application](#).

Q.5 Will I or my dependants need to pay a fee for our on-line applications?

A. No fee is payable.

Q.6 How will I receive my Irish Residence Permit (IRP) Card/Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiary Card?

A. Your Irish Residence Permit (IRP) Card will be sent to the address you provide by Express Post and should be received within 5-10 working days from the date of finalising your application.

Q.7 What information will I need to apply online as a non-EEA family member of a UK national?

A. You will be asked to confirm that you have been exercising EU Treaty Rights to reside in the State on or before 31 December 2020 and continue to do so. You will also be asked to prove your current residency and your identification through the provision of supporting documentation.

This will include the page in your passport that shows your biometric details and a utility bill, tenancy agreement and/or landlord's letter showing you are currently resident in the State and exercising your EU Treaty rights.

Q.8 How long do I have to apply?

A. You will have until 31 December 2021 to apply.

Q.9 What happens if I don't apply?

A. After the 31 December 2020, your current EUFam card is no longer valid and will not be accepted as proof of permission. Without a new Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiary card you will not be in permission and thus will not be able to claim your rights.

Q.10 Can I keep my current card?

A. After the 31 December 2020, your current EUFam card is no longer valid and will not be accepted as proof of permission. Once you have applied for and received your new IRP card showing you are benefiting from the Withdrawal Agreement you should dispose of the EUFam card safely.

Q.11 What should I do if I am a UK national Frontier Worker after 31 December 2020?

A. A UK national Frontier Worker can continue to work in Ireland and reside in the UK after the 31 December, 2020. They do not require any documentation to do so but may request it under the Withdrawal Agreement if they wish. If you have any queries please email the following address: burghquayregoffice@justice.ie and state Frontier Worker in the subject line.

Q.12 Can I move freely and reside in other Member States of the European Union after 31 December, 2020?

A. Your entitlements to move freely and reside in other Member States of the European Union will cease to apply from 31 December 2020. If you intend travelling to another EU Member State after 1 January 2021, you will need to check the relevant visa requirements before you travel.

Q.13 I am a UK national, can I bring my non-EEA family members to Ireland after 31 December 2020?

A. [A new scheme has been introduced](#) for UK nationals who come to Ireland after 11.01pm on 31 December 2020 and wish to bring their non-EEA family members.

If you have resided in Ireland exercising your EU Treaty rights before the end of the transition period and continue to do so thereafter, your non-EEA family member can apply to EU Treaty Rights Division for a residence card in accordance with domestic law and the rights and entitlements guaranteed by the Withdrawal Agreement.

Frequently Asked Questions - Persons who currently hold a valid EU Treaty Rights residence permission on the basis of relationship with a UK National.

Current valid Stamp 4 EUFam card holders

Q 1. I am currently the holder of a Stamp 4 EUFam Residence Card based on my marriage to a UK national. The permission expires after the UK leaves the EU. Do I need to do anything now to change my permission?

A. There is no need to apply for a different permission unless your circumstances have changed. This includes separation, divorce and death of your partner or the departure of your UK National spouse from the State. Otherwise, your right of residence will remain unchanged. Please ensure to update us of any changes by emailing eutreatyrights@justice.ie.

From 1 January 2021, EUFam4 Residence Card holders will be able to replace their current Irish Residence Permit (IRP) card for a Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiaries card (Stamp 4 permission). IRP Card holders will not incur any

fee for this card replacement. Further details on this application process are [published on this website](#). You do not have to take any action at this stage.

While your right of residence in the State remains unchanged, your right to free movement within the European Union will change after 31 December 2020. Please see below advice regarding travel to Schengen zone countries after that date.

Q 2. I am currently the holder of a Stamp 4 EUFam Residence Card which is due to expire after the transition period, my wife (a UK National) and I plan to travel to Germany early next year for a short trip. Can I still travel visa free using my EUFam4 card?

A. If you hold a valid residence permission in Ireland as a non-EEA family member of a UK National **and** are required to obtain a Schengen visa in order to enter a member country of the Schengen Area, you may be required to obtain an entry visa for the country you are visiting.

If you are planning to travel to one of the Schengen Area countries after 31 December 2020, you are advised to check the entry visa requirements for that country **before you travel**.

Schengen Area countries are Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

You will not require a re-entry visa for your return trip to Ireland if your permission remains valid.

Q 3. Where can I find further information on visa requirements for other EU countries?

Entry visa and immigration information can be obtained from the websites of the embassy of the country you intend to visit, general information is also available from the [European Commission website](#).

Please note that it is your responsibility to check the entry requirements for any EU countries you intend to visit.

Q 4. I am currently the holder of a residence card issued under Regulation 7 premised on my marriage to a UK National. What entitlement will I have (under EU Treaty Rights) for my elderly parents to come to reside with me and my UK National spouse after the end of the transition period?

A. If you and your UK National family member are residing in Ireland on 31 December 2020 and continue to do so, your parents may still be eligible to apply for residence under the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015 after the end of the transition period. Any such application will be considered in accordance with the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015 and the entitlements guaranteed under the Citizens Rights element of the Withdrawal

Agreement.

If their application is successful, they will receive a Stamp 4 Residence permission in Ireland and not a Stamp 4 EUFam permission as the free movement element will no longer apply after 31 December 2020.

Q 5. I am currently the holder of a Stamp 4 EUFam Residence Card which is due to expire in early 2022. I have separated from my UK National spouse who is still residing in Ireland and we have initiated divorce proceedings which should be concluded during 2021. Will I be able to apply to retain these rights after the end of the transition period?

A. You will be eligible to apply to retain these rights. Your application will be considered in accordance with the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015 and the entitlements guaranteed under the Citizens Rights element of the Withdrawal Agreement.

If your retention application is successful, you will receive a Stamp 4 Residence permission in the State instead of a Stamp 4 EUFam permission as the free movement element will no longer apply after 31 December 2020.

Q 6. I am currently the holder of a Stamp 4 EUFam Residence Card which is due to expire in late 2021. Will I be able to apply to apply for a permanent residence card next year?

Yes. You will be eligible to apply for a permanent residence card using [Form EU3](#). Your application will be considered in accordance with the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015 and the entitlements guaranteed under the Citizens Rights element of the Withdrawal Agreement.

If your application is successful, you will receive a Stamp 4 Residence permission in the State instead of a Stamp 4 EUFam permission as the free movement element will no longer apply after 31 December 2020.

Q. 7 I am currently the holder of a Stamp 4 EUFam residence card in Ireland as the family member of a UK National residing in Ireland. However, I have applied for UK citizenship but my application may not be approved before the end of the transition period. Do I need to exchange my Stamp4 EUFam card for Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiaries (WAB) card (Stamp 4 permission) pending my application for UK citizenship. If I obtain UK citizenship after the transition period, can I obtain a WAB card as a UK National?

A. You will be able to exchange your Stamp4 EUFam card for Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiaries (WAB) card (Stamp 4 permission) if you have not obtained UK citizenship prior to the end of the transition period. When you receive confirmation of your UK citizenship, please send a copy of your British passport by registered post to EU Treaty Rights Division at the address below to enable that office to update their records together with your original Stamp4 EUFam card or WAB card. Please include your Person ID in your cover letter.

***EU Treaty Rights Division
Immigration Service Delivery
Department of Justice
13-14 Burgh Quay
Dublin 2, D02 XK70***

If you have not obtained UK citizenship before the end of the transition period, you will not be eligible to obtain a WAB card as a UK National. However, your rights as a UK National residing here will be protected by the [Common Travel Area \(CTA\)](#). This means you will not require any documentation under the CTA – you will be able to travel freely to Ireland, live and work here and have access to services.

UK Nationals and evidence of permanent residence in Ireland

Q 8. I am currently the holder of a Permanent Residence Certificate issued by the Irish authorities as a British EU citizen who has been residing here for more than five continuous years. Will this certificate still be valid after 31 December 2020 and will I be able to apply for a Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiary card next year?

A. After the transition period, the Permanent Residence Certificate is no longer valid as evidence of residence when travelling outside of Ireland. However, as a UK National living in Ireland, you do not require any documentation to continue to live in Ireland after 31 December 2020. You may, if you wish, request a Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiary card from next year but this is not necessary as your rights to travel here, live and work in Ireland as well as access services will not change as they are protected by the Common Travel Area.

Q. 9 I am currently the holder of a Stamp 4 EUFam residence card in Ireland which I obtained as the minor child of a UK National residing in Ireland. However, I have recently received UK citizenship. Do I need to replace my Stamp4 EUFam card for Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiaries (WAB) card (Stamp 4 permission) or a WAB card as a UK National to continue living in Ireland?

A. It is not necessary for you to replace your Stamp4 EUFam card for Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiaries (WAB) card (Stamp 4 permission). However, if you have not already done so, please send a copy of your British passport by registered post to EU Treaty Rights Division at the following address to enable that office to update their records together with your original Stamp4 EUFam card. Please include your Person ID in your cover letter.

***EU Treaty Rights Division
Immigration Service Delivery
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As a UK National residing here, your rights are protected by the Common Travel Area (CTA) and you do not require any documentation under the CTA. This means you can continue to travel freely to Ireland, live and work here and have access to services after the transition period. In addition, as a UK National residing in Ireland (as a UK National) before the end of the transition period, you do not require any documentation under the Withdrawal Agreement to continue to live here after 31 December 2020, although you may request a Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiaries card if you wish.

Non-EEA nationals whose application is still under consideration

Q 10. I recently submitted a request for a review of my decision under the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015. Will my review application still be considered?

A. Yes - your request for a review will be processed as normal. A decision on your review application will be made in accordance with the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015 and the entitlements guaranteed under the Citizens Rights element of the Withdrawal Agreement.

If your request for review is successful you will receive a Stamp 4 Residence permission instead of a Stamp 4 EU Fam permission and you can then obtain a Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiary card for the relevant period.

Q 11. I applied for EU Treaty Rights in June 2020 and am currently on a temporary permission to end January 2021 pending a decision on my application. Do I need to do anything at this stage?

A. No further action is required of you at this stage. As of the date of publishing (23 December 2020) all applicants with a current valid permission due to expire from 21 January 2021 to 20 April 2021, whether pursuant to domestic law or powers of the Minister Directive 2004/38/EC (Free Movement Directive) have been granted an extension up to **20 April 2021**.

***EU Treaty Rights Division
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A decision on your residence application will be made in accordance with the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015 and the entitlements guaranteed under the Citizens Rights element of the Withdrawal Agreement. If your application is successful, you will receive a Stamp 4 Residence permission instead of a Stamp 4 EU Fam permission and you can then obtain a Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiary card for the relevant period.

If your application is refused, you will still be eligible to seek a review of that decision.

Q 12. I was recently approved Permitted Family Member status premised on my family status with a UK National pending full consideration of my application. What will the position be if a decision is not made on the Residence Card aspect of my application before the end of transition period on 31 December 2020?

A. The Immigration Service Delivery will complete the processing of your application as normal. Please note that when the transition period ends on 31 December 2020 and your application is successful, you will be issued a Stamp 4 residence permission and not a Stamp 4 EUFam permission.

Q 13. Will I still be granted a temporary permission while the application is pending?

A. If you are a person who is entitled to temporary permission while your residence card application is under consideration, the policy regarding the grant of temporary permission will remain unchanged. This means that if you have applied for a residence card or permanent residence card, you continue to be eligible for temporary permission while your application is under consideration.

Q 14. I submitted a EUTR application and I'm advised that I can expect a decision by mid-December 2020. If my residence card application is refused, do I still have the right to seek a review of the decision even if the period in which I would normally be entitled to seek a review falls after the end of the transition period?

A. Yes – you will still be able to submit a request for review as normal provided it is received within the time limit set out in the refusal letter. Any decision made on your review case will be made in accordance with the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015 and the entitlements guaranteed under the Citizens Rights element of the Withdrawal Agreement.

New residence applications submitted immediately prior to the end of transition period

Q 15. I will be submitting an application for residence under EU Treaty Rights just before the end of the transition period on the basis of my relationship with a UK National, will the Immigration Service still process the application?

A. Yes. Your application will be processed as normal. If your application is successful, you will receive a Stamp 4 Residence permission and not a Stamp 4 EUFam permission.

Q 16. I am a UK National who moved to Ireland in November 2020 and will be joined by my non-EEA national spouse in late December 2020. Will my spouse be able to apply for an EU Treaty Rights residence card when they arrive?

A. Yes. If you are still residing in Ireland and exercising your rights prior to the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020 and continue to do so, your non-EEA spouse can still apply for residence permission in Ireland under EU Treaty Rights when they arrive in late December 2020. This application will be considered in accordance with the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015 and the entitlements guaranteed under the Citizens Rights element of the Withdrawal Agreement.

If their application is successful, your spouse will receive a Stamp 4 Residence permission in the State and not a Stamp 4 EUFam permission as the free movement element will no longer apply after 31 December 2020.

Non-EEA national family members of UK Nationals entering the State post-transition

Q 17. I am a UK National residing in Ireland. If I retain rights under the Common Travel Area, what entitlements will my non-EEA spouse have?

A. If you are still residing in Ireland on 31 December 2020 and exercising your EU Treaty rights here and your non-EEA spouse wishes to join you in the State after the end of the transition period, he or she may still be eligible to apply for residence permission in the State in accordance with the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015 and the entitlements guaranteed under the Citizens Rights element of the Withdrawal Agreement.

As a UK National, your rights will not change as they are protected by the Common Travel Area (CTA). This means UK Nationals can continue to travel freely, live, work and have access to education, healthcare and social services in Ireland after the transition period. As a UK National you do not require any documentation under the Withdrawal Agreement to continue your life in Ireland after 31 December 2020, although you may request it if you wish.

However, your spouse's rights may change as the provisions of the Free Movement Directive 2004/38/EC will no longer apply.

If your spouse already has a valid residence card (Stamp 4 EUFam), they will, in due course, be able to replace this residence card free of charge for a Withdrawal Beneficiaries Card. Further details are published on the websites of the Department of Justice and Immigration Service Delivery.

If your spouse has an EU Treaty Rights residence application or a review application which is still under consideration at the end of transition period, the application will be processed as normal in accordance with the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015 and the entitlements guaranteed under the Citizens Rights element of the Withdrawal Agreement.

Q 18. I am a UK National living and working in Ireland for three years. My spouse is a non-EEA national and plans to join me in Ireland in summer 2021 after she finishes college. Will my spouse be able to join me in Ireland in 2021 and avail of EU Treaty Rights?

A. If you are still residing in Ireland on 31 December 2020 and exercising your EU Treaty rights here and your non-EEA spouse wishes to join you in the State after the end of the transition period, they may still be eligible to apply for residence permission in the State in accordance with the Free Movement of Persons Regulations 2015 and the entitlements guaranteed under the Citizens Rights element of the Withdrawal Agreement.

If their application is successful, your spouse will receive a Stamp 4 Residence permission in the State and not a Stamp 4 EUFam permission as the free movement element will no longer apply after 31 December 2020.

Q 19. I am a UK National who had planned to move to Ireland in October 2020 with my non-EEA national spouse. However, our plans were delayed due to the COVID-19 and we will not be moving to Ireland until February 2021. Will my spouse still be able to apply for an EU Treaty Rights residence card then?

A. If you were not residing and exercising your free movement rights in Ireland prior to the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, your non-EEA national spouse will not be eligible to apply for residence permission in the State under EU Treaty Rights.

However, [a new pre-clearance scheme has been introduced](#) for UK nationals who come to Ireland after the 31 December 2020 and wish to bring their non-EEA family members.

Frequently Asked Questions - Non-EEA nationals who have submitted visa applications including, appeal applications, to Immigration Service Delivery for entry into Ireland as a family member of a UK National, before and after the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020

Visa and preclearance applications

Q.1 Will I, as a UK National, need a visa to travel to Ireland after Brexit?

A. No. A citizen of the UK does not need a visa to travel to Ireland as they remain members of the Common Travel Area.

Q.2 Will my family member who has an EU Fam card issued by the UK (the expiry date on card in the future) need a visa?

A. Yes – unless exempt from needing an Irish visa on some other ground. [Check if you need an Irish visa.](#)

Q.3 Can I still apply for a visa as the family member of EU/EEA/Swiss citizen (an EU Treaty Right visa) on the basis of being the family member of a UK National?

A. You can make an application for a visa as family member of an

EU/EEA/Swiss citizen until the transition period formally ends at 11pm (GMT) on the 31 December 2020. Your application must be submitted on or before that time and date. Any application made after that date will not be processed, as your UK Family Member will no longer be entitled to avail of EU Free Movement Rights at the end of the transition period.

Q. 4 I made an entry visa application that was recently refused can I make another application after 31 December 2020.

A. No. After 31 December 2020 you will no longer have an entitlement under the EU Free Movement Directive but it is open to you to apply for a visit visa if intending to stay for up to 90 days. You can apply for a *Join Family – family member of a UK National long stay visa* if you intend staying longer than 90 days. Please note that the free movement element will no longer apply after 31 December 2020.

Q. 5 I applied for a visa as the family member of EU/EEA/Swiss citizen (an EU Treaty Right visa) on the basis of my British family member before 31 December 2020 but I have not yet received a decision.

A. While a decision in relation to your application may not be made available before the end of the transition period, your application will be processed in accordance with the EU Directive, based on the date you submitted your application. If your application is successful a visa will issue. However it will not be an EU Treaty Visa. Instead you will be issued with a single entry *Visit Visa* and a note will be added to the sticker to indicate the date you submitted your application.

Q.6 I applied for a visa as the family member of an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen (an EU Treaty Right visa) on the basis of my UK National family member before 31 December 2020 but I was refused after the end of the transition period. Can I appeal this decision under this category?

A. Yes. As you had originally applied when your UK National Family Member could avail of EU Free Movement Rights, you can appeal the decision to refuse your visa. Your appeal will also be processed under the EU Directive. If your appeal is successful, a visa will issue. However, it will not be an EU Treaty Visa and instead you will be issued with a single entry *Visit Visa*. If your appeal is unsuccessful, you will not be permitted to re-apply under the EU Directive following the transition period. Instead, you may be permitted to submit a Visa or Preclearance application made under the terms of the Family Member of a UK National scheme.

Q.7 I was granted a visa as the family member of an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen (an EU Treaty Right visa) on the basis of my UK National family member but I haven't used it yet. Can I still use this visa to travel to Ireland after the end of the transition period?

A. Yes. A visa granted to you as the Family members of EU/EEA/Swiss citizens on the basis of your UK National family member can be used for

the period of the visa's validity. In cases where the validity date on your visa allows for travel after the transition period on 31 December 2020, you can use this visa for travel to Ireland. As per the conditions attached to any visa, this will permit you to present yourself to Border Control in this State to seek permission to enter.

Q.8 I hold a card called “Residence card of a family member of a Union citizen” on the basis of my UK National family member, can I still travel to Ireland without a visa after the transition period?

A. No. You will require an entry visa unless you are exempt from needing an Irish visa on some other ground. [Check if you need an Irish visa.](#)

Q.9 I hold a card called “EU Settlement Scheme” (“pre-/settled status”) do I need a visa to travel to Ireland?

A. Yes. You will require an entry visa unless you are exempt from needing an Irish visa on some other ground. [Check if you need an Irish visa.](#)

Q.10 I am a Non-EEA national who does not need a visa to travel to Ireland. I am the family member of a UK National and I want to reside in Ireland. Can I travel to Ireland?

A. If you are a non-visa required national and wish to move to Ireland to reside with your UK National family member in the State for a period of longer than 90 days you will need to apply for preclearance authorisation as a Family Member of a UK National prior to travel.

Q.11 Is there a fee for a Preclearance application for a non-visa required national under the Non-EEA Family Members of UK Nationals scheme?

A. Yes there is a fee of €60, which is the equivalent cost of an Irish visa application fee.

Q.12 Does my UK National family member have to meet any financial criteria to sponsor my Preclearance application?

A. Yes, the financial criteria required is set out in the [policy document](#) for the scheme

Q.13 How long will a decision on a Preclearance application made under the non-EEA Family Member of UK National scheme take.

A. You can expect that your application will be dealt with within 6 months of receipt of all required documentation.

Q.14 I am a Non-EEA national who does not need a visa to travel to Ireland. I am the family member of a UK National and I want to visit Ireland for a period of less than 90 days. Do I need to apply for Preclearance before travelling to Ireland?

A. If you are a non-visa required national, who is the family member of a UK National, and you wish to visit Ireland for a period of less than 90 days you will not need to apply for Preclearance authorisation prior to travel

Q.15 I am a Non-EEA national who needs a visa to travel to Ireland. I am the family member of a UK National and I want to reside in Ireland. What category of visa should I apply for?

A. If you are a visa required national and wish to move to Ireland to reside with your UK citizen family member in the State for a period of longer than 90 days you will need to apply for 'Join Family – Family Member of a UK National' long stay visa.

Q.16 Is there a fee for a 'Join Family – Family Member of a UK National' long stay visa application?

A. Yes there is a fee of €60 for a single entry visa, or €100 euro for a multi entry visa.

Q.17 How long will a decision on a 'Join Family – Family Member of a UK National' long stay visa application take.

A. You can expect that you application will be dealt with within 6 months of receipt of all required documentation.

Q.18 Does my UK National family member have to meet any financial criteria to sponsor my 'Join Family – Family Member of a UK National' long stay visa application?

A. Yes, the financial criteria required is set out in the [policy document](#) for the scheme.

Q.19 I am a Non-EEA national who needs a visa to travel to Ireland. I am the family member of a UK National and I want to visit Ireland for a period of less than 90 days. Do I need to apply for a 'Join Family – Family Member of a UK National' long stay visa before travelling to Ireland?

A. No, if travelling to Ireland for a visit of less than 90 days you should be applying for a short stay 'Visit' visa, rather than the long stay 'Join Family-Family Member of a UK National' long stay visa

Q.20 Is the British Irish Visa Scheme (BIVS) affected by Brexit?

A. BIVS is unaffected by Brexit and remains in place. See the [British Irish Visa Scheme](#) page for more details.

Q.21 Is the Short Stay Visa Waiver Programme (SSVWP) affected by Brexit?

- A. The SSVWP is currently suspended with effect from 10 July 2020 in response to the Covid-19 public health threat. We will reinstate the SSVWP when the risk of importing Covid-19 is reduced to an acceptable level.