

Số: 697 /LS-XNC

Hà Nội, ngày 20 tháng 02 năm 2025

V/v chính sách thị thực mới của Anh.

Kính gửi:

- Cục Quản trị A, Văn phòng Trung ương Đảng;
- Văn phòng các Ban của Đảng;
- Vụ Đối ngoại, Văn phòng Chủ tịch nước;
- Vụ Quan hệ Quốc tế, Văn phòng Chính phủ;
- Vụ Lễ tân và Hợp tác quốc tế, Văn phòng Quốc hội;
- Văn phòng các bộ, cơ quan ngang bộ, cơ quan thuộc Chính phủ;
- Văn phòng UBND, HĐND, Tỉnh ủy, Thành ủy các tỉnh, thành phố trực thuộc Trung ương;
- Văn phòng Tòa án nhân dân tối cao;
- Văn phòng Viện kiểm sát nhân dân tối cao;
- Văn phòng Kiểm toán Nhà nước;
- Văn phòng Cơ quan Ủy ban Trung ương Mặt trận Tổ Quốc Việt Nam;
- Văn phòng các cơ quan trung ương của các đoàn thể, tổ chức chính trị - xã hội: Liên đoàn Lao động Việt Nam, Hội Liên hiệp Phụ nữ Việt Nam, Đoàn Thanh niên Cộng sản Hồ Chí Minh, Hội Nông dân Việt Nam, Hội Cựu chiến binh Việt Nam;
- Sở Ngoại vụ các tỉnh, thành phố trực thuộc Trung ương.

Tiếp theo công văn số 308/LS-XNC ngày 21/01/2025 của Cục Lãnh sự thông tin về những thay đổi trong chính sách thị thực mới của Anh đối với các nước nói chung và với Việt Nam nói riêng, Cục Lãnh sự xin bổ sung thông tin¹ như sau:

1. Đối tượng áp dụng

Theo chính sách thị thực ngoại giao mới (DAV), những người mang hộ chiếu ngoại giao đều cần xin thị thực trước khi nhập cảnh vào Anh. Ngoại trừ các trường hợp được miễn trừ bao gồm:

- Các nhà ngoại giao (và thành viên gia đình mang hộ chiếu ngoại giao) đang công tác nhiệm kỳ tại Anh;
- Quan chức và nhân viên lãnh sự đang công tác nhiệm kỳ tại Anh;
- Nguyên thủ các quốc gia (Heads of State);

¹ Thông tin cập nhật theo báo cáo của Đại sứ quán Việt Nam tại Anh ngày 13/02/2025.

- Quan chức chính phủ đương nhiệm các nước có hàm Bộ trưởng;
- Người tham dự hội thảo quốc tế tổ chức tại Anh;
- Nhân viên tổ chức quốc tế hoạt động tại Anh.

Theo quy định mới này, các trường hợp nêu trên mặc dù không cần xin thị thực DAV nhưng Chính phủ Anh khuyến khích chủ động xin giấy miễn thị thực (Exempt Vignette) trước khi nhập cảnh vào Anh để có thể được làm các thủ tục nhanh gọn hơn khi nhập cảnh.

Đối với người mang hộ chiếu ngoại giao đang công tác nhiệm kỳ vẫn cần xin thị thực trước khi nhập cảnh vào Anh.

2. Về quy trình cấp thị thực đối với hộ chiếu ngoại giao

Thị thực dành cho hộ chiếu ngoại giao sẽ được Chính phủ Anh cấp miễn phí theo thủ tục nhanh gọn, trả kết quả trong vòng 10 ngày làm việc kể từ ngày nộp hồ sơ. Thị thực có giá trị sử dụng trong 02 năm kể từ ngày cấp.

Hồ sơ xin thị thực gồm:

- Hộ chiếu ngoại giao (còn hạn sử dụng);
- Công hàm đề nghị cấp thị thực do Bộ Ngoại giao ban hành;
- Tờ khai xin thị thực trực tuyến (online application form);
- Ảnh chân dung (passport sized photo);
- Các giấy tờ khác cần chứng minh mục đích xin thị thực.

Cách thức nộp hồ sơ:

Tự nộp hồ sơ (Self Scanning Option)

- Nộp tờ khai xin thị thực trực tuyến trên trang web GOV.UK của Chính phủ Anh;
- Tự scan công hàm (theo mẫu gửi kèm) và ảnh, nộp trực tuyến trên hệ thống tiếp nhận hồ sơ của Trung tâm tiếp nhận hồ sơ xin thị thực VFS². Người xin thị thực cần chọn 1 lịch hẹn trên trang web của VFS để có thể tự nộp tài liệu trực tuyến.
- Mang hộ chiếu đến nộp trực tiếp tại VFS trong khung giờ làm việc sau khi đã hoàn thành 02 bước trên. Hồ sơ có thể nhờ người nộp hộ chiếu thay.

Nộp hồ sơ có trợ giúp (Assisted Scanning Option)

- Nộp tờ khai xin thị thực online trên trang web GOV.UK của Chính phủ Anh;
- Mang hộ chiếu, công hàm và ảnh đến VFS để nhân viên VFS hỗ trợ scan và đăng tải giúp (công hàm và ảnh được scan miễn phí; các tài liệu kèm theo khác sẽ được tính phí) có thể nhờ người nộp thay.

Hệ thống tiếp nhận hồ sơ trên trang web của Chính phủ Anh GOV.UK và VFS sẽ bắt đầu mở tiếp nhận hồ sơ xin thị thực cho hộ chiếu ngoại giao từ **ngày 18/02/2025**.

² <https://visa.vfsglobal.com>

Cục Lãnh sự Bộ Ngoại giao trân trọng chuyển thông tin nêu trên và văn bản kèm theo tới Quý Cơ quan để thông báo tới các đoàn công tác thuộc bộ, ngành, địa phương mình chủ động thu xếp thời gian phù hợp tiến hành các thủ tục cần thiết, bảo đảm kịp thời cho các chuyến công tác nước ngoài.

Cục Lãnh sự Bộ Ngoại giao xin cảm ơn sự phối hợp của các Quý Cơ quan././

Nơi nhận:

- Như trên;
- Các đơn vị: VPB, Vụ TCCB, SNV TP. HCM;
- Lưu: LS, XNC.

**KT. CỤC TRƯỞNG
PHÓ CỤC TRƯỞNG**



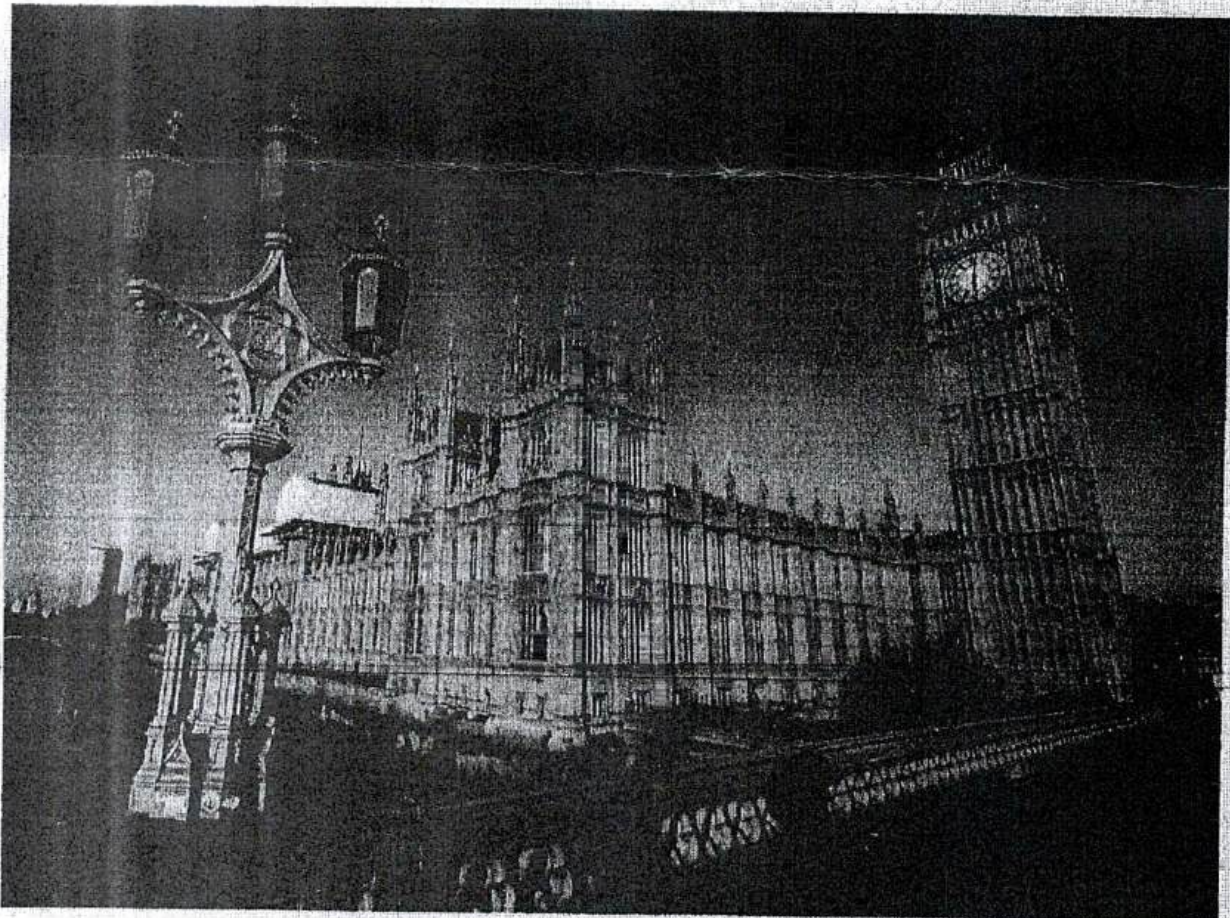
Lương Thanh Quảng



Home Office

Diplomatic Visa Arrangement External Pack

This pack will help explain the Diplomatic Visa Arrangement (DVA) and how it differs from the Diplomatic Visa Waiver (DVW) and being exempt from immigration control.



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Introduction

Why are we introducing the Diplomatic Visa Arrangement

- We are introducing DVA as part of the transformation of the UK border under Universal Permission to Travel. UPT means that everyone travelling to the UK (except for British and Irish nationals) will need permission before arriving at the border. This will include non-visa nationals, including non-visa national diplomatic passport holders, who will be required to apply for and obtain an Electronic Travel Authorisation.
- Under this modernisation, Diplomatic Visa Waivers (DVW) will be replaced by Diplomatic Visa Arrangements (DVA). DVA will provide a free and bespoke visa application experience to those benefitting from DVW arrangements while meeting border transformation aims.
- This change does not impact anyone exempt from immigration control. Those exempt from immigration control under international treaties – for example, diplomats on a posting to the UK – continue to be exempt from immigration control and therefore do not need permission (this includes both visa and non-visa nationals). Individuals who are exempt from immigration control are strongly encouraged to apply for an “exempt vignette” as evidence of their exemption to ensure a smooth passage at the border.

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Infographic

UK Visas & Immigration

DVA and Exemptions

This graphic explores who should apply for a Diplomatic Visa Arrangement (DVA), visit visa, and who is exempt from immigration control. It also includes a brief section on Diplomatic Visa Waivers (DVW).

As of 18 February 2025 non-exempt officials from eligible countries can apply for a DVA to enter the UK unless they are exempt.

Key information about DVA **You do not need a DVA if you are:**

Eligibility Criteria

- Non-exempt officials of non-UK governments from eligible countries. These include members of diplomatic missions or consulates that are not based in the UK.
- Individuals need to hold diplomatic passports and be over the age of 18.
- The DVA will be open to eligible countries from 18 February 2025.

Example Scenario

- Diplomat based anywhere globally
- An Ambassador based in France, wanting to visit the UK

Benefits

- We know that diplomats need to travel at short notice, the standard duration for DVA Visitor Visas is two years.
- DVA can be used for both official and personal travel needs.
- No fees are charged for DVA applications. There is also no requirement to enrol fingerprints at UK Visa Application Centres.

Diplomatic Visa Waivers

As part of the transformation and modernisation of the border, the UK Government policy is to provide visas to those who are exempt from immigration control (EFT), meaning everyone travelling to the UK (with the exception of British citizens) will require an entry permission in the form of an EA, visit visa, visa) before they travel to the UK.

Under the new Immigration Rules, Diplomatic Visa Arrangements will be phased out by March 2025 and replaced by Diplomatic Visa Arrangements. The DVA will allow visitors to take majority of standard visas to enter.

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Explainer

Who is exempt from immigration control in the UK?

There are six main categories of individuals who are exempt from UK immigration control:

- Persons posted to diplomatic missions in the UK;
- Consular officers and employees based in the UK;
- Sovereigns and Heads of State;
- Members of governments;
- Persons attending an international conference; and
- Employees of international organisations.

To see full information on these cohorts, please access the online guidance.

What is the difference between a Diplomatic Visa Waiver, the Diplomatic Visa Arrangement (DVA), and exemption from immigration control?

The Diplomatic Visa Waiver enabled diplomatic passport holders from select countries (Turkey, South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam and China) to travel to the UK without applying for any visa product. This waiver covered a visit of up to six months. This will no longer be available from Tuesday 11th March 2025 and will be replaced by the Diplomatic Visa Arrangement (DVA).

The DVA provides a bespoke visa product for eligible diplomatic passport holders. This route aims to facilitate diplomatic travel to the UK and enables visitors to undertake a range of standard visitor activities. Application fees and a fingerprints requirement are waived, but applicants must submit a light-touch application form. The DVA should not be confused with arrangements for those exempt from immigration control.

Some groups of people are exempt from immigration control regardless of their nationality, even though they do not have a right of abode in the UK, when occupying particular roles and travelling to the UK for specific purposes. If you are exempt from immigration control, you are not subject to the Immigration Rules as other foreign nationals travelling to the UK are. The exempt cohort does not require a visa product to enter the UK. All fees and biometrics are also excused.

Is there something I can get to prove that I am exempt?

An exempt vignette is a sticker affixed into an exempt passenger's passport and issued to confirm that someone is exempt from immigration control. It is not a visa as these can only be issued to those who are subject to immigration control. An exempt vignette confirms an individual's exempt status and can facilitate the holder's travel to, and entrance into, the UK. It is not compulsory for an exempt passenger to acquire an exempt vignette, but it can smooth their journey to the UK, including when encountering Border Force on arrival, and is strongly recommended. If you do not already hold one, you can apply for an exempt vignette up to three months before you plan to visit the UK.

I have a diplomatic passport. Does this mean I am exempt?

No, it is not the travel document that confers an exemption from immigration control. This is dictated by the role you hold, and sometimes the purpose of your visit to the UK. Accordingly, while some diplomatic passport holders will be exempt, others will not. A diplomatic passport **alone** is therefore not sufficient evidence of exemption.

Which diplomats are exempt from immigration control?

If you are posted to a diplomatic mission in the UK from overseas, you are exempt from immigration control.

More broadly, Section 8(3) of the Immigration Act 1971 (as amended) fully exempts from immigration control those posted to diplomatic missions in the UK. This includes:

- Diplomatic agents of foreign and Commonwealth missions;
- Administrative and technical staff of foreign and Commonwealth missions provided they were resident outside the UK, and were not present in the UK when offered the post as members of that mission, and have not ceased to be a member of the mission after taking up their post;
- Service staff of foreign and Commonwealth missions provided they were resident outside the UK, and were not present in the UK when offered the post as members of that mission, and have not ceased to be a member of the mission after taking up their post; and
- Qualifying family members who form part of household of the above – spouses, civil partners and dependent children under 18

There are specific other circumstances in which diplomats might be exempt from immigration control. This can include, for example, diplomatic agents, administrative, technical and service staff transiting through the UK to or from a posting in a third country.

Which diplomats are not exempt from immigration control?

Members of diplomatic missions or consulates based overseas (not in the UK) are not ordinarily exempt from immigration control, including when on an official visit. Where diplomats hold postings in more than one country, these cases would be referred to colleagues at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to establish eligibility for exempt qualification.

Diplomatic couriers are not exempt from immigration control. However, people in this category have personal inviolability when transporting diplomatic bags under the Vienna Convention. They are therefore not required to provide biometrics, and a visit visa will be issued free of charge.

Officials of foreign governments, including those holding diplomatic passports, will not be exempt from immigration control unless qualifying through alternative means. We would most commonly expect these officials, when accompanying their exempt Head of State or government minister on an official visit to the UK, to apply for a VIP Delegate Visa.

Where can I get more information on exempt policy for diplomats and other non-armed forces cohorts?

The above is a summary of the UK Government's policy on exemption from immigration control, with a particular focus on the diplomatic cohort. This document is intended to be digestible and should not be read as a full guide to exempt arrangements. For the most thorough and up-to-date information, including relating to arrangements for diplomats, please refer to the recently refreshed exempt guidance for non-armed forces cohorts.

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Q&A

DVA Technical Briefing – Questions and Answers

1. Why are you introducing the DVA?

As part of the transformation and modernisation of the UK Border, the UK Government is rolling out Universal Permission to Travel (UPT), meaning everyone (except for British or Irish nationals) will require advanced permission before they travel to the UK. As part of this change, Diplomatic Visa Waivers will be phased out and replaced by Diplomatic Visa Arrangements.

2. When is DVA coming in?

To prevent any disruption in planned travel, applications for DVA visas will be open from Tuesday 18 February 2025. The Diplomatic Visa Waivers will be withdrawn on Tuesday 11 March 2025.

3. Will Ministers need to apply for a DVA?

Serving Government Ministers travelling on official business are exempt from immigration control and therefore do not require a visa. They are encouraged to apply for an exempt vignette as evidence of their exempt status, but this is not a mandatory requirement. Please refer to explainer document for further detail.

4. Do diplomats posted to the UK need to apply for the DVA?

Accredited diplomats who are on a posting to the UK are exempt from Immigration control and therefore do not require a visa. They are encouraged to apply for an exempt vignette as evidence of their exempt status, but this is not a mandatory requirement. Please refer to explainer document for further detail.

5. What if a visa is required immediately?

Diplomatic passport holders are encouraged to apply for a DVA visa on starting a role where travel to the UK is likely. Travel does not have to be booked or planned to apply for a DVA visa. The applicant can expect a decision to be made within 10 working days.

6. Does the DVA cover children of applicants?

The DVA is designed to facilitate diplomatic travel. All visitors to the UK require a visa (or an ETA for non-visa nationals) in their own right. Therefore, DVA is not open to under 18s and dependents cannot be included on DVA visa applications. Spouses or family members of diplomats (aged over 18) can apply for DVA provided they have a diplomatic passport. Their names will be needed to be included in the supporting Note Verbale.

7. Can the Note Verbale be approved by the local Embassy in where the DVA applicant is based?

Yes, the Note Verbale can be issued by either the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Embassies abroad.

Questions on Operational Process:

Where do I submit my passport?

- Passports should be submitted at the Visa Application Centre (VAC) during VAC operating hours, and not during times reserved for Passport Collection. Operating hours can be viewed on VFS' website.

How do I submit supporting documents?

- You can upload the required documents (Passport sized photo and Note Verbale) from your device after completing your online application. This is called the Self-Scan Option. You will be asked to select a VAC appointment time before you can upload these documents. However, the MFA representative can attend the VAC to drop off the passport anytime during VAC operating hours.
- You can also submit your documents with the assistance of VAC staff members. This is called the Assisted Scan Option. The MFA representative can attend the VAC to have these documents and the passport scanned at any time during VAC operating hours. It is important to note that the only documents scanned free of charge will be the passport sized photo and the note verbale. If the customer requires any other document to be scanned, they will need to use the document scanning assistance service and pay the appropriate fee.

Can I use the keep my passport service?

- The KMP service is available to this cohort, but the appropriate fee would need to be paid if this added value service is selected.

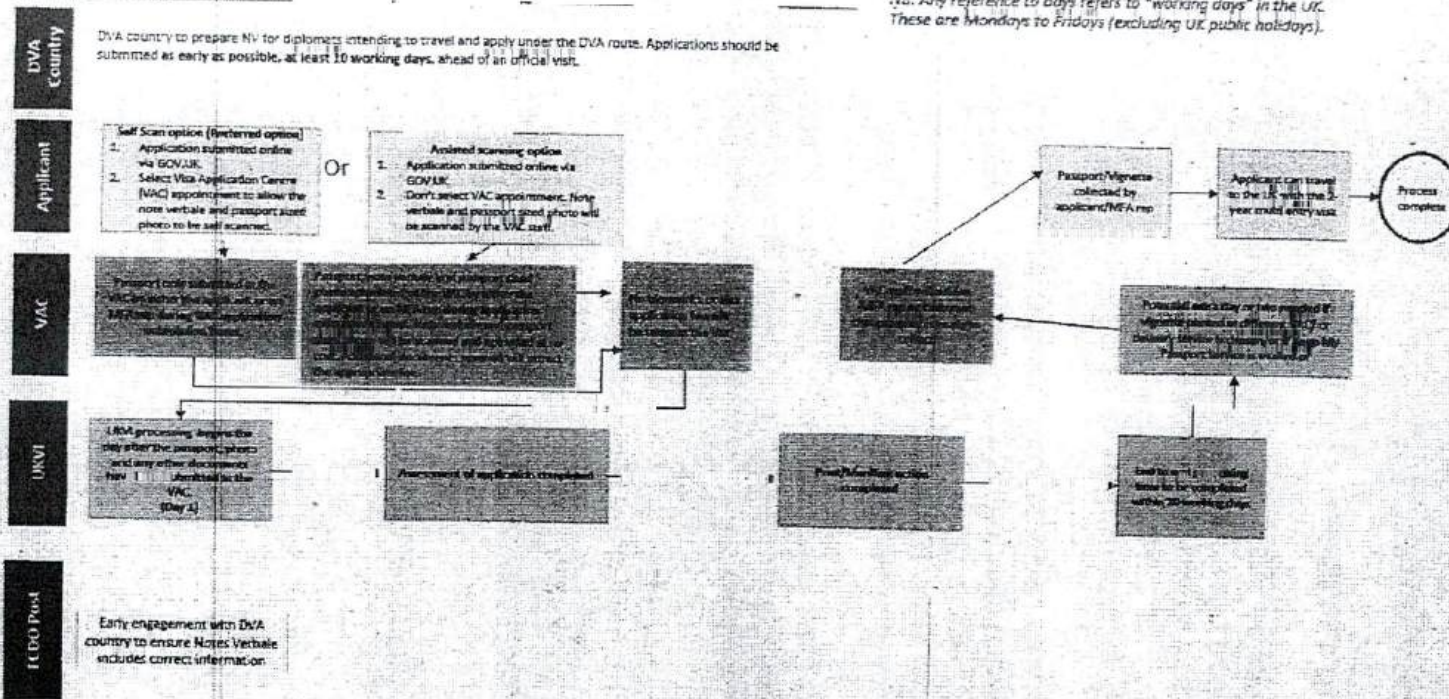
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Process Map

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Summary This process depicts the end-to-end process for the DVA route

NB. Any reference to days refers to "working days" in the UK. These are Mondays to Fridays (excluding UK public holidays).



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Note Verbale

Note No.

Date:

Draft Note Verbale

The Government of X requests that a Diplomatic Visa Arrangement Visitor Visa is issued to the following individual(s)

Name	Date of Birth	Passport number

The named individual(s) are confirmed to be supported by X Government in requesting a UK visa under the Diplomatic Visa Arrangement

Signature and Name

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