

Open letter from the Foreign Secretary to UK nationals living in Spain

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab writes an open letter to UK nationals living in Spain – October 2019.

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In less than a month, the will of the British people will be delivered and the United Kingdom will leave the European Union. This, of course, will be a time of transition. But for those living in Spain, I want to assure you that as Foreign Secretary, I am working to ensure that your rights and access to services remain as strong as ever.

From Madrid to Malaga, and Barcelona to Benidorm, 300,000 Britons have made Spain their home. No matter the terms of our departure from the EU, you will continue to be able to live and work in Spain.

But to make sure your daily needs are met, there are some steps you must take to get ready for Brexit on 31 October. You'll need to register for residency, check your healthcare cover, verify your passport validity online and exchange your UK driving licence for a Spanish one. To check the specific actions you need to take, and stay up to date, go to the Living in Spain Guide at gov.uk/livinginspain

In Government, we are doing our bit to get ready for Brexit, too. We are making sure that on 1 November, every British national living in Spain can go on living, working, studying and accessing healthcare.

We are working with the Spanish authorities to make processes as smooth and straightforward as possible, whether you're applying for residency or a new driving licence.

And we are working with the Spanish National Health System, SNS, to ensure that tourists, students and European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) holders will be able to access healthcare in the same way until at least 31 December 2020.

We are working hard to reach a deal with the EU. But even if the UK leaves without a deal, the UK and Spain have each taken steps to ensure you will be able to continue accessing healthcare in Spain, exactly as you do now, until at least 31 December 2020 if you are an S1 form holder.

Of course, every circumstance is unique. And we know that some British people might need some extra support during this transition.

We want to support those who may find it harder to complete all the paperwork – like pensioners or disabled people, those living in remote areas, and those needing assistance with language translation or interpretation. The Foreign Office has allocated an extra £3 million for charities and other voluntary organisations to help these people keep their rights and access to services in the EU.

You should be checking in regularly with the Embassy in Madrid or local consulates in Alicante, Barcelona, Ibiza, Las Palmas, Malaga, Palma de Mallorca, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, for information on upcoming local ‘question and answer’ sessions, town hall meetings and information stands in supermarkets and on high streets.

And by now, you should also be seeing one of the largest information campaigns in British history, which launched with advice in newspapers and on billboards, encouraging people across the UK and Europe to Get Ready for Brexit.

This is an exciting time, but also one of unprecedented change. We’re getting ready for Brexit on 31 October, and I would urge you to do the same.

Further information

[Detailed guide: Pet travel to Europe after Brexit](#)

How to prepare for travel with your pet to any EU country whether the UK leaves the EU with or without a deal.

[British Embassy outreach events in Slovakia](#)



If you are unclear about current residency requirements in Slovakia, or how the UK's exit from the EU might affect you, come along to one of our upcoming events to ask the questions that most concern you.

We will add future events to this page in due course.

These events are free and open to all interested UK nationals. Please be aware that registration in advance is obligatory and ID will be requested on the door.

Upcoming meetings for UK nationals in 2020

Previous meetings in 2019

Date	Location
Tuesday 22 October	Bratislava
Tuesday 9 April	Bratislava
Thursday 11 April	Kosice
Monday 13 May	Banska Bystrica

If you have any questions concerning your rights as the UK leaves the EU that you would like to ask us in advance, please send us a message via our social media channels, [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#). We will try to provide you with an answer during our events.

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Last updated 5 November 2020 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 5 November 2020

Upcoming online outreach event in Slovakia added

2. 11 October 2019

Upcoming meeting for UK nationals in Bratislava on 22 October.

3. 7 May 2019

New citizens outreach meeting announced in Banska Bystrica

4. 2 April 2019

First published.

Transparency data: Defra: spend control data for April to June 2019

Centrally approved new spending on property, advertising, consultancy, technology and recruitment.