



IN BRIEF

VISA SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN NATIONALS

From 18 March Ukrainians who meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the Humanitarian Sponsorship Route will not be issued with Entry Clearance vignettes. They will instead be provided with a letter which will confirm they can travel to the UK.

[More information on UK visa support for Ukrainian nationals](#)

MIGRANT CROSSINGS ANNOUNCEMENT

On 14 April the Prime Minister announced that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) will oversee operational command of small boat migrant crossings in the English Channel.

The MoD will work side-by-side in partnership with Border Force with a single joint command structure in place.

[More information on the announcement.](#)

WELCOME

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Border Force Stakeholder Bulletin, which contains updates on a mixture of operational and longer-term topics and items of interest emerging since our last edition in February.

Thank you to those that attended the Border Facilitation Group meetings in March where operational planning and border automation were amongst the topics covered.

In last month's edition we included an introductory note from Border Force Director General Phil Douglas who is keen to engage as much as possible with industry, through set piece meetings and during port visits.

The next round of Border Facilitation Groups will take place in June. We will also be holding the Border Strategy Roundtable in July. The meetings will be held virtually via MS Teams and we will circulate the agendas in due course.

A NOTE FROM OUR COO STEVE DANN

I would like to thank our industry partners across all modes for your continuing support during this critical period as the industry prepares for the welcome post-covid recovery. While this is very encouraging for the UK economy, this will present a number of challenges.

BF has a clear remit of protecting the UK border, but will continue to work with you all to facilitate the seamless flow of legitimate passengers and trade.

This is certainly a turbulent and concerning time, but we will continue to work with you as we navigate our way through 2022.

Kind regards. Steve.



UNIVERSAL PERMISSION TO TRAVEL (UPT)

The Home Office recently invited carriers connected to interactive Advance Passenger Information (iAPI) to start registering their interest in working with us to receive the new Universal Permission to Travel (UPT) codes later this year. The additional codes will provide carriers with information on whether a passenger has a valid permission to travel to the UK, or whether any manual checks should be carried out.



We welcome any carriers or system providers connected to iAPI who would like to be involved to contact the [Carrier Integration Team](#).

We have recently delivered UPT introductory sessions for non-interactive carriers too, including the Maritime and General Maritime sectors. More non-interactive sessions will be scheduled in the coming months, including for General Aviation. The team are currently planning port site visits to better understand existing processes and to support the development of technical solutions across all modes.

Contact the [Carrier Integration Team](#) if you are interested in attending a session.

BORDER VISION UPDATE

A key component of the Future Borders and Immigration Systems (FBIS) Programme is the ambition to transform the UK Border into one that is data driven, person centric and digital supporting the wider ambition to have the world's most effective border by 2025.

The Digitise programme is the vehicle for achieving this ambition. The programme has been working with the Border Vision Advisory Group (BVAG) since December 2020, providing an opportunity for experts from several specialist fields to work alongside HO officials to explore opportunities for increasing the use of automation.

There have been four successful hackathon events during 2021, allowing government officials, BVAG academic and industry supplier members to progress discussions on increased use of automation for the UK border. The hackathons focused on:

Best in Class – What have other countries delivered so far that could be described as 'best in class' and what developments are they looking to deliver in the next 5-10 years that we can learn from.

Automation at the border – How does the UK border establish a contactless travel solution within aviation with focus on biometric capture on the move.

Biometrics – How can biometrics be efficiently and ethically used to improve the passenger flow, experience, and security at the UK border.

Proof of concept for contactless travel – Discussion explored the four stage design principle for the proposed contactless travel proof of concept. (identification, operational, integration and pilots). Attendees were invited to test the initial stage of 'identification,' also exploring the general approach.

These events and presentations from our BVAG industry suppliers, have all supported the development of an overarching blueprint, which sets out the high-level strategic ambition to automate the border and a more detailed twelve-point plan that will help us towards delivery of the 2025 UK Border Strategy. We will share more detail on this in future discussions.



eGATE PROCUREMENT

The Home Office has formally notified industry of its plans to procure services for full future generation eGate solutions, including physical goods and service management.

Border Force is seeking a supplier of future generation eGates for deployment in the UK and at juxtaposed controls in Europe, which are capable of fully automating the processing of passengers using biometric and biographic matching technologies, and being integrated within wider Home Office passenger verification systems.



The procurement comprises a Competitive Dialogue Process. The purpose of the Competitive Dialogue Process is to progressively develop a solution with selected bidders, to best meet authority requirements from a technical, commercial and financial perspective.

Please contact [Darryl Sparkes](#) if you would like more information. We will also be presenting at the upcoming Border Facilitation Groups in June and will welcome your views and feedback.

PASSENGER LOCATOR FORM & HEALTH PRE-CLEARANCE

The Border Force Health Measures Team would like to say a huge thank you to all travel industry colleagues for their continued support over the last two years. Your engagement, input and insight has been incredibly valuable, and it has been a pleasure working with you all despite the challenging circumstances.

As you are aware the final remaining health measures were removed on Friday 18 March after 648 days of the PLF and nearly 50 million form submissions. There are now no COVID-19 related travel rules remaining for anyone entering the UK, regardless of vaccination status.



As part of the Government contingency planning due to the ongoing potential risk of a vaccine evading variant of concern or future health event, a digital system to collect passenger travel information for health purposes will be maintained in a state of readiness.

System development work will continue in case it is required in a contingency scenario either as a blanket or more targeted measure and it will be agile enough to be ready for deployment within short timescales (1-2 weeks).

Improvements in the system's usability and accessibility will also form part of this ongoing work, building on and learning from the feedback and experience already gained and we will keep you updated at regular intervals.

We also continue to work on our strategic capability of health preclearance. The planned proof of concept will no longer take place following the removal of the PLF, but the work will transition into wider border digitisation plans being undertaken within the Future Border and Immigration System (FBIS) programme within the Home Office.

PLEASURE CRAFT REPORTING

Border Force is developing an online service 'Submit a Pleasure Craft Report' (sPCR) for recreational skippers who need to clear immigration and customs. Our online application will enable skippers to digitally submit information quickly and easily about their voyage and persons on board in advance of their departure to or from the UK.

Border Force is also engaging with HMRC to ensure that reporting to Government in respect of these voyages are submitted in a more streamlined manner to avoid duplication where possible. Border Force hopes that the new digital application will assist the facilitation of legitimate movements, in line with the Government's commitment to digitise border systems.

Border Force aims to launch this service into the public domain in early Summer 2022.

We are engaging with industry stakeholders regarding this application and are very grateful for the feedback and assistance provided so far during this development process.

If you have any further queries regarding sPCR please contact [Sonali De Silva](#).

Current Reporting Requirements:

From 1 January 2022, all pleasure craft arriving into, and departing from, the UK and the Isle of Man (including those arriving in and departing from EU countries) must report in accordance with the published [requirements](#).

Please visit [Sailing pleasure craft to and from UK](#) for more guidance about how to submit your C1331 form to comply with current reporting processes.



COMING UP

The following dates have been confirmed for our programme of Border Facilitation Group meetings:

9 June: Aviation (10:00—11:30)

14 June: Maritime/Rail (15:00—16:30)

The next Border Strategy Roundtable has been provisionally scheduled for **6 July** (13:00—14:30).

The next Stakeholder Bulletin will be released in June 2022.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions, please contact the [BFIP team](#).

We're keen to get your thoughts on our refreshed engagement approach and how we can make improvements.

Leave your [feedback here](#).