



Note No. A246/12

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office presents its compliments to all diplomatic missions and international organisations and has the honour to refer to overage dependants of diplomats. Protocol Directorate wishes to re-iterate its guidance and would ask that the contents of this Note be brought to the attention of all staff.

Diplomatic missions and international organisations will be aware from Protocol Directorate's guidance (see Protocol website www.fco.gov.uk/protocolwebsite for substantive guidance) that the United Kingdom accepts, as members of the family forming part of the household, children under the age of 18. Dependent children aged between 18 and 25 years, who are in full time education may also be accepted (but only up to the age of 25).

Children turning 18 years who are not in full time education cannot be accepted as a dependant and are not entitled to privileges or immunities. Their exemption from immigration control will lapse (with the exception of EU nationals) and they will need to depart the United Kingdom. Dependants wishing to continue their studies should regularise their immigration status at a British Embassy or High Commission overseas. To avoid possible embarrassment it is important missions follow this guidance. Failure to comply may have serious implications for any future travel to the UK by the individual concerned.

Children turning 25 years of age cannot be accepted as a dependant, except in the most exceptional compassionate circumstances approved by Protocol Directorate. Their exemption from immigration control will lapse (with the exception of EU nationals) and they will need to depart the United Kingdom. Dependants wishing to stay in the UK should regularise their immigration status at a British Embassy or High Commission overseas. Failure to comply may have serious implications for any future travel to the UK by the individual concerned.

Parents of diplomats cannot be accepted as dependants except in the most exceptional compassionate circumstances approved by Protocol Directorate. All applications must be made at an Embassy or High Commission overseas.

All dependants cease to hold exempt status once the diplomat's tour of duty ends. Non EU dependants will need to depart the UK. Dependants wishing to stay in the UK should regularise their immigration status at a British Embassy or High Commission overseas. All diplomatic missions and international organisations are reminded to submit TX9 departure forms, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, to DMIOU, Protocol Directorate.

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all diplomatic missions and international organisations the assurances of its highest consideration.

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