

Note No:TXA109/10

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office presents its compliments to all Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations and has the honour to inform Missions and Organisations of certain changes to the issuing of Diplomatic visas and visa extensions in the UK.

With immediate effect, all Diplomatic visa extensions will be issued on a new secure vignette contained within the passport. Extensions will be granted for the shorter period of two years or the remaining duration of any posting.

Please note that, like now, all Diplomatic visas will cease to be valid 90 days after the end of any posting.

The new vignette will also replace existing wet ink stamps that are currently issued to certain non-visa nationals. It is hoped that using the new vignette in place of wet ink stamps will further strengthen UK borders and also assist Mission and Organisation staff to more easily pass through UK immigration controls.

To help ensure a fast and efficient processing of all Diplomatic visa requests, Missions and Organisations are requested that they check:

- passports remain valid
- the individuals in question have already been notified to Protocol Directorate
- there are at least 3 blank pages in each passport that is submitted

- the application includes 2 passport size colour photos of the applicants
(N.B. passport photos are now also required for applications from non-visa nationals)
- for dependants age 18-25, original documentation of full time education is included
- for dependants (spouse, son or daughter) who are applying for extension separate from the named diplomat/official, a copy of the diplomats/officials most recent endorsement is submitted
- for new born dependants, the original birth certificate is submitted.

Protocol Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office avails itself of this opportunity to express to all Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations the assurances of its highest consideration.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
OLD ADMIRALTY BUILDING
LONDON SW1A 2PA

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