



NV 22/2026

The High Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi and has the honour to convey important changes to the United Kingdom's immigration system as part of its ongoing transition to a fully digital service.

The UK is transitioning to a fully digital immigration system to improve security, reduce reliance on physical documents, and streamline travel through automated carrier checks against Home Office records.

Decommissioning of visit visa vignettes

From **25 February 2026**, visit visa applicants will receive an **eVisa only**, replacing vignette stickers. Applicants will attend the Visa Application Centre (VAC) once for identity checks and keep their passports during the process. Successful applicants will be instructed by email to create a **UKVI account** (<https://www.gov.uk/evisa/set-up-ukvi-account>) to access their eVisa.

UKVI account

All eVisa holders, including children, must create a UKVI account before travel to check their eVisa; update passport details; and share status if required (e.g., by host authorities).

When the passport is linked correctly, carriers can verify permission to travel via automatic checks. Those who fail to update their passport details may face delays and manual checks.

Digital proof of exemption from UK immigration control

People exempt from UK immigration control – including those posted to diplomatic missions – do not need a visa or entry clearance. Applying for a **record of exemption** is recommended, as it enables carriers to confirm status automatically.

From **25 February 2026**, applicants outside the UK who qualify for exemption will receive a **digital record of exemption**, not a physical vignette. Applicants will apply online as usual, submit passports at the VAC, and receive email

instructions to create a UKVI account. In-country applicants will transition to digital records shortly after.

Exempt travellers without a digital record or vignette may face delays during checks.

Digitisation update

Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)

From **25 February 2026**, visa-exempt nationals must hold an ETA (<http://www.gov.uk/eta>) unless they already have a valid UK immigration status or exemption. Travellers without an ETA will be denied boarding.

Certificate of Entitlement (Right of Abode)

From **26 February 2026**, holders of a valid Certificate of Entitlement vignette will automatically receive a **digital one** and be asked to create a UKVI account.

New overseas applications from that date will also be issued digitally. Digital certificates do not require renewal when a passport expires; holders simply update their new passport details in their UKVI account.

Practical points for travellers and authorities

Travellers should use the passport linked to their eVisa or digital status; update passport details promptly in their UKVI account if they renew or replace their passport; and create their UKVI account early and verify personal details.

Where host authorities require confirmation, travellers can generate a **digital share code** via the “view and prove” service and present it with their passport (<https://www.gov.uk/evisa/view-evisa-get-share-code-prove-immigration-status>).

The High Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi the assurances of its highest consideration.

Anna Mynlieff
British High Commission
Kigali



13 February 2026