the3million newsletter



Dear eVisa holder,

Over the past two years, more than 400 people have told us through Report It! about the stress, worry and problems they face proving their status with an eVisa. When an airline wrongly refuses to let someone board, that person has no straightforward way to get their money back. Carriers simply say the passenger was not "adequately documented", and nothing in law defines what that phrase means for the 10 million people living in the UK with a digital-only status.

eVisa holders never had a say in how they would have to prove their immigration status. There is now a chance to have our voices heard. The Civil Aviation (Consumer Protection and Regulatory Reform) Bill is an opportunity to set out clearly what "adequately documented" means for people with digital status, and protect passengers who are wrongly denied boarding by carriers.

Every week, people write to us about the extra checks that airline ground staff and carriers put them through. One person, who was asked by staff to show the live webpage of their View and Prove, told us:

"This experience was very upsetting and made me angry. It will no doubt make me very anxious when I next need to check in on a flight wanting to return home to the UK. No one should have to experience anxiety for the simple matter of returning home to where they are legally resident. I wish we had physical proof of our status."

Many people now feel that they no longer have control over their ability to prove their right to come home:

"It is very uncomfortable not to have physical proof of my status and I have to rely on staff to be informed."

And people are rightly frustrated that airline staff decide whether they can come home:

"Now I feel very anxious about my status. I feel frustrated that non-immigration officials were policing my entrance to my home country."

" Airport staff appeared to confuse the ETA scheme with the eVisa system, and required me to log in personally rather than checking my share code, which is not how the system is designed to be used"

Is your MP on the Bill Committee?

Parliament has now announced the members of the Bill Committee, and the Committee begins its work on Tuesday 20 October, where they will be looking at the proposed bill in detail. If your MP sits on the Committee, please write to them and ask them to support our amendment. If your MP is not on the Committee, you can still write and ask them to raise the issue with colleagues and the Minister (the Government minister responsible for this bill is Kier Mather, the Aviation Minister).

Our campaign webpage has a template email for you to write to your MP, together with our briefing on the proposed amendment. Just add a line about your own experience, or about why the issue matters to you if you have not had problems travelling yourself.

Thank you to all of you who have written to your MP, we know that this engagement works best when we all share a unified voice. If you would like to talk to a member of our team about how best to approach your MP, please get in touch.

Support the amendments

Yours in solidarity,
Kaelynn
Kaelynn Narita is the Research and Policy Manager at the3million

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Read our previous newsletters

You can catch up on our previous newsletters here
You can download a PDF of this newsletter here

Report your issues



Our reports are entirely informed by you raising your issues with us.
If you or your family and friends experience any issues in applying for EUSS family permits, pre-settled or settled status, or in using a digital status, report it:

Report it

Get help with the EU Settlement Scheme



Become a supporter today

Thank you for reading our newsletter.

Did you know the3million is the leading grassroots organisation of EU citizens in the UK?

We are grateful for your support, as we simply couldn't have campaigned for citizens' rights since 2016 without you.

If you can afford it, please donate today to enable the3million to continue to uphold the Government to account and inform EU citizens of their rights:

Donate today

