

A million texts to encourage travellers to check passport validity after Brexit

The Home Office will send around one million text messages to passport holders who may need to renew their passports early.

New passport validity rules will apply for travel to most European countries in a no deal Brexit.

The text messages will encourage people to [check if their passport will meet these new rules](#) to help them with any plans for travel to Europe after 31 October.

There are 2 new rules that passports will need to meet to travel to most countries in Europe.

Firstly, travellers will need to have at least 6 months left on their passport.

Secondly, any extra months on a passport over 10 years may not count towards the 6 months needed. A passport may have extra months if the holder renewed their previous passport before it expired.

The texts will be sent to those who provided their mobile number when they applied for their current passport.

Not everyone provides a mobile number, and contact details may have changed, so even those who do not receive a message should check their passport.

It will normally take up to 3 weeks to renew a passport, but it may take longer if more information is needed.

The text message reminders are part of the government's 'Get Ready for Brexit' campaign.

Other advice to people travelling to Europe after Brexit includes getting travel insurance so they are covered for healthcare, making sure they have the right driving documents and getting a health certificate for their pet.