

Appointment to roles of Independent Reviewer of National Security Arrangements and Chair of the Northern Ireland Committee on Protection

Press release

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Rt. Hon Brandon Lewis CBE MP today announced the extension of appointment of His Honour Brian Barker CBE QC to the dual role of Chair of the Northern Ireland Committee on Protection and Independent Reviewer of National Security Arrangements in Northern Ireland.



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The extended appointment will take effect on 1 February 2021.

The Northern Ireland Committee on Protection (NICOP) was established in 2009 to determine the policy in relation to the provision of close armed protection to individuals living in Northern Ireland. The Independent Reviewer of National Security Arrangements in Northern Ireland reviews annually the operation of the arrangements for national security matters.

Biography of Appointee

His Honour Brian Barker CBE QC is a former British judge. He served as the Recorder of London and senior judge at the old Bailey 2013 – 2015 and previously was the deputy senior judge and Common Serjeant of London from 2005 to 2013. He currently holds an appointment as an Assistant Surveillance Commissioner.

Terms of Appointment

- The position is a part-time appointment.
- The position attracts a daily remuneration of £848.
- The appointment will be from 1 February 2021 for a period of up to one year.

Political Activity

His Hon. Brian Barker declared no political activity in the past ten years.
Regulation

This appointment is not regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

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[UK nationals living in Norway: Facebook sessions](#)

The British Embassy in Oslo has invited UK nationals to information meetings across Norway and hosted several Facebook Q&A sessions to deliver the latest updates to UK nationals working and living in the country regarding the UK's departure from the European Union.

We have gathered the most frequently asked questions from UK nationals and the updated answers from both the Embassy team and the Norwegian Immigration Directorate (UDI). This information is correct as of February 2021.

Residence rights, new residence permit and card

What link should I apply through on UDI.no?

Please read the [UDI guidance](#) carefully. Under each category, there is a list of requirements in order to apply through that specific link. If after reading that page and our FAQ below you still do not know, please [contact UDI](#) for advice.

How much does the application cost?

The application is free of charge for all UK nationals who were legally residing in Norway by the end of 2020 in scope of the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement. If you have incorrectly paid a fee please contact your local Police and request a refund. You will then need to reapply for the correct permit under Brexit regulations

What is the difference between the permit and the card?

The new permit is the legal basis allowing UK nationals to continue living in Norway as non-EU citizens. The card is the main official document to prove that legal basis. All non-EU citizens in Norway have this card. All UK nationals need to get a card. Other official residence documents such as your registration letter will still be valid until you receive the new residence card.

Who has to apply for the permit and who has to order the card?

UK nationals without a permanent permit (oppholdstillatelse/bosettingstillatelse) need to apply for the new permit and will automatically get a card as part of the process. UK nationals with a permanent permit (oppholdstillatelse/bosettingstillatelse) do not need to apply for a permit. They only need to order a card from 15 February 2021. Read more information on [UDI's website](#).

What is the difference between a permanent permit (oppholdstillatelse/bosettingstillatelse) and the permanent right to remain (varig oppholdsrett)?

The permanent permit is for all citizens (EU and non-EU). It used to be called a settlement permit and was in place for UK nationals before the EU system came into force in Norway. It grants extra rights to live and work in Norway indefinitely and extra protection against expulsion. The permanent right of residence is only available to EU citizens. EU citizens need to have lived in Norway for 5 years before being eligible to apply. It grants extra rights to live and work in Norway indefinitely and protection against expulsion.

I have a permanent permit (oppholdstillatelse/bosettingstillatelse). What do I have to do?

As stated on the UDI site you do not need to apply for a new permit, but you do need to order a residence card. It will be possible to order a card from 15 February 2021 on UDI.no. You will have until 31 December 2021 to do this. You will need to book an appointment with the Police for an ID check for the new card.

I have been in Norway for over 25 years, what do I have to do?

If you have previously been granted a permanent residence permit, you can still live in Norway and do not need to apply for a new permit. If you have a permanent residence permit, you must order a residence card. You can order

the residence card from 15 February onwards, and must order it by 31 December 2021. Read more information on [UDI's website](#).

There are no available police appointments in my area, what should I do?

COVID-19 has reduced police capacity. In some areas, you will have to wait to get an appointment. Keep checking the UDI Police appointment system as new slots may open up soon. Do not worry, you have plenty of time to get your card. Please contact your local police station if you are concerned about the lack of appointments.

I have applied for Norwegian citizenship, but my application has not been processed yet, what should I do?

If you applied for dual citizenship in 2020 then: You can wait until you receive an answer to your application for citizenship. If the application is granted, you do not need to apply. If you are refused, you must apply for a new residence permit. If you have a permanent right of residence now, you must apply for a permanent residence permit.

If you applied for dual citizenship in 2021: If you have not received a response to your citizenship application by 31 August 2021 or your application has been refused, you must apply for the new residence permit. If you have a permanent right of residence, you must apply for a permanent residence permit.

See the [Q&A pages on the UDI website](#).

If you are granted Norwegian citizenship, you do not need to get a permit for UK nationals.

I want to get the new permit. What is the correct link to the online application form?

Please read the [UDI guidance](#) carefully. Under each category, there is a list of requirements in order to apply through that specific link. If after reading that page and our FAQ below you still do not know, please contact UDI for advice.

I have a Bostedsattest (Residence certificate). Do I still need to get the new residence card?

Yes. The Bostedsattest is just a confirmation of your address in Norway. It is not an official document granting you residence rights.

The residence card needs renewal every 5 years. Is the renewal of the card more a formality (like a passport renewal) with a check we have not been out of the country long enough to lose the permanent residency status, or will it be a more thorough re-application? For example, are there reasons which might make us lose our Permanent status and be rejected for renewal?

If you have been granted a permanent residency permit, your residency will not be affected of any changes regarding family situation, job/income etc.

When ordering a new card there will be no check of the terms of your permit.

Can I continue to reside over the 5 year period of the permit under the same conditions, i.e. to change employment, move from student to employee to self-employed (as per previous EU/EEA regs) in that period without applying for a new permit. What exactly are the requirements to ensure that we do not have irregular status?

If you meet the requirements for the new Brexit residence permit (you had a right to reside before 31 December 2020), you will retain your rights as they were under the EEA agreement. This means you can change your basis for staying in Norway, e.g. move from student to employee or person with own funds without applying for a new permit.

You will keep this right/permit as long as you do not stay more than 6 months outside Norway. Then your permit will be lost.

How many years do I have to wait before I can apply for a permanent residence permit?

After you have been granted a temporary residence permit, you can apply for a permanent permit after 3 years by the Norwegian regulations – if all other requirements are met. For instance, you must then pay a fee and complete mandatory tuition in the Norwegian language and social studies. If you are applying after 5 years you only need to document that you have had the right of residence for those years. If you came in August 2019 you can apply for a permanent residency in August 2024.

How will my spouse's status be impacted? She is a non EEA, non UK citizen and she has requirements to extend her permit.

Under the Separation Agreement, you have the right to have close family members including your spouse live with you in Norway. Your wife can apply for a permit as a family member of a UK national in scope of the Separation Agreement. Please read more about this on [UDI's guidance page](#) under the heading "Family member to a British citizen"

I left Norway to study. How long can I be absent from Norway before losing my residence status?

Normally the right to residence is lost upon 6 months stay outside Norway. However, exemptions are made for some groups, including students. As long as you were studying while living outside Norway, you can stay for up to 12 months, and still keep your right of residence. So if you returned to Norway within 12 months, you kept your right to live in Norway.

Please be informed you have a right to stay in Norway for a period up to 6 months looking for work in Norway. The period starts from the date you entered Norway.

If and when I do apply for citizenship or other forms of residency, will the

requirements be based on my status as an EU citizen from when I first came to Norway, or on my now being a third country national?

If you are in scope of the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement, when applying for citizenship the requirements will be based on your status as a previous EU citizen.

Travel

When we get a permanent residence card for Norway, does that give us any additional rights regarding travel in the EU/Nordic countries, or will we have identical status to UK resident UK citizens?

From 1 January 2021, all UK nationals became non-EU citizens. As the status changed, rights to stay in Schengen area countries also changed. UK nationals can now travel to other Schengen area countries for up to 90 days in any 180-day period without a visa for purposes such as tourism.

To stay for longer than 90 days in any 180-day period, to work or study, or for business travel, you must meet the entry requirements set out by the country you are travelling to. This could mean applying for a visa or work permit.

This is the same requirement for both UK nationals in Norway and those residing in the UK.

The new residence card proves that you are legally resident in Norway and are therefore not limited to 90 in 180 days there. It also means that the time you have spent residing in Norway will not count towards your overall time in Schengen.

Please do read more about travel in the Schengen area on our [Living in Norway guide](#).

I have a Norwegian-issued EHIC. Can I still use this when I am on holiday in the UK or the EU?

If you are in scope of the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement you are entitled to continue using your card in the UK and the EU. You can continue to renew this on [Helsenorge's website](#)

I am currently visiting Norway. How long can I stay?

You are subject to the 90 in 180 day Schengen limit if you are normally resident in the UK. Days you have stayed in Schengen before 1 Jan 2021 do not count towards this limit.

Tax

Does anything change for tax?

The UK has a double taxation agreement with Norway to ensure you do not pay

tax on the same income in both countries. Existing double taxation arrangements for UK nationals living in Norway have not changed. Please check the [Norwegian Tax Office site](#) for more information about tax payments in Norway or [contact them](#).

Key links

Further information

[Tackling deforestation by working together ahead of COP26](#)

Greetings.

And welcome everyone to the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade Dialogue.

Thank you so much for joining us today.

Friends, as COP26 President, I have one very clear aim: and that's to put the world on track to make the Paris Agreement a reality.

And it is evident that we cannot achieve that unless we deal with the vital issue of deforestation.

Around the world, we are seeing forests depleted and biodiversity vanishing at a terrifying rate, driven by the global trade in agricultural commodities.

Demand for such goods is putting immense pressure on the earth's forests, on which more than one and a half billion people depend on their livelihoods, and they are also having a devastating effect on our planet.

Land use is responsible for 23 per cent of total global emissions.

As I say, if we continue on this course, our Paris Agreement targets will slip out of reach,

And that will have devastating effects for people and of course for nature.

We will have temperatures soaring, seas rising and storms intensifying.

The Dasgupta Review, on the Economics of Biodiversity, published today, is very clear that our treatment of nature presents grave risks to our economies, livelihoods and well-being.

So we must act now to turn the tide.

But we must do so in a manner that supports those who depend on forests, prioritising their economic interests and development.

And ultimately, we all have a responsibility to act.

The UK is taking action.

We are contributing £3 billion over the next five years to support nature.

But what is vital to tackling this problem is cooperation, across borders and between sectors.

Working together, we can mobilise investment, and grow markets for sustainable production.

Markets that support both the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

To achieve this, producer and consumer countries must come together in the spirit of mutual respect, dialogue and collaboration.

Working hand in hand with business and civil society.

That is what we are doing today.

We hope these dialogues will establish long-term plans.

And result in practical, ambitious measures.

Which of course are then implemented by governments, business and civil society.

Today is just the start of the conversation.

And I look forward to working with all of you, ahead of COP26 and of course beyond.

To reform this vital trade.

To protect livelihoods.

And to help to put the Paris Agreement into practice.

Thank you.

Right on Time: £800k for military

logistics innovation

The [Defence and Security Accelerator \(DASA\)](#) has today launched a competition that seeks innovative ideas from industry and academia that could provide efficiencies for military logistics.

Ideas are sought that identify, develop, and demonstrate to the military logistics community that they could deliver a step change in military logistics capability across the Maritime, Land and Air domains.

[Right on Time: Automating Military Logistics](#), is focussed primarily on innovative ideas in autonomy and the potential automation of the logistics chain. The aim is for the developed technologies to inform future military user requirements across the domains (Maritime, Land and Air).

The competition will feed into the Deployed Military Logistics Hubs development thinking.

The scope of this competition, run on behalf of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) covers two areas of innovation:

- autonomy and automation
- additive manufacturing

Full details of scope can be found in the [competition document](#). Proposals which are relevant to either or both of these areas are welcomed and we seek all ideas that could provide better solutions and efficiencies for any Deployed Military Logistics Hub.

A total of £800k is available for this competition to fund multiple proposals, with projects showcasing their innovation at a demonstration event to be held in the UK during September 2021.

We are interested in technologies which can be progressed towards Technical Readiness Level (TRL) 6 within this timescale.

We encourage collaboration between organisations for this competition.

To support this we have a short survey to collect details of those who wish to explore collaboration possibilities. If you are interested in a collaboration, please complete the [survey](#) and your details will be circulated among other potential suppliers who have completed the survey and are interested in collaborating.

It is likely that a larger number of lower-value proposals (for example £40k to £80k ex. VAT) will be funded than a small number of higher-value proposals.

This competition closes at midday GMT on Thursday 25th March 2021.

A [dial-in session providing further detail on the problem space and a chance to ask questions](#) in an open forum will take place on 11 February 2021. If you would like to participate, please register on the [Eventbrite page](#).

A series of [15 minute one-to-one teleconference sessions](#), giving you the opportunity to ask specific questions will take place on 23rd February 2021. If you would like to participate, please register on the [Eventbrite page](#).

[Natural England announces major extension to the Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve to mark World Wetlands Day](#)

Press release

Natural England, in collaboration with the Carstairs Countryside Trust (CCT) has announced today multiple extensions to the internationally important Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve (NNR) near York.



The Lower Derwent Vallet is an internationally important shelter for breeding and wintering birds.

Coinciding with World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2021, the extensions will increase the NNR by almost a third from 466 hectares to 602 hectares.

Ian Carstairs OBE, who founded CCT in 1989 as a rapid response organisation for conservation, was delighted that the Trust could support the government's national drive to protect and build back nature:

The Trustees of CCT are pleased to work with Natural England to extend the NNR to benefit society and wildlife, especially as so many people seek the comfort of the natural world in these difficult times. At the same time, we are able to help to protect this vulnerable refuge from which nature can be rebuilt back across the countryside.

The Lower Derwent Valley, with its ancient traditionally-farmed hay meadows, is of international importance. The reserve and surrounding privately owned and farmed meadows, known as Ings, stretch for some 12 miles along the river Derwent and the Pocklington Canal. The reserve offers crucial areas of sanctuary and freedom from disturbance to large numbers of breeding and wintering birds. Lying remarkably close, and partly within the City of York, its amazing wildlife spectacles can be enjoyed throughout the year around the Valley at key visitor locations including at North Duffield, Wheldrake and Thorganby.

Describing the Lower Derwent Valley as a unique historic landscape, Natural England's Senior National Nature Reserve Manager, Craig Ralston emphasised the international significance of the area and the privilege of having such an exceptional and easily accessible area for those living on its doorstep.

Craig said:

Not only does the Lower Derwent Valley support immense wildlife interest, but it stores and slows winter flood water, locks away carbon and provides agricultural crops and livelihoods. "With the extension of the NNR we are balancing the provision of sanctuary areas for some of our most threatened wildlife whilst also providing areas where the public can responsibly visit and enjoy the spectacles without disturbance. This really is a special day."

Further information

- World Wetlands Day is celebrated annually on 2 February. It aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and planet. It celebrates all the benefits wetlands bring – from biodiversity, flood storage and reduction, food and jobs, clean water and access to health environments for recreation
- An additional 143.5 hectares of land is now classed as a National Nature Reserve and is formed of 22 parcels of land situated in the parishes of Catton, Sutton upon Derwent, Wheldrake, Thornton, Allerthorpe, Bielby, Melbourne, Thorganby, Cottingwith, North Duffield, Ellerton and Bubwith in North Yorkshire and Humberside.
- The Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve is made up of a series of flood meadows, pastures and woodlands. The reserve supports a rich diversity of plant species and outstanding populations of breeding and wintering birds. In light of this, the reserve has been declared a [Special Protection Area](#) and a [Ramsar](#) site, and parts of the Lower

Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve are managed by the [Yorkshire Wildlife Trust](#) and the Carstairs Countryside Trust.

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