

GMS Flash Alert



Immigration Edition

2019-045 | March 15, 2019

Finland - U.K. Nationals' Right of Residence if No-Deal Brexit

In Finland, ratification is expected shortly of a special act to secure the continuance of residency for British citizens in the event of the U.K. leaving the European Union (EU) without an agreement ("no-deal Brexit").¹

The Finnish government has drafted this special act in order to extend the right of residence of British citizens in Finland until the end of 2020. The act prepares for the possibility of the U.K. leaving the EU at the end of March without an agreement.

British citizens are advised to register their right of residence in Finland before 29 March 2019.²

WHY THIS MATTERS

Following a no-deal Brexit, British citizens will no longer be EU citizens and thus can no longer claim residence in an EU or European Economic Area (EEA) member state on the basis of the EU treaty. As a result, they will be subject to rules and conditions similar to those afforded third-country nationals in Finland and the rest of the EU.

The act should help to clarify and assure the rights and status of British citizens living and working in Finland in the event of a no-deal Brexit (following 29 March 2019).

More Details on Planned Legislation and Rules for U.K. Citizens

Provisions for Residence, Implications for Social Security

Under this special act, those British citizens who are currently living in Finland and have registered their EU right of residence can continue to stay and live (and study) in Finland. They can also receive social security benefits – without any separate measures – during the period and under the conditions in which the act is valid.

Application of Special Act: Need to Be Registered

The special act will apply only to those who have their EU right of residence registered before the United Kingdom leaves the EU. Therefore, British citizens are strongly encouraged by the Finnish government to register their right of residence as soon as possible, but at the latest **by 29 March 2019**.

KPMG NOTE

The special act will apply only to those who have been registered by 29 March 2019; if they do not thus register, their right of residence in Finland will end on that day. In such case, starting from 30 March 2019, British citizens will be regarded as third-country nationals.

If the EU and the United Kingdom agree on visa-free travel, British citizens will be able to reside legally in Finland for 90 days.

Next Steps

Currently the act is waiting to be ratified by the president of Finland.

FOOTNOTES:

1 For additional information about the act (not available in English), *Hallituksen esitys HE 321 2018 vp*, [click here](#).

2 For additional information on registration of British citizens (published by the Finnish Immigration services, in English), [click here](#).

* * * *

Contact us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional* or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in Finland:



Jenny Blafield-Rautanen

Tel. +358 20 760 3575

Jenny.blafield-rautanen@kpmg.fi

Janika Tuomaala

Tel. + 358 20 767 2054

janika.tuomaala@kpmg.com

* Please note that KPMG LLP (U.S.) does not provide any immigration services. However, KPMG Law LLP in Canada can assist clients with U.S. immigration matters.

The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in Finland.

© 2019 KPMG Oy Ab, a Finnish limited liability company and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

www.kpmg.com

kpmg.com/socialmedia



© 2019 KPMG LLP, a Delaware limited liability partnership and the U.S. member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. NDPPS 530159

The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International.

The KPMG logo and name are trademarks of KPMG International. KPMG International is a Swiss cooperative that serves as a coordinating entity for a network of independent member firms. KPMG International provides no audit or other client services. Such services are provided solely by member firms in their respective geographic areas. KPMG International and its member firms are legally distinct and separate entities. They are not and nothing contained herein shall be construed to place these entities in the relationship of parents, subsidiaries, agents, partners, or joint venturers. No member firm has any authority (actual, apparent, implied or otherwise) to obligate or bind KPMG International or any member firm in any manner whatsoever. The information contained in herein is of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. Although we endeavor to provide accurate and timely information, there can be no guarantee that such information is accurate as of the date it is received or that it will continue to be accurate in the future. No one should act on such information without appropriate professional advice after a thorough examination of the particular situation.

Flash Alert is a GMS publication of KPMG LLP's Washington National Tax practice. To view this publication or recent prior issues online, please click [here](#). To learn more about our GMS practice, please visit us on the Internet: click [here](#) or go to <http://www.kpmg.com>.