



**SECURING
OUR BORDER
CONTROLLING
MIGRATION**

LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES COMMUNICATIONS PACK

December 2011



INTRODUCTION

This pack contains information about the UK Border Agency's contribution to the delivery of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Agency is a host government directorate of the Games. The following information has been put together to assist partners who may wish to include content relating to the UK Border Agency in communications and publications or on websites.

The UK Border Agency has its own press office for media enquiries from national, international and trade media. Please note that our press officers cannot answer enquiries regarding individual applications to live or work in the UK. The press office can be contacted on 020 7035 3535.

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KEY MESSAGES IN BRIEF

This section sets out the UK Border Agency's key high level messages for members of the public, Games family Members and members of the media. Detailed versions of these messages can be found below or by clicking on the 'more detail' tab at the bottom of each section.

Please feel free to use these messages on your websites and in your publications. For the latest information you can also visit the UK Border Agency's [London 2012 pages](#)

OUR KEY MESSAGE:

- The UK Border Agency is helping to make the London 2012 Games safe and secure. We will maintain a strong border and protect the public during the Games

KEY MESSAGES FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND SPECTATORS:

- All visitors to the United Kingdom, including those wishing to attend the Games as spectators or participants, are required to comply with Immigration Rules.
- Foreign nationals travelling to the UK from [visa countries](#) to watch the Games will be required to be in possession of a valid visa, and to leave at the end of their authorised stay.
- We are expecting many visa applications leading up to the Games and whilst we are committed to continuing to process all UK visit visa applications within 15 working days, we strongly recommend that anyone wishing to visit London for the Olympics, should apply for their visa from 1 January 2012.
- Certain goods are restricted or banned completely from entering the UK, even those travelling from within the European Union. These include firearms, offensive weapons, endangered species (and items made from them), and some types of food and plants.
- Spectators / ticket holders travelling into Heathrow airport should not use the Olympic lanes. These lanes are for athletes, coaches, officials and accredited media and have been designed to minimise delays for other passengers.
- For the latest information why not visit the UK Border Agency's [London 2012 pages](#)

KEY MESSAGES FOR GAMES FAMILY MEMBERS (ATHLETES, COACHES, OFFICIALS AND ACCREDITED MEDIA):

- Individuals planning to officially participate in the Games will need to apply to be accredited by London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). The UK Border Agency, on behalf of the Home Office will process background checks on all those accredited
- Visa national Games Family Members, aside from those accredited in accreditation category codes OCOG, S and X, will be able to use the Olympic/ Paralympic Identity Accreditation Card as a visa waiver after 30 March 2012, providing they present the card with a valid travel document and meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules
- Games Family members who would normally require a visa to enter the UK will need to provide biometric information before entering the UK unless they have already done so.
- The UK Border Agency is offering an exclusive free biometric collection service to potential Games Family Members (GFMs) who don't hold a visa to enter the UK, but would normally require one. This biometric service means that we can collect your information at your convenience before you arrive in the UK, this will mean one less process when you arrive in the UK to take part in the Games – helping to speed up your entry.

- There are specific customs rules for Games Family Members which restrict what can be brought into the UK. Games Family Members should be clear on these rules before travelling to the UK.
- Games Family Members will have access to dedicated lanes at Heathrow, which is the designated airport for the Games.
- For the latest information why not visit the UK Border Agency's [London 2012 pages](#)

KEY MESSAGES FOR NON ACCREDITED MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA:

- Journalists, broadcasters or crew members from outside the European Economic Area, who have not been accredited, will need a visa to come and work in the UK. It is important to apply for your visa in good time for your application to be considered. You can apply from 1 January 2012.
- The UK Border Agency has produced guidance for media professionals who want to come to the UK for the Games. You can find this guidance in the UK Border Agency website in the Media section.
- For the latest information why not visit the UK Border Agency's [London 2012 pages](#)

RESOURCES, DOWNLOADS AND STOCK IMAGES

This section provides links to relevant content, useful documents to download and a library of stock images. You are welcome to use all of these resources in your publications.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UK Border Agency website

This page describes the UK Border Agency's work connected to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and explains what you need to do if you want to come to the UK for the Games

Do you need a visa? Online tool

This questionnaire will help to decide whether you need to obtain a visa before you travel to the UK. It also contains guidance on the type of visa that you might need. The questionnaire is for all foreign nationals who want to come to or transit the UK. ('Transit' means to pass through the UK on your way to another country without staying here.)

Visiting the UK

This section describes the different categories of visitor to the UK, and helps you to choose which category is the most suitable for you. It also explains what you are allowed to do while you are in the UK as a visitor.

DOWNLOADS

Your stay in the UK Guide

The guide explains the key features of a visa and what visa holders can do while they are in the UK. It also contains information about duty-free limits, banned foods and other restricted goods

Customs and Freight manual

LOCOG has published a customs and freight forwarding guide for Games athletes, coaches, officials and accredited media bringing goods into the UK for London 2012. The guide covers customs procedures for importing and re-exporting goods which will be used during the Games period. It also explains the special customs procedures for importing restricted goods (including firearms, medicines, food and live animals) into the UK

STOCK IMAGES

The UK Border Agency has a library of stock footage which you may use in your publications. For high resolution versions of any of the images below, or if you require any additional stock images relating to the UK Border Agency's work, please contact Jenny Sheen, quoting the reference number of the image you would like to use.



DSC0258a.jpg



72210664_7.jpg



pha271000048_7.jpg



Home_Still_life_053.jpg



lon_city_0114.jpg



_DSC02703-Edit.jpg



Stanstead.March2007.pic16.jpg



_DSC1880.jpg



Stanstead.March2007.pic24.jpg



heathrow_0138.jpg



heathrow_0608.jpg



Stansted.13.BIA.jpg

SOCIAL MEDIA

The UK Border Agency is working towards using existing social media channels to carry messages about the Games. These channels will be used more frequently as we approach Games time.

MORE INFORMATION

Applying for a visa

If you are coming to the UK to watch the Games, you may need to get a visa before you travel. To find out whether you need a visa, and how to apply for one, see the [Visiting the UK](#) section of the UK Border Agency website. You can apply for a visa from 1 January 2012.

If you are coming to take part in the Games, as an accredited Games Family Member you should visit the UK Border Agency website to see whether you will need to apply for a visa. Certain Games Family Member accreditation cards will act as visa waivers between 30 March and 9 November 2012.

Arriving at the border

When you arrive at the UK border, whether it is by air, rail or boat, please make sure that you have all of your documents ready to present to an immigration officer, including a completed landing card if appropriate.

If you are travelling into Heathrow airport during Games time you may notice that we have set up dedicated Olympic lanes for Games family members (athletes, coaches, officials and accredited media). The dedicated lanes will help to ensure that Games family members such as athletes can get to the venues with minimum delay. Games spectators and other visitors should pass through the border in the normal way or, if you are a UK or EU/EEA citizens with a 'chipped' passport, using the [e-Passport gates](#).

Bringing items into the UK

Normal rules will apply on what spectators and non-accredited media can and cannot bring into the UK. You can find out more in our [Customs and travel information](#) section.

LOCOG has published a customs and freight forwarding guide for Games athletes, coaches, officials and accredited media bringing goods into the UK for London 2012. The guide covers

customs procedures for importing and re-exporting goods which will be used during the Games period. It also explains the special customs procedures for importing restricted goods (including firearms, medicines, food and live animals) into the UK. You can download the guide from the [London 2012 website](#).

Biometric information

Athletes, coaches, officials and accredited media for the 2012 Games (also known as 'Games family members') are selectively accredited by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG).

All Games family members coming to the Games who normally require a visa to enter the UK, will be required to provide biometric data either before travel, or at the UK border. Enrolling your biometric information includes taking a scan of your fingerprints and a photograph of your face.

During Games time we are expecting around 25,000 Olympic and Paralympic Games family members to come to the UK, in addition to tourists and spectators. You can save time at the UK border by providing your biometrics before you travel to the UK. You can find out more by visiting the [biometric information](#) section of the UK Border Agency website.

Accreditation

Athletes, coaches, officials and accredited media for the 2012 Games (also known as 'Games family members') are selectively accredited by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). As part of the accreditation process, the UK Border Agency will be running security checks on all applicants. Your accreditation card will allow you to access Olympic and Paralympic venues. In the majority of cases, an accreditation card will act as a visa waiver. This means that if you are entering the UK between 30 March and 8 November you will not need to get a visa. See the [Olympic and Paralympic Games family member visitors](#) section.

Non accredited media

If you are a journalist, broadcaster or crew member from outside the European Economic Area, and you have not been accredited, you will need a visa to come and work in the UK. It is important to apply for your visa in good time for your application to be considered. You can apply from 1 January 2012.

We have produced guidance for media professionals who want to come to the UK for the Games. You can find this guidance in the [media section of the UK Border Agency website](#).

Leaving the UK

If you are granted permission to enter or stay in the UK you must leave by the date stamped in your passport.

If you are granted permission to enter or stay in the UK as an Olympic/Paralympic Games family member visitor or Olympic/Paralympic Games family member child visitor, you must leave the UK by the date stamped in your passport. If you apply for permission to enter or stay in the UK between 30 March 2012 and 8 May 2012 and meet the requirements of the UK Immigration Rules you will be granted permission to enter and stay in the UK for 6 months. If you apply on 9 May or afterwards you will be granted permission to enter and stay in the UK until 8 November 2012. If you enter the UK using a visa you must comply with the terms of the visa and leave the UK before the visa expires.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- For more information about this pack or to request additional images please contact Jenny Sheen on 0207 035 1047 or at Jennifer.sheen3@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
- For press enquiries please contact the UK Border Agency's press office on 020 7035 3535.

