

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2022



United Kingdom

UK Border Force strike announced from 23 to 31 December 2022

Executive summary

On 7 December 2022, the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union [announced](#) that the UK Border Force will go on strike in two separate periods between 23 to 31 December 2022 at multiple airports in the UK. Should the strike proceed, inbound travelers can expect severe delays upon arrival in the UK during the busy Christmas season. Military officers are being offered fast-track training to cover in place of UK Border Staff during this period.

Key developments

The strike is expected to impact travelers seeking to enter the UK via Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, Gatwick, Heathrow (Terminals 2, 3, 4 and 5) and Manchester airports as well as the port of Newhaven. Delays are also expected at other ports of entry where Border Force staff are not striking as passengers attempt to enter the UK via these ports.

Individuals seeking to enter the UK during the anticipated strike period may check their flight schedule prior to travel to assess any impacts on their trips. Travelers who fulfill certain criteria can use [eGates](#) for quicker entry. However, longer queues are also expected at the eGates.

While the strike is currently expected to go forward, those impacted should continue to monitor developments and changes to planned action.

Impact on employers

Employers may wish to support employees with precautionary steps to ensure that any sponsored employees entering the UK during the strike period are able to point to acceptable evidence of their basis for entering the UK (e.g., Biometric Residence Permits, printouts of UKVI approval letters for individuals with Digital Status, application certificates). This may assist with avoiding any delays or confusion for officers who may be asked to cover border duties during this period.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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