

Global Immigration alert

July 2026

The better the question. The better the answer.
The better the world works.

United Kingdom

UK-Switzerland Free Trade Agreement expands workforce mobility

Executive summary

On 13 July 2026, the UK government announced the conclusion of a new UK-Switzerland Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which contains provisions that facilitate the movement of business travelers and certain employees between the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

The agreement is not yet in force and remains subject to the relevant parliamentary scrutiny, approval and implementation processes in both countries.

Key developments

Key developments include:

- **Short-term business travel:** Under the agreement, the UK government has announced that UK services professionals will be able to undertake visa-free travel to Switzerland for up to 90 days per year. The measure is intended to support cross-border business activities and the provision of services in Switzerland.
- **Intra-company transfers:** The agreement also includes provisions that would allow UK businesses to transfer personnel to Switzerland for assignments of up to five years. According to the UK government, these assignments would not be subject to certain economic needs tests that may currently apply in some circumstances. These provisions are expected to provide greater flexibility for organizations deploying personnel to Switzerland in connection with business operations, service delivery and project-based work.
- **Access to Swiss airport e-gates:** Separately from the FTA, the United Kingdom and Switzerland have agreed on measures that will allow UK nationals to use Swiss airport e-gates in the future. The UK government has stated that this will help business travelers, workers and tourists move more efficiently through passport control when entering Switzerland.

Details regarding commencement dates and operational guidance of the FTA are expected to be released following parliamentary scrutiny and ratification.

Impact on employers

Organizations with existing operations in Switzerland, or those planning to expand their presence in the country, may wish to:

- Assess whether the proposed visa-free business travel provisions could support short-term assignments, client meetings and other cross-border business activities.
- Review current and future workforce mobility strategies to determine whether the intra-company transfer provisions could facilitate longer-term employee deployments to Switzerland.
- Monitor implementation timelines and further guidance, as the agreement has not yet entered into force.
- Evaluate whether existing Swiss workforce deployment models may benefit from the new mobility arrangements once they become operational.

Key steps

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

EY is building a better working world by creating new value for clients, people, society and the planet, while building trust in capital markets.

Enabled by data, AI and advanced technology, EY teams help clients shape the future with confidence and develop answers for the most pressing issues of today and tomorrow.

EY teams work across a full spectrum of services in assurance, consulting, tax, strategy and transactions. Fueled by sector insights, a globally connected, multi-disciplinary network and diverse ecosystem partners, EY teams can provide services in more than 150 countries and territories.

All in to shape the future with confidence.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via ey.com/privacy. EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

© 2026 EYGM Limited.
All Rights Reserved.

SCORE 113249-26-GBL

2101-3682263
ED None

This material has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as accounting, tax, legal or other professional advice. Please refer to your advisors for specific advice.

ey.com

Seema Farazi, Partner
Global Immigration
+ 44 207 951 7122
seema.farazi@uk.ey.com

Denise Isaacs, Partner
Global Immigration
+44 207 980 9244
disaacs@uk.ey.com

Lisa Amos, Partner
Global Immigration
+ 44 207 197 0817
lisa.amos@uk.ey.com

Anthony Michael, Partner
Global Immigration
44 207 760 9413
anthony.michael@uk.ey.com

Nikita Potdar, Director
Global Immigration
+44 20 7760 8208
nikita.potdar@uk.ey.com

Kellie Sullivan, Director
Global Immigration
+ 44 207 806 9707
kellie.sullivan1@uk.ey.com

Caitlin Graham, Director
Global Immigration
+44 207 760 9332
cgraham2@uk.ey.com

Vicky Cregan, Director
Global Immigration
+44 20 7951 1897
vcregan@uk.ey.com