

Mr Paul Johnson,
British Ambassador to Ireland,
United Kingdom Embassy in Ireland,
29 Merrion Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4.

12.08.2022

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I am writing as chair of the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) of Dublin City Council. Our members wish to strongly express their concern over proposed changes announced by the British Government regarding the introduction of electronic travel authorisation (ETA). It appears that ETA will be needed for anyone who is not a British or Irish citizen, who does not need a visa for short stays, who wants to enter the UK, from 2023. The change will have a significant impact on those without a British or Irish passport, including EU citizens settled in the Republic of Ireland, particularly those wishing to travel to or through Northern Ireland. Additionally, implementing this change in 2023 as opposed to the scheduled 2024 date leaves less time to consider workable solutions.

Our members, with a remit to support economic development and enterprise in the Dublin city area, see this as a regressive step in economic relations between the Republic Of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the wider United Kingdom. This would create a layer of bureaucracy that doesn't exist currently for people who have the right to be in Ireland (the Republic). While an appreciation for the Brexit process is respected by our members, implementing travel restrictions and travel authorisation on the Island of Ireland, serves to hamper both enterprise and the day to day lives of Irish residents and visitors alike. Many tourists travel from Dublin to Donegal and under these proposals will now be required to have an ETA in place to take the A5 road which brings them through Northern Ireland.

Dublin City Council are presently supporting the development of an Economic Corridor with Councils and Universities between Dublin & Belfast. The certainty of free movement and unhampered trade routes will be central to the work of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor and its ambition to increase economic activity and improve the quality of life for all those living along the corridor.

The committee request that the home office consider the content of this letter and explore at a minimum alternative solutions for those ordinarily resident in the Republic of Ireland. I would welcome your response to the content of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in blue ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Claire O'Connor".

Cllr. Claire O'Connor
Chair of Dublin City Council's Economic & Enterprise SPC