



British Consulate  
Alicante

# British Consulate Newsletter

## January 2022



Dear all,

Let me start by wishing you all a very Happy New Year! This is the first time that I have been given the task of producing this newsletter and I know that I have some very large shoes to fill.

Firstly, a huge thank you to you all for all your hard work and dedication assisting our most vulnerable. COVID along with EU exit continue to present us with new challenges, but here in Alicante we know we are extremely lucky to have such compassionate, professional and dedicated groups that we can always rely on in the toughest of circumstances to assist British Nationals.

### **Congratulations**

I am delighted to be able to announce that all of this effort has been recognised with Pamela Twissell-Cross receiving a well-deserved MBE in the New Year's honours list.



### **New Charity Launch**

January saw the launch of a new charity in our Consular district, the Association of the Movers and Shakers (AMAS), which was formerly known as the Huntington's Disease Association.

Sarah-Jane Morris was able to attend the event and say a few words. After five years of supporting

sufferers of Huntington's Disease and raising awareness locally, they can now support sufferers of a wider range of neurological diseases including Ataxia, Motor Neurone Disease, Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease.



### **Winding down of UK Nationals Support Fund organisations**

Babelia and IOM, the organisations that had been supporting British Nationals with residency applications, will finish their work at the end of March. For this reason, they are no longer accepting new cases. They continue to have lots of information and guides on their websites here:

<https://asociacionbabelia.org/en/uk-nationals/>

<https://spain.iom.int/es/uk-nationals-support-fund-program>

We also have useful information on TIE exchanges and first time residency applications on our website here:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/residency-requirements-in-spain](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/residency-requirements-in-spain)



British Consulate  
Alicante

# British Consulate Newsletter

## January 2022

### **Top Ten Reasons for Getting a TIE Card**

Here's a quick reminder of why it's a great idea to switch your current green residency document for the TIE card:



- 1) It explicitly recognises your rights under the Withdrawal Agreement
- 2) It's more durable
- 3) It's easily recognisable – e.g. at border crossings – as it follows the model established at European level
- 4) The process of exchanging your green certificate is straightforward and cheap (12€) (<https://www.lamoncloa.gob.es/ang/en/brexit/Documents/GUIDE%20BREXIT%20eng.pdf>)
- 5) It is clear evidence of your immigration status
- 6) It will make some day-to-day administrative processes easier (e.g. with your bank)
- 7) It should help to ensure you don't get your passport stamped incorrectly
- 8) It contains biometric information, so is less easy to fake
- 9) There are currently more resources available within the Policía Nacional to facilitate the exchange so it's easy to get an appointment in Alicante
- 10) It can fit easily into your wallet – especially for those who have the older A4 green certificate

***The Spanish authorities recommend British nationals make the exchange even though it is not mandatory – please encourage your friends and family to make an appointment if they haven't already done so.***

### **Useful Links to Information about COVID**

As we are all aware, information about COVID and restrictions are constantly changing so please see the below links for the most up to date official information:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19)

#### **Comunidad Valenciana**

<https://coronavirus.san.gva.es/>

#### **Murcia**

[www.murciasalud.es/coronavirus](http://www.murciasalud.es/coronavirus)

#### **Spain Travel Advice**

[www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/spain)





British Consulate  
Alicante

# British Consulate Newsletter

## January 2022

### **Information for UK Driving Licence Holders living in Spain**

At the end of last year, the Spanish Government extended the grace period during which you are able to drive in Spain using a valid UK licence to 28 February 2022. We know, however, that the end of February is not far off and many of you have concerns about what happens then.



The Embassy remains fully committed to reaching a long-term agreement with Spain, so that residents can exchange their UK driving licences without taking a test. Negotiations are ongoing and of course, we cannot provide any guarantees, so it is important that – if it is imperative for you to drive – you consider all your options, which may include looking into taking a driving test now. As soon as there is any news, we will update our [www.gov.uk/livinginspain](http://www.gov.uk/livinginspain) page so make sure you are signed up for email alerts.

### **Please feel free to contact us**

Many of us are now back in the office in Alicante. Here's a quick reminder of how you can contact us:



-Email or call one of the Vice Consuls or Consular Officers for a chat or advice.

-Email or call the Specialist Social Work Adviser for a chat or advice.

-Ask the vulnerable person to self-refer:

- [www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-alicante](http://www.gov.uk/contact-consulate-alicante)
- Tel: 965 21 60 22

The vulnerable person can ask for an appointment to speak to a consular officer in person if needed

### **Especially refer to us when:**

- The person you are helping wants to return to the UK but does not have funds or anywhere to go
- The person you are helping needs to access social services in Spain but local authorities are not responding

### **News to share?**

I will aim to send a newsletter every six months, with other AdHoc updates if anything urgent comes up. I'm very happy to include any information or updates you may have about your organisations so please do get in touch if there is anything you would like me to share.





British Consulate  
Alicante

# British Consulate Newsletter

## January 2022

**Remember to keep these useful links to hand:**

[www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-in-spain)

[www.facebook.com/BritsInSpain](https://www.facebook.com/BritsInSpain)

In addition, for all issues relating to British nationals accessing healthcare in Spain, remember you can email:

[healthcare.spain@fco.gov.uk](mailto:healthcare.spain@fco.gov.uk)

With best wishes,

The British Consulate Team, Alicante