



Northern Ireland Office

**Secretary of State
for Northern Ireland**

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1 2HQ

Erskine House
20-32 Chichester St
Belfast
BT1 4GF

E: correspondence@nio.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/nio
Follow us on Twitter @NIOgov

Simon Hoare MP

Chair

Northern Ireland Affairs Committee

House of Commons

London, SW1A 0AA

3 May 2022

Dear Simon,

During my evidence session with the Committee on 28th March, I confirmed that I would write to provide further information on the proposed Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme and its interaction with insurance policies.

The ETA scheme will apply to those passengers visiting the UK or transiting the UK who do not currently need a visa for short stays or do not have an immigration status prior to travelling. It will not apply to British or Irish citizens, or those who can already hold an immigration status. This means those with a form of existing immigration status will not be required to additionally obtain an ETA, such as those using a Frontier Worker permit.

The Government intends for ETAs to be quick and easy to apply for and to be valid for multiple journeys over an extended period, thereby reducing the need for a passenger to seek repeated authorisation. They should not be a deterrent for an individual to either travel or to seek appropriate insurance when doing so, as is the case with similar schemes operating internationally.

Having the correct insurance cover for cross-border journeys is, of course, a matter for individuals, and similarly the comprehensiveness of the policies offered and underwritten by insurance companies would be a matter for them. Just as is the case now, all those entering the UK will have to continue to meet the requirements of the UK's immigration framework and that principle will remain.

The Government intends to work with a wide range of stakeholders in ensuring any ETA requirement is communicated effectively through targeted messaging and a variety of channels, and that it is fully understood including by those in the travel and tourism sector.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandon Lewis', enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

**THE RT HON BRANDON LEWIS CBE MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**