

Primary evidence

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Primary evidence is where the issuing source of the evidence confirmed the applicant's identity through an identity checking process.

The issuing source is Government and has strong registration procedures with robust checking processes contained within the face-to-face application. Documents contain many developed security features, which make them more difficult to forge or counterfeit.

The Primary documents listed below must be current where necessary.

As an exception to the CSIV, Universal Credit claimants can use expired documents however the document must show a true likeness of the claimant.

- a passport showing that the holder, or a person named in the passport as the child of the holder
- a full or provisional UK photo driving licence
- a full or provisional Ukraine photo driving licence
- any national identity card, except those issued under the UK ID Card Scheme
- a residence permit, registration certificate or document certifying or indicating permanent residence issued by the Home Office or the United Kingdom Border Agency to a national of a European Economic Area country or Switzerland.
- a permanent residence card issued by the Home Office or the Border and Immigration Agency to the family member of a national of a European Economic Area country or Switzerland
- a Biometric Residence Permit issued by the United Kingdom Border Agency to the holder which indicates that the person named in it is allowed to stay indefinitely in the United Kingdom or has no time limit on their stay in the United Kingdom. (Please note that in the case of a refugee who has no other forms of ID, the Biometric Residence Permit can be accepted as sole evidence of identity)
- ARC (Application Registration Card) and Home Office Decision Grant Letter. These documents can be used together if the information is the same and confirmed by the Home Office to verify ID when a refugee has not received a Biometric Residence Permit. One without the other cannot be accepted
- a passport or other travel document endorsed to show that the holder is exempt from immigration control, is allowed to stay indefinitely in the United Kingdom, has the right of abode in the United Kingdom, or has no time limit on their stay in the United Kingdom.
- Young Scot card showing a PASS hologram

- Citizen card
- an Immigration Status Document issued by the Home Office or the United Kingdom Border Agency to the holder with an endorsement indicating that the person named in it is allowed to stay indefinitely in the United Kingdom or has no time limit on their stay in the United Kingdom
- a certificate of registration or naturalization as a British citizen, which indicates the holder is entitled to take up employment in the United Kingdom.
- Northern Ireland claimants in Northern Ireland only can use their Electoral ID card

Additionally, in the absence of the above information, a claimant can use their bank card as a Primary evidence of identification. This bank card must show the claimants name, sort code and account number or be supported by a recent bank statement (sort code and account number can be verified using their banking app). This should correspond with the details the claimant has declared on their claim.

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