Proof of Identity

Make sure you have it!

What is a proof of Identity?

A proof of identity, or ID, is a document which confirms an individual's personal details such as their name and date of birth.

There are different forms of ID such as:

- A birth certificate
- A passport
- CitizenCard
- Post Office PASS Card
- Driving license

Why is proof of identity important?

Proof of ID is important because it verifies a person's identity and makes sure the correct people are accessing the right information.

You need proof of ID to access services such as benefits, opening and accessing a bank account and buying age-restricted items such as alcohol and cigarettes.

You will also need a proof of ID to vote in any government elections.

How can I get a proof of ID?

It depends which one you need. If you need a passport or CitizenCard, you need to apply for these online.

If you need a birth certificate, you will need to register on the General Register Office (GRO) website to request a copy of it.
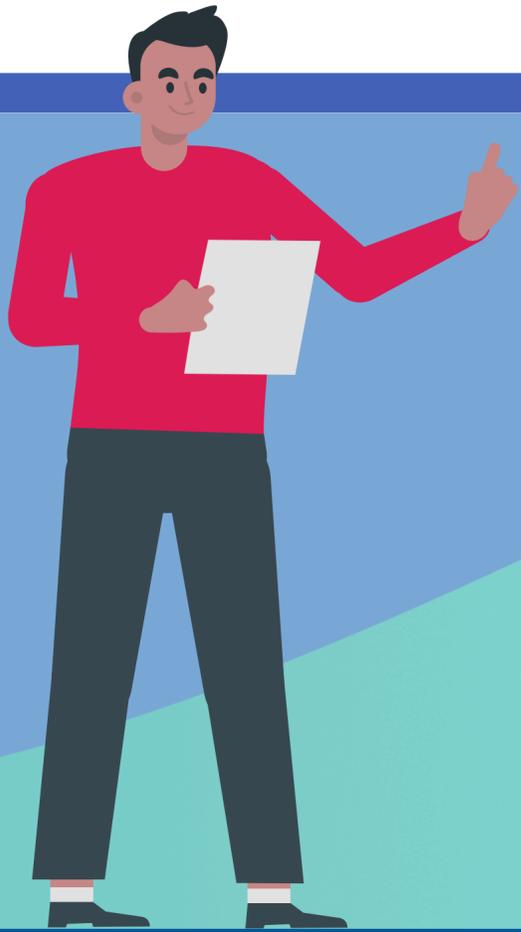
You can also access a copy of an adoption, marriage, civil partnership or death certificate on this website.

Checking my ID

It's important that all the information on your proof of ID is correct and up to date. Use this checklist to help you review all the information:

Many places will not accept a proof of ID which has expired, or is in poor condition e.g. water damaged.

If your ID has expired, or will expire soon, you may want to consider renewing it.

- [ ] My ID is in good condition and I can clearly read all the information.

- [ ] My full name is present, including any middle names. The spelling of my name is correct.

- [ ] My date of birth is correct.

- [ ] My full address is present. The spelling of my address is correct.

- [ ] My ID is in-date and has not expired.

Helpful resources

Citizens Advice
www.citizensadvice.org.uk

CitizenCard
www.citizencard.com

Post Office PASS Card
www.postoffice.co.uk/identity/pass-card

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