

How UK singers can get a second British passport

Why do you need a second British passport?

Following Brexit, the requirement for visas has increased. Visa processes can be lengthy for some countries and can involve your passport having to be submitted to the foreign embassy for some time. This makes it impossible to travel abroad during this period and can result in you losing out on work. You may not envisage any such problems in your diary at present, but when such a problem arises it may be too late to arrange a second passport in time; the process outlined below can take a couple of months to complete. For the sake of around a hundred pounds now, you can safeguard against the risk of losing out on a job that could be worth thousands in the future.

Who can apply?

Information on obtaining a second British passport is difficult to find. Her Majesty's Passport Office has no official method of application and does not advertise the fact that you can indeed hold two passports.

Here are some examples of reasons why you may need to apply for a second passport:

- You are a very frequent traveller and need to send one passport off for visa applications whilst still travelling with a passport in hand;
- You have a passport that contains stamps or visas that would prevent you from visiting certain countries (e.g. you have a passport with Israeli stamps but need to visit Lebanon);
- You have no visa pages left in one passport but need to keep it due to the active visas it contains required for upcoming travels.

How to apply

Due to the nuances of applying for a second British passport, a postal application is simpler.

1. Application form

First, collect a paper passport application form from the post office. Fill this out in full, and if this is your first application for a second passport, mark the box that states "Your First British Passport" — even though it isn't.

If this is a replacement second passport, mark the "replacement" box.

In Section 8 "More information" box, write "This application is in respect of a second British passport for business reasons. Do not cancel my existing passport".

The form will need to be countersigned.

Fill in rest of the form like normal, paying careful attention to the guidance provided with the form.

2. Supporting documentation

You will need to include the following with your application:

- A letter-headed note from your agent setting out the business reasons for needing a second passport, dated within four weeks of the application. See below for a draft letter.
- Your existing passport. However, often this is not feasible, and you can send a colour photocopy of every single page of your existing passport (including the front and back cover). You should include a note stating that this has been included instead of the full passport because you need it for current travel. You should also include a photocopy of your birth certificate.
- New photos countersigned on the back.

3. The letter

The following is an example of a letter that would be acceptable to the Passport Office. The letter should be signed by a senior staff member from the agency (e.g. Director), and the original signed letter should be sent with the application.

<p><i>[Headed notepaper of agency]</i></p> <p><i>Her Majesty's Passport Office London SW1V 1PN</i></p> <p><i>[date]</i></p> <p><i>Second Passport Application</i></p> <p><i>This is to confirm that [name] has been represented by this company as an international opera singer for [number] years. He has been on our roster of artists since [date].</i></p> <p><i>[Name] is a frequent traveller and therefore needs a second passport as we anticipate several trips over the coming years. Several countries that he will be travelling to will require visas and therefore we would request a second passport so he may obtain these visas while he travels.</i></p> <p><i>[Name] will be expected to travel to [adapt as appropriate] the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Japan, Sweden and Germany over the next few years.</i></p> <p><i>We confirm that [he/she] will return [his/her] normal domicile at [home address] to resume employment with this company after this trip. Please assist [him/her] in obtaining a second passport allowing her to travel.</i></p> <p><i>If you require any further information with regards to [his/her] employment with this company, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.</i></p> <p><i>Yours sincerely,</i></p> <p><i>[Name] [Title]</i></p>
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4. Fee

Remember to include the correct fee with your application. Passport fees vary, but you can check the latest at <https://www.gov.uk/passport-fees>

5. Phone call

You may receive a phone call from the Passport Office after a couple of weeks asking about the application, and why you have sent in photocopies of documents.

Renewals when you have two British passports

When you renew either of your two British passports, you may have to submit another letter explaining why you need two passports. You should renew as normal and then respond accordingly if you receive a letter from the Passport Office requesting supporting documentation.