

Freedom of Information request 2712/2014

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Information request

Can you tell what information does a EU national need to provide before they are issued with a NI number eg

Do they need to complete a registration form <https://www.gov.uk/eea-registration-certificate>

How long do they need to live in the UK before they can be issued with a NI number?

What information does the UK ask of EU nationals before they provide them with a NI number

What fines are issued to EU nationals who fail to register before they start work or claim any benefits within the UK after a period of time.

DWP response

1) Can you tell me what information does an EU national need to provide before they are issued with a National Insurance number?

Anyone making an application for a National Insurance number must be able to prove:

- Their identity, and;
- That they have a legal right to work in the UK for employment related applications.

EU nationals are required to produce their passport and / or national identity card to prove their identity and right to work.

2) Do they need to complete a registration form <https://www.gov.uk/eea-registration-certificate>

EU nationals do not need to apply for a registration certificate.

3) How long do they need to live in the UK before they can be issued with a NI number?

There is no specified time that EU nationals need to live in the UK before they can be issued with a National Insurance number, however before a National Insurance Number can be issued the individual must be able to satisfy the legislative criteria for obtaining a National Insurance number. They must be either:

- working, about to start work or actively seeking employment, or
- entitled to claim benefit, or
- be entitled to and wish to pay voluntary Class 3 National Insurance Contributions
- be referred by student loan company.

4) What information does the UK ask of EU nationals before they provide them with a NI number?

EU nationals are asked to provide a range of information including:

- Personal details - name, date of birth, gender, details of marriage / civil partnership as well as information relating to a spouse / partner, or ex-spouse / ex-partner.
- Address in the UK (and a correspondence address if different), different UK addresses in the last two years including details of current and previous stays in the UK (of more than 30 days).
- UK landline and mobile telephone numbers.
- Where they were born; town, county and country, last address in the last EU country they were last resident.
- Nationality.
- Social security reference number in their country of nationality.
- Employment details / details of self-employment.

5. What fines are issued to EU nationals who fail to register before they start work or claim any benefits within the UK after a period of time?

No fines are issued to EU nationals who fail to apply for a National Insurance number before they start work; however, there are various rules and regulations in place to ensure HMRC still receives the correct amount in tax. An individual can start work without a National Insurance number, however must apply for a number upon starting work.

If an individual makes a claim to benefit without a National Insurance number and is found to be entitled to benefit, a National Insurance number application will be made for them as part of the benefit process.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me quoting the reference number above.