Brexit: the business migration impact

If the UK votes to leave the European Union on 23 June 2016, non-British UK residents and business visitors from the EU, the European Economic Area or Switzerland are likely to be affected.

The rules are complicated and may well change depending on exactly what is negotiated in terms of Britain’s exit from the EU if the vote is to ‘Leave’. KPMG has developed a flow chart to show how different types of people might be affected.

How long someone’s been here makes a difference – more than five years and there’s an option to apply for a card certifying permanent residence which proves a right to live in the UK indefinitely. Those with more than six years might be eligible to apply for British Citizenship.

Those with less than five years – be they business travellers, students, self-employed people or entrepreneurs - may need visas or another form of authorisation to remain in the UK.

So how might you, your friends, your colleagues or your family members be affected?

Our flow chart can help guide you.

How would Brexit impact you?

A national referendum will take place in the UK on 23 June 2016 to determine whether the UK will leave or remain in the EU. If the UK votes to leave, the EU is required to give two years’ notice of its intention to do so, during which time there will be negotiations to determine the details surrounding the exit.

We have therefore assumed that during the two-year period following the UK’s formal notice to leave the EU, the current immigration rules would remain in force, however this is not guaranteed.

How would Brexit impact you?

Remember this is a complex area and you should obtain advice on your specific situation.

Work authorisation in the context of this flow chart refers to the required documentation to evidence a right to work in the UK. This is typically obtained by way of an application to UK Visas and Immigration.

You may be eligible to become a British Citizen. Please contact KPMG for assistance with obtaining a card certifying permanent residence.

To continue working in the UK, you will need to ensure that you have the appropriate work authorisation for the type of work you will be undertaking. This may involve the filing of an application with the Home Office for permission to work in the UK. Please contact KPMG if you would like to determine whether you and/or your dependant(s) require work authorisation and your eligibility to work for this reason.

Although it appears that you are not working in the UK, you may be required to obtain a visa depending on the circumstances surrounding your stay (e.g. you may be a tourist). Please contact KPMG for an assessment to determine whether you and/or your dependant(s) will require a visa in order to remain in the UK.

If you are an entrepreneur or investor in the UK, you may be required to apply for a non-immigration visa to enable you to remain in the UK to undertake your entrepreneurial and/or investment activities. The evidential requirements associated with these applications are very specific and we would strongly advise contacting KPMG before you make your application. We can also advise on the immigration considerations regarding any dependant(s) you may have.