ONLINE APPLICATION FORM AND THE PASSPORT RETURN SERVICE

The Home Office have changed the new ‘online’ application form for the Registration Certificate and the Permanent Residence application forms for EU/EEA citizens. The online form is much easier to complete than paper forms and also allows you to take advantage of using the ‘Passport Return Service’, which allows copies of your passport to be sent to the Home Office instead of the original passport.

The online application process
The online form for the Registration Certificate can be found at:
https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/eea-qp

The online form for the Permanent Residence can be found at:
https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/eea-pr

These are online versions of the paper EEA(QP) and EEA(PR) forms.

The online forms can only be used if:
- You are a EU/EEA or Swiss national;
- You are a family member of a EU/EEA or Swiss national applying at the same time as the main applicant;
- You are not applying as a family member separately to a qualified person;
- You are not applying as a student or self-sufficient person and you are either reliant on a family member to provide your income, or are financially responsible for other family members.

Once you have submitted the form on-line and paid the fee you will then print the form and post to UKVI along with the original supporting documents.

A 20 minute video walk through of what the permanent residence application service looks like can be viewed here, and might be found helpful:

https://www.freemovement.org.uk/online-eea-permanent-residence-european-passport-return-service-now-available/

The European Passport Return Service
The Home Office has also introduced a ‘Passport Return Service’ for EEA and Swiss nationals applying using the EEA(QP) or EEA(PR) application forms, but only where the application is being made on-line:
This means that instead of sending your passport with the application and being without it for six months you instead arrange an appointment with the Oxfordshire Country Register Office, who will copy your passport and send the copy to the Home Office. This then allows you to retain your passport and are not required to send it in with the other supporting documents.

This service means that you can apply on-line for either the Registration Certificate or the Document Certifying Permanent Residence without having to submit either your passport or your ID card.

More information on the European Passport Return Service is available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/european-passport-return-service

The service is provided in Oxfordshire County Council’s Registry Office for a fee of £10:

Oxfordshire Register Office
1 Tidmarsh Lane
Oxford OX1 1NS
Phone: 0845 129 5900 (select option 4)
Email: registeroffice@oxfordshire.gov.uk