

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Government of the Sultanate of Oman

AND

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

On Mutual Exemption for the Holders of Diplomatic and Special Passports

from Visa Requirement

The Government of the Sultanate of Oman, hereinafter referred to as the "Government of the Sultanate of Oman", and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, hereinafter referred to as the "Government of the United Kingdom", and referred to jointly as the "Governments ;"

Reaffirming their commitment to further deepening their bilateral ties and cooperation;

Determined to use all reasonable efforts to encourage and facilitate business, educational, cultural, private and official travel between their countries;

Recognising the important role which diplomatic and special passports holders should play in deepening their bilateral ties; and

Seeking therefore to facilitate visa free travel for visits up to a maximum of six months by such eligible passport holders between their countries;

Have reached the following understandings:

1. Omani nationals who hold diplomatic and special passports issued as official documents by the Omani authorities will be covered by the scope of this Memorandum and able to travel to the United Kingdom without a visa as a visitor for tourism and official purposes for up to six months.

2. United Kingdom nationals who hold diplomatic, Diplomatic Courier, official and Queen's Messenger passports issued as official documents by the United Kingdom authorities will be covered by the scope of this Memorandum and able to travel to Oman without a visa as a visitor for tourism and official purposes for up to six months.
3. Travel for other reasons will be subject to visa and entry requirements as applied by the laws and regulations of the host Government.
4. In the event that specific concerns arise relative to individual holders of the passports referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, either Government will retain the power to refuse entry to its territory in accordance with established national procedures and processes, along with notifying the individual concerned.
5. Should either of the two Governments make changes to the passports referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, the competent authorities of that Government will send to the other Government the new form along with the information relevant to its application, where possible within a minimum of thirty days prior to the date fixed for their introduction.
6. The Governments will pursue further operational discussion on migration and visa issues, including on Omani service passports, in coming months, building on the excellent operational cooperation already in place between relevant authorities.
7. Any dispute arising from the interpretation or the application of this Memorandum will be settled amicably by consultation and negotiation via diplomatic channels.

8. Any amendment to this Memorandum may be made by mutual consent through official notes exchanged via diplomatic channels.
9. Neither Government will disclose to any third party nor publicise any information supplied by the other Government under this Memorandum of Understanding without prior consultation with the originating Government, except on grounds of national security.
10. Either of the Governments may fully or partially suspend or review the application of this Memorandum for reasons of national security, public order, public health or public policy. This will - where necessary - have immediate effect and will be notified to the other Government through diplomatic channels. The application of this Memorandum may subsequently be reactivated by mutual consent through diplomatic channels.
11. This Memorandum will come into effect thirty days from the date of receipt of the last notification by either Government stating the completion of the internal procedures necessary for its entry into effect according to the rules and arrangements applicable in each country.
12. The Governments will review the application and implementation of this Memorandum after six months from its entry into effect and at least annually thereafter.

The foregoing record represents the understandings reached by the Governments upon the matters referred to herein.

Signed in duplicate in Muscat on Friday 26 November 2010 in the Arabic and English languages, both texts having equal validity.

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
SULTANATE OF OMAN**

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah
Minister Responsible for
Foreign Affairs**

**William Hague
Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs**