



Partneriaeth Mewnfudo Strategol Cymru
Wales Strategic Migration Partnership



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



Wales Strategic Migration Partnership

Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas), BN(O), Visa Scheme in Wales Welcome Hub

Welcome to Wales Guide

This is a draft version of a Welcome to Wales Guide for Hong Kong BN(O) Visa Holders in Wales. We are keen to gather feedback before producing a final version which will be translated into Traditional Chinese. The final version will be published on the Hong Kong BN(O) Welcome Hub on our website.

For further details and a feedback form, please contact Michael Smith, Hong BN(O) Visa Scheme Project Coordinator
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Welcome to the information hub for Hong Kong BNO Visa Holders in Wales. The Hub is designed to provide advice and information to support you in your new life in Wales.

You will find a range of useful information, with links that go into the different topics in more depth. We have included key information on housing, health, education, employment and English for speakers of other languages, (ESOL). We will also give you some useful information on living in Wales, keeping safe, where to find immigration advice and how to participate in democracy and decision making.

We have included factsheets for each local authority area in Wales. This will help you to understand about the different areas of Wales.

Finally, we have included a list of useful contacts.

More about the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership, (WSMP), and our involvement in the Hong Kong BN(O) Visa Scheme

The [WSMP](#) hosts the Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas), BN(O), Visa Scheme Project in Wales, which is funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities, (DLUHC). The WSMP is part of the [Welsh Local Government Association](#). Established in 2001, the WSMP is funded by UK Government and works with partner organisations across public organisations and the voluntary, private and community sectors to provide strategic leadership, advice and coordination on migration in Wales. The WSMP works closely with other Migration Partnerships across the UK so that we have a good understanding of the national UK situation to inform work in Wales.

The WSMP has a Hong Kong BN(O) Visa Scheme Project Coordinator, Michael Smith. Responsibilities include the coordination of the Welcome Hub and supporting information on accessing services and integration for Hong Kong BN(O) Visa Holders in Wales. This involves working in partnership with public services, community groups and the wider Hong Konger community. Contact details: Michael Smith, michael.smith@wlga.gov.uk 07502 276946

A new immigration route opened on 31st January 2021, providing BN(O) status holders and their eligible family members with the opportunity to come to the UK to live, study and work, on a pathway to citizenship. This new route reflects the UK's historic and moral commitment to those people of Hong Kong who chose to retain their ties to the UK by taking up BN(O) status at the point of Hong Kong's handover to China in 1997. For further details on the Hong Kong BN(O) Visa Scheme [please click here.](#)

Welcome to Wales

Wales is a county of great variety. The Cambrian Mountains form the wild and remote spine of Wales. The mountains of the Snowdonia National Park are in Northwest Wales. Snowdon, or in Welsh *Yr Wyddfa*, is the highest mountain in Wales with an elevation of 1,085 metres above sea level. Further south lie the mountains of the Brecon Beacon National Park. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park includes spectacular cliffs and beaches. [The Wales Coast Path](#) runs the entire length of the coast of Wales, (870 miles). The ancient Offa's Dyke roughly follows the border with England to the east of Wales.

Wales is home to many castles, including Cardiff Castle, Carreg Cennen Castle in the west and Harlech and Caernarfon Castles in the north. An ancient nation, Wales has many stories and myths. The Red Dragon appears on the national flag of Wales.

Cardiff is the capital city of Wales. Newport and Swansea are cities in South Wales and Wrexham is the largest town in North Wales.

Wales is a devolved nation within the United Kingdom. Devolved responsibilities include education, health, the environment and housing. [Senedd Cymru, the Welsh Parliament](#), is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people. The Senedd makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account. [The Welsh Government](#) is the devolved government for Wales. The Welsh Government consists of the First Minister, Welsh Ministers and the Counsel General.

Wales is a bilingual nation. Nearly everyone in Wales speaks English and around 30% of people can also speak Welsh. The highest number of Welsh speakers live in the North and the West of Wales. The Welsh Government has a strategy to increase the number of Welsh speakers to one million people by 2050. There are currently just over 560,000 Welsh speakers. You may hear Welsh being spoken on the streets and you will also see bi-lingual road signs. Education is delivered in English medium or Welsh medium schools. All children in Wales have the opportunity to learn Welsh, including in English medium schools. You will also have the opportunity to learn Welsh. This will help you to understand Welsh culture and even help to you to get a job.



The Hong Kong BN(O) Visa and access to services in the UK.

Hong Kong BN(O) Visa Holders can:

- work, (except as a professional sportsperson).
- study, (international student fees may apply, for example in higher education).
- use the National Health Service, (NHS).

You cannot claim public funds, (social welfare benefits). If you are destitute or facing destitution, you can apply to have your [No Recourse to Public Funds, \(NRPF\)](#), status lifted.

Your children will be able to:

- attend school if they are under 18, (all state schools are free).
- attend education and training if they are aged 16-19.

Local Councils

Twenty-two local councils in Wales are responsible for delivering many of the services that you need, for example education, social services, parks and gardens, country parks, libraries, bin collections and much more. Find out more about local councils by exploring the following link.

[Local Council Factsheets](#) [note link to be added]

Accommodation – Your New Home in Wales

There is a great variety of accommodation in Wales. This ranges from older terraced properties to new-build housing. Location can affect prices, with the most expensive properties found in National Parks, on the coast and in parts of major towns and cities. Some areas have less expensive properties including parts of towns and cities and the South Wales Valleys.

You will need to consider where you live in terms of access to services, transport, schools and places of employment.

Renting Accommodation

When you newly arrive in Wales, you are most likely going to look for accommodation in the private rented sector. When considering renting a property, it is important to know your rights to ensure that you are treated fairly. Landlords in Wales must be registered and licenced with [Rent Smart Wales](#). A very useful [guidebook for tenants](#) has been produced by Rent Smart Wales.

The guide covers:

- Renting from a landlord or letting agent
- Looking for your new home
- Living in your rented home
- What to do at the end of the rental period
- What to do if things go wrong

Buying a Property

After settling in Wales, you may wish to buy your own property. This is a big step and it is a good idea to get to know the local area well first. The UK Government has produced a guide on [How to Buy Your Own Home](#). The guide covers everything you need to know about buying your own home in England and Wales.

Further advice and support

Housing Section on the website of your Local Council

Welsh Government - [housing topic](#).

Rent Smart Wales - [homepage](#).

Health

Emergencies

In an emergency call 999 and ask for an ambulance.

If you can safely do so, you can also make your way to the nearest Hospital Accident and Emergency Department. Please click on the following link to find your nearest Accident and Emergency Departments.
[My A&E Live - NHS Wales Accident and Emergency Departments](#)

Do not call 999 or use Accident and Emergency Departments for minor medical problems.

If you urgently need medical help and assistance and it is not life-threatening, call NHS 111.

Covid-19

Keep Wales Safe from Covid-19. For the latest Covid-19 Alert Levels, advice and restrictions please click [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccinations are available for everyone over 16 years old in Wales. [Find out how to book your vaccination here](#).

Routine Health Care

You must register with a GP, (a family doctor or General Practitioner), to ensure you can access treatment when you are sick. You do not need proof of address or immigration status to register with a GP who is usually the first point of contact if you have a health problem. [Find your local GP or other medical services here.](#)

You should receive an explanation if your registration request is refused. If you are struggling to find a GP practice, you can find contact details for GPs in your area and the Local Health Board in the below link;

<https://www.wales.nhs.uk>

You can also get health advice on the NHS 111 Wales website by using the [symptom checkers](#) or [Health A-Z](#) if you're unwell and not sure what to do.

Mental Health

Moving to a new country and starting a new life can be very stressful. You may also be worried about family and friends abroad. Anyone can feel anxious, worried or stressed at different times of their life.

You can talk to your GP if you feel stressed. Your GP may be able to find you some expert help.

Children or young people can also be affected by poor mental health or well-being. Secondary schools have counselling services that can be used by pupils if they feel worried, anxious or confused.

Extra help for your mental wellbeing is available across Wales, online and over the phone. These resources are safe, free, and you don't need a referral, so take a look and see what can help you today. [NHS 111 Wales - Health A-Z : Mental Health and Wellbeing](#)

[Barnardo's Boloh Helpline](#) provides support for Hong Kong BN(O) status holders and their families in Cantonese and in English. The service includes free therapy with a qualified psychotherapist. Helpline Advisors can also provide specialist advice on a range of issues you may be experiencing, for example health, housing, education, employment and mental health. You can call the for free on: 0800 151 2605 or talk on webchat by visiting [Barnardo's Boloh Helpline](#) Opening hours: Monday to Friday 10am-8pm and Saturday 10am-3pm.

[The Samaritans](#) has a free to call, confidential service that is available 24 hours a day and 365 days of year. Telephone 116 123

Dental

Click on the following link and click on dentists from the drop-down menu to find out about dental practices in your locality. [NHS 111 Wales - Services near you](#)

The most cost-effective dental service is to join as an NHS patient. There are a range of set charges for dental services unless you or one of your family qualify for a service with no charge. For more information on NHS dental charges and exemptions, please click on the following link [NHS dental charges and exemptions | GOV.WALES](#)

If you have pain, toothache, dental trauma or swelling please click on the following link [NHS 111 Wales - Check Your Symptoms : Dental](#) and follow the advice provided. If you have another dental problem, please search for advice on that topic on the following link <https://111.wales.nhs.uk/Encyclopaedia/> and follow the appropriate advice.

It is also possible to register with a dentist as a private patient. Direct private dental health care is more costly than the NHS service. Many people take out a dental health care plan which covers a certain level of treatment for a monthly subscription fee. Your local dental practices will be able to advise on registration as a private patient and dental health care plans.

Education

The education system in Wales includes

- Nurseries and Early Years

Children are entitled to a part-time nursery place from the start of the term after they have turned three. You could get up to 30 hours a week of childcare or early education if your child is 3 or 4 years.

For further details please click on the following link. [Childcare for 3 and 4 year olds | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/childcare-for-3-and-4-year-olds)

- Reception Classes
Children start reception classes in primary school in the September after their fourth birthday.
- Primary School, (ages 5-11)
- Secondary / High School, (ages 11-16)
At the end of secondary school children will sit GCSE exams.
- Further Education / Colleges and Apprenticeships
- Higher Education / Universities

Education in local council managed primary and secondary schools in Wales is free. Most children in Wales receive their education in schools managed by local councils.

The Foundation Phase is the start of a child's education in Wales (ages 3 – 7 years old). The Foundation Phase encourages children to use their imaginations and to be creative, making learning fun and more effective. Children are given opportunities to explore the world around them and understand how things work by taking part in practical activities relevant to their developmental stage.

You can find out more here - [Foundation Phase | Early Years Wales](https://gov.wales/foundation-phase-early-years-wales)

School Years 3 through to 6 – KEY Stage 2, also known as Primary education.

School Years 7 through to 9 – Key Stage 3 (Secondary school up to the year GCSE choices are made).

School Years 10 – 11 – Key Stage 4 – GCSE study.

Years 12 and 13 – 6th form or 6th form college for some schools as well as further education colleges. A-levels are taken, but students can access vocational courses too.

Your Legal Responsibilities

As a parent or guardian, you are legally responsible to ensure that all children of compulsory school age, (5 to 16), must receive a suitable full-

time education. Most parents will register their children at a school, but you can also make other arrangements to give your child suitable full-time education, for example [home education](#). Once you have registered your child at a school you are legally responsible to ensure that they attend regularly.

Choosing a school and registering a place for your child.

You can find out about local schools by clicking on the following website [My Local School \(gov.wales\)](#) Please note that school places can be in high demand and you may not be able to get a place at your first choice school.

You can find out about the school's admission process and how to register your child at a local school by visiting your local council's website. It is important to note school admission dates and to try to apply on time. You can also make a late application, but it may reduce the chances of getting a place at your preferred school. You may make an appeal if you have been refused a place.

Supporting Your Child at School

Free school transport is available for pupils living a certain distance from school. Please see your Local Authority website for details.

Support can be put in place for pupils with Additional Learning Needs, (ALN).

Support is also in place for newly arrived children who are learning English or Welsh as a second language.

Welsh Language in Education

As a bi-lingual nation, education is delivered in English medium or Welsh medium schools. All children in Wales have the opportunity to learn Welsh, including in English medium schools.

A Welsh language education may help your child to find work in Wales in the future. Many public services are delivered bi-lingually. The ability to speak Welsh is stated as 'desirable' or 'essential' in a number of jobs in Wales. Cardiff City Council's website has a list of frequently asked question on the benefits of a Welsh medium education, please [click here](#).

Further Education Colleges

Further Education, (FE), Colleges provide post 16 education in Wales. Courses include A-levels and vocational qualifications. There are normally two levels of fee: a lower 'home' fee and a higher 'overseas' fee. FE funding for 'home fees' is not classed as a public fund for immigration purposes and can be accessed by a young person or adult if they are subject to the 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF) condition. However, to qualify for FE funding, a student must meet requirements relating to their immigration status and length of residence in the UK. These rules can be complex and are set out in detail by the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) and details for Wales can be found [here](#).

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a great way to gain qualifications while you work and earn a wage. To find out more, go to the Careers Wales website, [Apprenticeships | Careers Wales \(gov.wales\)](#).

Higher Education

Higher Education, (HE), is usually taught in universities, colleges, and specialist institutions, for example music colleges or agricultural colleges.

Hong Kong BN(O) Visa holders are classified as international students and HE courses would be charged at international student rates. You may be able to apply via your chosen university for a scholarship or bursary.

To qualify for 'home fee status' in the UK, a person must have 'Settled Status' or a recognised connection to the UK. The five-year residency required for settlement starts when the BN(O) status holder or dependent enters the UK on the Hong Kong BN(O) Visa route. There are also requirements associated with 'ordinary residence in the UK,' meaning that your residence in the UK forms part of the normal pattern of your life. Subject to meeting the normal eligibility requirements, you will be able to qualify for 'home fee status' once you have acquired 'settled status' in the UK. This also applies to any dependants. However, to qualify for home fees, a student must meet requirements relating to their immigration status and length of residence in the UK. These rules can be complex and are set out in detail by the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) and details for Wales can be found [here](#).

Independent Schools

Independent or private schools charge a fee, although you may be able to apply for a scholarship in bursary, [\(independent schools in Wales\)](#).

Qualifications - Transferring your qualifications from Hong Kong to the UK.

The [UK European Network Information Centre \(UK ENIC\)](#) provides expert advice on behalf of the UK Government on the comparability of international qualifications, including those from Hong Kong to UK qualifications. They can help with transferring your qualifications and comparing them with UK equivalents. You can apply on-line for a Statement of Comparability, which will evidence the level of your overseas qualification for employment, study and professional registration.

UK ENIC has conducted research into the comparable levels of the years of study that precede the full completion of the HKDSE. They are therefore able to issue Statements of Comparability, despite the formal exit qualification not having been completed. This can help guide schools and colleges on A level enrolment and 16-19 funding exemptions.

The Open University

[The Open University offers a number of free courses](#) that can be accessed online. Courses cover a wide range of subjects, from English skills for life and supporting children's mental health and well-being, to the importance of interpersonal skills and planning a better future. There's even a [short course on Discovering Wales and the Welsh](#). Delivered in English, these courses are also a good way of improving your language skills.

Learning and Improving English Language Skills

It has been confirmed that BN(O) passport holders who arrive in Cardiff, Newport, Swansea, or Wrexham will be able to access the [REACH+ ESOL Assessment Hubs](#) providing language assessments and referrals to English for Speakers of Other Languages, (ESOL), courses in those areas. Elsewhere in Wales, ESOL is also widely available in all colleges, and courses, including online courses, are also delivered in the community by [Adult Learning Wales](#). Please contact the [ESOL Coordinator](#) for details erica.williams@wlga.gov.uk, including details of online courses to improve your English.

Learning Welsh

30 % of people in Wales speak Welsh. Learning Welsh is a great way to find out more about the culture of Wales and to get to know Welsh speaking communities. The following website has good information about learning Welsh and where to find a course. [Croeso - welcome | Learn Welsh](#)

Further Advice and Support

Education Section on your council website

Welsh Government

[Education and skills | Topic | GOV.WALES](#)

Employment

To work in the UK, you will need a [National Insurance Number](#). You can start work without a National Insurance Number if you can prove you have the [right to work](#) in the UK. You may find that employers expect you to provide a NI number, but it can take a number of weeks to come through.

[Careers Wales](#) provides a free tailored information, advice and guidance service called [Working Wales](#) to help individuals to make decisions on learning, training and work. They can help you identify transferable skills and advise on employment and training opportunities in your area. To arrange an appointment, call 0800 028 48 44 or visit the [Working Wales](#) website where you can use webchat or email to get in touch.

You can find job adverts on recruitment websites, local and national newspapers, employer websites and by directly contacting employers. You can also register with a recruitment agency.

As an employee you have rights to protect you in the workplace. These include

- Your basic rights and employment contract
- Pay, including the minimum wage or living wage
- Holidays and holiday pay

- Sick pay
- Parental rights
- Flexible working
- Agency working
- Workplace pensions

To find out more about your rights at work, please click on the [Citizens' Advice Wales website](#). Trade Unions protect your rights in the workplace please click on the [Wales TUC Cymru website](#) for further details.

The [UK European Network Information Centre \(UK ENIC\)](#) provides expert advice on behalf of the UK Government on the comparability of international qualifications, including those from Hong Kong to UK qualifications. They can help with transferring your qualifications and comparing them with UK equivalents. You can apply on-line for a Statement of Comparability, which will evidence the level of your overseas qualification for employment, study and professional registration.

Setting up a business

To find out about setting up a business in the UK, please click on the following website [Setting up - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Business Wales is a free service that provides impartial, independent support and advice to people starting, running and growing a business in Wales. With regional centres across Wales, a mixture of online and face-to-face support is available, as well as training workshops and individual advice. Business Wales has a website that includes details on starting up and planning your business. [Starting up and Business Planning | Business Wales \(gov.wales\)](#) This includes details on self-employment, business planning, market research and finance.

The [British Business Bank](#) is the UK's government-owned development bank. It offers advice and support to small businesses in the UK, including help to identify suitable financing options. Working with partners it also offers start up loans and free mentoring advice to newly established companies. You should also see the British Business Bank's online [Finance Hub](#).

Money, Bank Accounts, Taxes and Utility Bills

The currency in the UK is the Pound Sterling (£). £1 (one pound) = 100p (100 pennies, or pence). Cash is accepted in most places but increasingly people use contactless payments or debit/credit cards to pay for goods and services.

Opening a bank account

There are a range of banks and you can choose one that suits you best. There are also online-only providers which you can use. To open a bank account, you will usually need to show a form of identification such as your passport or a driver's licence or a recognised identity card as well as proof of your address, such as your tenancy agreement or a gas, electricity or phone bill. You should ask about any charges when you open a bank account.

Once you open your account, you will usually be issued with a debit card. Many cards are contactless - some shops will only accept contactless payments as will some transport providers. You can also arrange for bills to be paid directly from your account using 'direct debit'. For further information on how to open a bank account please [click here](#).

Taxes and Utility Bills

To find out more about taxes, including income tax, national insurance and VAT, please [click here](#).

For further details on council tax, including how to contact your local authority, please [click here](#).

You will also need to budget for a range of utility bills for example water and sewage, electricity, gas, internet service providers, telephone lines and mobile phone contracts.

Other costs include [television licences](#) and home and contents insurance.

Your local community

Getting involved in your local community is a great way to make new friends, follow your interests and improve your spoken English or Welsh. [Dewis Cymru](#) is a very useful website that will tell you about support, activities and services in your local area.

Becoming a volunteer is also a really good way to contribute to your local community, provide a pathway to employment and get to know people. Further information and volunteering opportunities can be found on the following links.

[Volunteering Wales](#)

[I want to volunteer - WCVA](#)

Community notice boards are also a good place to look for clubs and societies active in your neighbourhood.

Please click on the following link to find a church near to where you live.

[Find a Church](#)

Chinese and Asian supermarkets can be found in our cities and larger towns, including Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Wrexham.

Community Safety

How to contact the Emergency Services

Police

In an emergency phone 999 and ask for the Police.

In a non-emergency phone 101

Ambulance

In an emergency phone 999 and ask for an ambulance.

In a non-emergency phone 111

Fire Service

In an emergency phone 999 and ask for the Fire Service

Coastguard

In an emergency on the coast or at sea, phone 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

Victim of Crime

To report a crime to the police, you should call 101, or 999 in an emergency.

You can report a crime 100 % anonymously to [Crimestoppers](#), who are an independent charity that empowers people to speak up and stop crime. Telephone 0800 555111

You can get free UK Government support and advice if you have been a victim of crime, please [click here](#).

[Victim Support](#) is an independent charity who are dedicated to supporting people affected by crime and traumatic incidents. Victim Support's services help people affected by all types of crime and they provide free confidential support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year — regardless of whether you have reported the crime to the police or when it occurred and for as long as it is needed. Telephone 08 08 16 89 111

Hate Crime

Hate crime is a crime that has been committed against someone because of their:



- Race
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Transgender identity

These are called protected characteristics. You can experience Hate Crime based on one or more of the above, or if you have been perceived to have one or more of these protected characteristics.

You can report a Hate Crime to the Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency. You will have the support of a specially trained Hate Crime Support Officer.

The [National Hate Crime Report and Support Centre for Wales](#) is run by Victim Support and offers free, independent and confidential support that can help you cope and recover from the impact of Hate Crime. Telephone 0300 30 31 982

Domestic Abuse

Help and support for anyone experiencing domestic abuse can be found on the following website [Domestic abuse | GOV.WALES](#) or telephone 0808 80 10 800.

Modern Slavery

Help and support for those who are experiencing or know someone who is experiencing modern slavery can be found on the following website [Slavery | GOV.WALES](#) or telephone 0808 01 21 700.

Sexual Violence

Help and support for those who are experiencing or know someone who is experiencing sexual violence can be found on the following website [Sexual violence | GOV.WALES](#) or telephone 0808 80 10 800.

Ending Physical Punishment of Children in Wales

21 March 2022 is a historic moment for children and their rights in Wales. From this day on, physically punishing children will be illegal in Wales.

We want to protect children and their rights, to help give them the best start in life.

Advice on your immigration status or application and immigration legal advice

The Hong Kong BN(O) Project Coordinator is not able to be involved with individual applications or immigration statuses. Anyone who gives you immigration advice must be registered with the [Office of the](#)

Immigration Services Commissioner or be a member of an approved professional body, for example the Law Society.

You can contact UK Visas and Immigration via the details below:

UK Visas and Immigration contact centre
Telephone: 0300 790 6268
Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4:45pm
Friday, 9am to 4:30pm

For other technical problems with your application, email the online help team on ApplyOnlineE-Support@homeoffice.gov.uk

Get help if you have:

- made a mistake in your online application
- problems logging into your account or with your password
- problems with making a payment to UKVI online or pending payments
- questions about your sponsor licence number
- other technical problems with your application

If you need immigration legal advice, there are a number of immigration solicitors in Wales who provide specialist support. [Immigration Solicitors](#), [Immigration Lawyers in Wales - The Law Society](#)

Register births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships

Contact your Local Authority to find out about how to register births, deaths, marriages and civil partnership.

Births must be registered within 42 days and deaths must be registered within 5 days.

Transport and Travel

The [Transport for Wales](#) website has details on how to plan your journey, including details on buses and trains. Public transport is better connected in the larger cities and towns of Wales. Public transport can be infrequent or even absent in some rural areas.

If your primary address is in Wales and you're either aged 60 and over or meet the Government's disability eligibility criteria, you can travel for free on most bus services in Wales and get discounted or free travel on many rail services. Please [click here](#) for further details.

You will need a valid driving licence to drive in the UK. You may need to take a driving test in the UK. Please [click here](#) for further details.

It may be possible for you to exchange your Hong Kong driving licence for a UK driving licence. Hong Kong is a designated territory with a driving licence exchange agreement with the UK. This means that you may be able to continue to drive in the UK without exchanging your licence for 12 months after becoming resident. After 12 months you must exchange your licence to keep driving. Please [click here](#) for an online tool to find out how to exchange your non-British driving licence for a British driving licence.

You will also need to ensure that you have a number of things in place, including vehicle tax, an MOT certificate and insurance. Please [click here](#) for further details.

Sustainable Travel

[Sustrans](#) advise Governments on sustainable travel policies, including cycling, and want everyone to be able to access sustainable transport and active travel, and a Wales where not having a car does not affect people's ability to be included in society. Cycling can provide daily exercise-see Sustrans site for details of [National Cycle Network](#).



Participation in democracy and decision making

Former residents of Hong Kong who hold a British Overseas Territories, British Nationals (Overseas) or British Overseas passport qualify for registration to vote.

To register to vote, please [click here](#).

You will be able to vote in UK Parliamentary General Elections, Local Council Elections, Senedd Elections and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections.

You can also participate in decision making by taking part in engagement activities and consultations. Many public bodies will carry out engagement and consultation exercises when making new policies and strategic decisions. You will be able to find out more on how you can have your say on the individual websites of public organisations.



Useful Links and contacts

[Information for arrivals from Hong Kong on the British National \(Overseas\) visa UK Government](#)

[Welcome Pack for arrivals from Hong Kong on the British Nationals \(Overseas\) visa UK Government](#)

[Sanctuary Website](#) Welsh Government

Local Authority Factsheets [link to be added]

[Dewis Cymru](#) Find local and national organisations and services that can help you

Citizens' Advice Cymru

Links to other SMPs HK BNO Project Pages [link to be added]

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Draft