GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA

Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade, Civil Aviation and Diaspora Affairs

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Government of Saint Lucia Clarifies New UK Visa Process for Saint Lucian Nationals

Castries, Saint Lucia - Building on its earlier Press Release of March 5 in which the United Kingdom's new visitor visa regime was announced, the Ministry of External Affairs provides further clarity to help citizens navigate the visa requirements and facilitate travel to the United Kingdom.

It is important to note that prior to the introduction of the visitor visa requirement, other types of visas such as work visas and student visas were required by Saint Lucian nationals, and this continues to be the case.

A significant change under the new system is the UK's transition to electronic visas, or e-visas, for all visa categories, including tourist, work, and student visas. Instead of receiving a physical vignette in their passport, successful applicants will now have their immigration status recorded digitally. This means travelers will not receive a physical stamp or sticker in their passport upon approval as had been the case previously.

Accordingly, visa applications are now done online by visiting the UK Government's official website (www.gov.uk). Applications can be submitted up to three months in advance of the intended travel date. Visa fees vary depending on the length of stay and type of visa sought. Applicants are encouraged to check the official website for the most up-to-date pricing.

As part of the application process, applicants will need to verify their identity and provide relevant supporting documents to confirm their eligibility. A checklist of required documents is provided in the online application for guidance.

An essential element of the application is the interview. For those applying from Saint Lucia, an in-person appointment is required at the designated visa application centre. This service is currently provided by the VFS Global Visa Application Centre in Bois D'Orange, Gros Islet. Residents should note that a service fee applies for appointments at the centre.

Applicants must bring their valid passport to the appointment for identity verification. In most instances, passports will be returned the same day, as the visa decision is recorded electronically. Once a decision is made, applicants will receive an email notification. Successful applicants will be granted an e-visa – which serves as a digital record of their immigration status, including the type of visa, how long it is valid, and any conditions that apply.

To view and manage their e-visa, individuals must create a UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) account online. You will need your Visa Application Number to create this account. The UKVI account allows travelers to share their immigration status with airlines and border officials as needed. Applicants are advised to double-check the details on their e-visa and report any errors through the official UK Government online platform. If an application is refused, a written explanation outlining the reasons will be provided.

The Government of Saint Lucia encourages anyone planning to travel to the UK to become familiar with these new procedures and to submit their applications well in advance of their planned travel dates. For more information, members of the public are advised to consult official government channels or reach out to the relevant authorities directly.

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