

#### **Registration and green certificate issues:**

- The Embassy continues to engage with the Spanish authorities on the issues you raised on both the residence and appeals processes.
- The Embassy is aware that UK nationals continue to have issues in obtaining appointments. For **first time applicants**, the Spanish government recommends the application is submitted online, as this avoids the need to get an in-person appointment.
- For those with a green residence certificate, **the Embassy strongly recommends you exchange this for a TIE, as it is in your interest to do so.** The TIE clearly states the holder is a beneficiary of the Withdrawal Agreement and will make various processes easier. The more UK nationals who hold a TIE, the fewer the instances of UK nationals being wrongly denied access to services.

#### **Passport stamping:**

- The Embassy continues to monitor the issue of passport stamping across the EU. For those who are registered in Spain, please be assured that a passport stamp **does not affect a person's Withdrawal Agreement rights.** The stamp is considered null and void when a person presents their residence document.

#### **Ability to hold and prove multiple immigration statuses**

- The Embassy is aware that this remains an issue of concern to some UK nationals, particularly those who are also family members of an EU citizen. The European Commission has been clear that it is possible for a citizen to hold multiple immigration statuses. The Embassy will continue to encourage the Spanish authorities to provide guidance on how UK nationals can demonstrate rights under two or more statuses.

#### **Returning to the UK with EU or non-EU family members from Spain**

- Close family members of UK nationals who return from living in the EU by 29 March 2022 can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme as long as that relationship existed before exit day.
- Family members of some British citizens, who wish to move to the UK, may be eligible to apply for a family permit under the EU Settlement Scheme. A family permit makes it easier to travel with a family member to the UK. Family members of UK nationals returning to the UK who apply to the EU Settlement Scheme from outside of the UK before 29 March 2022 do not need to apply for the family permit.
- There will also be scope for the relevant family members of UK nationals returning from the EU to go to the UK and apply from there to the EUSS after 29 March 2022, where there are reasonable grounds for the person's failure to meet that deadline, including where the person was prevented by the COVID-19 pandemic from returning to the UK earlier.
- However, in general, after 29 March 2022, family immigration to the UK from the EU will be subject to the same UK Immigration Rules as are already applied to other UK nationals and their foreign national family members returning from abroad elsewhere.

### **Issues with Cajamar bank**

The Embassy has been in contact with the bank regarding their communications suggesting bank accounts would be frozen unless a TIE could be produced before 31 October. The green residency document was not being recognised as proof of residence at various branches. Following the Embassy's contact, we can now confirm:

- Cajamar will accept the green residency document as valid proof of residence, even after the end of this month
- The bank will be sending a reminder to all employees to confirm this
- If you have any outstanding issues with the bank, please contact them directly

Whilst this news is welcome, the Embassy continue to **strongly recommend** switching your existing green residencia documentation for the TIE, as it will make navigating Spanish administrative procedures easier in the long run. It also has the added advantage of being more durable and explicitly stating your status as a Withdrawal Agreement beneficiary.