



**San Miguel Centre**  
Calle Lope de Vega 45,  
San Miguel de Salinas  
03193, Alicante –

**Telephone: 966 723 733 (24 Hr Emergency Line)**

**Document Reference: HVB/IS20**  
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## **INFORMATION SHEET No 20**

### **Repatriation or Resuming Permanent Residence in the U.K.**

Often people who have been living in Spain permanently decide to return to the U.K. for a variety of reasons mainly legal, financial or personal. If you simply think that you can get on a plane and arrive back in the UK where you left off you will be mistaken. Things have changed in the last few years.

We list a few of the things that you must do before leaving Spain and arriving back in the U.K.

#### **Leaving Spain**

1. The most important thing to do is cancel your Spanish residency. If you have a paper certificate then you should go to the National Police office where the certificate was originally issued and inform them. If you have a card then you will need to return it to the Foreigner's Delegation office in your province. In return you will receive a stamped document with the date of residency cancellation and the reason why.
2. You should de-register as a resident on the local pardon by notifying your local town hall and also inform your local health centre and dentist of your change in status.
3. Make sure that the key people such as your lawyer, bank manager and accountant know that you are moving back to the U.K. Also arrange to have your mail forwarded.
4. If you continue to own property in Spain then you will need to change over from paying resident to non-resident taxes and will need to change your bank account to non-resident too. Also check with the Hacienda in Spain about any tax you may owe before you leave.
5. If you have children who are in school in Spain, notify the school authorities that you are leaving Spain.
6. Notify all your utility companies in Spain that you are moving and give them a forwarding address, so they can send you the final bills and information on any outstanding payments or refunds.
7. Notify any private medical insurance and travel insurance companies that you have policies with.

#### **Returning to England**

1. The first thing to think about is over the last 12 months mortgages have become increasingly difficult to come by. If you are returning hoping to get a mortgage you will need at least a 40% deposit, proof of income and a good relationship with your bank or building society. With the house prices falling in the U.K. at the moment, it maybe sensible, especially in the short term, to look at rental accommodation, until you can get all of your finances in order and be in the strongest financial position as possible before approaching a lender for a mortgage.



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2. Inform the HM Revenue & Customs the dates of your return and find out about your tax liability on returning to the U.K. For National Insurance contributions, contact the HM Revenue & Customs National Insurance Contributions office, (ask for International Services).
3. Contact the Department for Work and Pensions regarding your pension and benefits, giving them the details of your return move and your contact details abroad and in the U.K.
4. Upon your return to the U.K. register with a G.P. and a dentist (if you can find one)
5. Contact your local council when you have found accommodation. Its council tax department and the electoral registration unit will need to know when you will be returning and your U.K address.
6. If you have children you will need to contact the relevant local education authority regarding available school places. It is recommended that you do this before returning to the U.K.
7. According to the Department of Health information people returning to the U.K. to resume permanent residence are entitled to free Health Care and hospital treatment immediately. People who have the right to live in the U.K. and who claim to be returning permanently after living abroad can be asked by the hospital to provide evidence to support such a move – perhaps sale of property abroad, shipping of belongings, transfer of assets etc. However, help with housing, residential care or domestic care in the home are all considered means tested benefits and are applied for via the local or regional council. To be entitled to these benefits you need to pass the habitual residency test. Normally you need to have been a resident for 3 months to pass this test.

### **Repatriation back to the U.K.**

If a person is seriously ill the NHS is not responsible for funding their repatriation back to the U.K. However, if the patient's family make their own arrangements to repatriate the patient, who on arrival will be resuming permanent residence, then they will become entitled to access for full NHS treatment from the date of their arrival.

In the event that a person is incapable physically or mentally to travel by air alone, the airline concerned will require medical evidence that the patient is fit to travel. This evidence is supplied by submitting a multiform document called an **INCAD FORM** which is available from the airlines. This form is completed in triplicate by the Doctor or Specialist treating the patient and will define not only that the patient is fit to travel, but also if periodic medication is needed during the journey and if a nurse or Doctor should attend the patient during the journey. This is very important as some patients may have long onward journeys by road or rail to reach their final destination. The airline will pass the INCAD form onto the medical officer, usually at their head office by fax and he will decide if the airline can accept the responsibility for the patient to travel.



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In many cases special arrangements have to be made with the aircraft to accommodate stretcher cases, but for costing purposes, bear in mind that stretcher cases will require a minimum of four seats plus extra seats for the attending medical staff or carers.

The documentation should be photocopied (3 copies) returning the documents to the Iberia office in Alicante (Avenida Garena 12, Alicante, Tele. 965 214 414) Iberia will contact the traveller to confirm that the patient can travel and will advise when a permit and tickets can be collected. This will take three to four days. Remember that if a wheelchair is required at Departure and Arrival airports, they have to be arranged prior to the journey.

Ensure arrangements are made also for the patient's flight to be met on arrival and contact arrangements are made before departure.

**Help Association Vega Baja** can make arrangements with medical staff at Heathrow and Gatwick airports for attendant assistance and liaise with them also to arrange onward travel arrangements. This can be by way of air or by private ambulance if road travel is needed for a stretcher case.

## **Useful Telephone Numbers**

Heathrow Air Ambulance Services 00441753 654 751

Air Ambulance Monarch 800 099 260

(8am – 10pm Mon to Fri and 9am to 5.30pm Sat/Sun)

British Airways (in Spain) 902 111 333

Iberia Airways (in Spain) 902 400 500

Travelcare Heathrow 0044 208 745 7495

Travelcare Gatwick 00441293 504 283

### **Note:**

British Airways advise they need two weeks to make arrangements, but fly from Murcia as well as Alicante. Iberia can respond within 2 days, but flights to Manchester are via Barcelona, which involves a 2-hour stop over. Local authorities will not provide free ambulance service in the UK for patients returning from overseas.