

BRITISH CONSULAR NETWORK IN SPAIN

PARTNERS' NEWSLETTER – JULY 2012

BENEFIT FRAUD – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Since we highlighted the issue of UK Benefit Fraud in the November newsletter last year, we have received several enquiries from members of the public about how the process works in practice. We've put together the following list of FAQs but remember full information on UK Benefit Fraud can be found on the DWP Abroad Fraud website:

<http://campaigns.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/benefit-thieves/english.asp>



How can I report someone I suspect of committing UK Benefit Fraud?

There are three ways you can report benefit fraud – by calling the Benefit Fraud Hotline free of charge from a landline, on **900 554 440**; by completing an online form available at <https://secure.dwp.gov.uk/benefitfraud/>; or by writing to NBFH, P.O. Box 224, Preston, PR1 1GP, United Kingdom

Is it confidential?

You can disclose your personal and contact details if you wish, but you are under no obligation to do so – your name and contact details will not be taken if you wish to remain anonymous

What information will I need to provide?

The more information you can provide about the person's life in Spain, the better. Examples of information would be the full name and address of the person and of their partner (if they have one), the type of benefit you suspect they are claiming, and details of any work they do/have done, travel they undertake or vehicle that they drive.

What happens next?

The DWP will look at the information you have provided – the investigation may take some time. If there is no fraud taking place. If the person is receiving something they are entitled to, no action will be taken. However, if the person is committing fraud, penalties can include removing their benefit and a criminal court case being brought against them.

CHANGES TO PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

In April, the Spanish government announced changes to the public healthcare system which will affect everyone living in Spain. Under EU regulations, the UK pays Spain an average annual cost to provide healthcare for its pensioners. Healthcare is provided to UK state pensioners resident in Spain and registered with an S1 form on the same basis as healthcare given to Spanish pensioners. This means that any healthcare changes that are applicable to Spanish state pensioners are equally applied to all UK state pensioners.

One of the most significant changes is that from 1st July pensioners resident in Spain will have to contribute towards the cost of their prescriptions. How much you will have to pay depends on your personal situation. You can find out more information about these changes from the '[Healthcare Updates](#)' page on our website www.ukinspain.fco.gov.uk or by contacting your local health service provider in Spain directly.



British Consular
network,
Spain

The British Consular Network, Spain

GREAT SPORT. GREAT BUSINESS. GREAT CULTURE.

Hosting the London 2012 Games is a tremendous honour and we want to make it a great moment for Britain. After all the country's preparations, it's hard to believe that in less than 3 weeks' time, the 2012 Olympics will open in London. These Games - and this summer - will be a proud moment for Britain.

Sport, of course, will be at the heart of this great competition. We will see world records broken, memories created and we shall see athletes from almost every country in the world performing at the very highest levels of achievement.

As the only city to be awarded the Olympics three times (1908, 1948 and now in 2012), we are conscious that we bear a special responsibility to deliver an excellent result. This once in a lifetime occasion will also provide UK companies with more than a billion pounds of business opportunity. When the events are over and the medals handed out, we are determined that these Olympics will go on changing lives for the better and are looking forward to welcoming the world on the 27th July.

www.London2012.com | <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/what-we-do/public-diplomacy/great-campaign/>



For more information on Living in Spain, see <http://ukinspain.fco.gov.uk>

ACASA - The National Casework Service of Age Concern España



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RAFA BENEVOLANT FUND GIVES €6,500 TO ACASA

ACASA – The National Casework Service of Age Concern España – would like to thank The RAF Benevolent Fund for their generous grant of £6,500 to support the INFOLINE and Casework Services.

The RAF Benevolent Fund has a proud tradition of providing assistance to the RAF family when they are in need. This grant will ensure that those of the RAF family living in Spain will be able to access this assistance through ACASA's information and advice services.



ACASA has two client bases – people over the age of 50, and those of any age who serve or used to serve in the British Armed Forces, and their families, as ACASA does the work of SSAFA Forces Help in Spain. Contact 902 00 38 38 or info@ageconcern-espana.org for further information.

SPANISH TAX YEAR

It is that time of the year again when we have to do our Spanish tax returns, *La Declaracion de la Renta*. ACASA has received a number of calls on INFOLINE from people unsure if they should pay tax to the UK or to Spain.

If you receive any income from the UK (e.g. a UK pension, rental income, interest on UK savings accounts etc.) then you are liable for UK income tax on these earnings. For information on completing a UK tax return please contact the UK tax office on +44 135 535 9022 or check the website www.hmrc.gov.uk.

As a resident in Spain you must also declare all you earnings to the Spanish tax authorities regardless of where they come from ... UK, Spain or Timbuktu... Not to do so is a form of tax evasion. An agreement exists between Spain and the UK to ensure that you are not taxed on the same income in both countries.

The Spanish tax authority's website is www.agenciatributaria.es and is partially available in English. If you are unsure on how to complete a Spanish tax return then please consult an accountant.



Official Partners of ACASA



The Royal British Legion 'Shoulder to Shoulder with all who serve'

"LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD" FOR THE SECRETARY OF TRBL IN SPAIN

Our congratulations to Mary Le Corney who was awarded "National Life Membership" at the Overseas Forum of the National Conference 2012 in May. This award is given for meritorious service and in particular for Mary's dedication and services to TRBL in Spain.

Mary has been a member of the Torremolinos branch (of which she is president) for 20 years and during this time has held a number of District Offices.

The Legion in Spain is very proud of Mary's achievement and delighted that her constant commitment has been recognised with this award.



FREEFALLING IN SUPPORT OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

On the 5th June Matt Jones of the Costa Del News completed a charity freefall parachute jump over Seville from 15,000 ft.



Matt who is the Standard Bearer for the Marbella Branch of TRBL raised 1,600 Euros for the "poppy Appeal. Matt's brave jump was watched by a number of Legion members who – with their feet firmly on the ground- lent him support. Well done to Matt and many thanks for his fundraising on behalf of the Legion.

CASEWORKER UPDATES: Caseworkers who recently attended annual update courses benefited from presentations by representatives of the **Healthcare Team** (formerly PBHT) who provided an update on recent changes regarding Health Care in Spain. Many thanks to our Partners for their input and continued support and of course to our wonderful volunteer caseworkers.

WELFARE: For enquiries regarding welfare please contact Donna Wilson (Country Welfare Officer) on: 902 109 356 (option 7) or 690 144 603 Mon to Fri, 08.00 – 16.00.
Email: dmwilson@britishlegion.org.uk.

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