



Join a conversation about the National Identity Service

Public panel

Home Office

**Identity &
Passport Service**

About us

We are the Identity and Passport Service (IPS), part of the Home Office. We are responsible for issuing UK passports and identity cards.

Soon, any person can apply for an identity card, which is designed to prove and protect their identity.

Your personal information, photograph and fingerprints will be held on a secure National Identity Register (NIR).

Together, identity cards, the NIR and the new 'biometric' passports make up the National Identity Service (NIS).

Public panel

Our document, 'National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan 2008: A Response to Consultation', published on 6 November 2008, set out how we would put the public at the heart of our service.

We are committed to making sure that the way we work is completely transparent and that people, businesses and the Government know their rights and responsibilities.

We believe that a public panel, made up of members who people can relate to and trust, can reassure everyone that we are working for the benefit of everyone.

Why you should get involved

Over the next few years as people get the new biometric passport or apply for an identity card, their details will become part of the NIS.

So if you want to help make sure that:

- people's identities are protected;
- identity cards bring benefits to people in their everyday lives;
- people and businesses can get better protection against identity fraud; and
- the public understands how the NIS and identity cards work;

then join the public panel.

How the public panel will work

We will organise the public panel to meet in six regional groups.

Each group will be made up of at least 11 members, and will meet for half a day up to three times a year.

The first two groups have been set up in the North and South of England. Groups in the Midlands, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, will follow.

We will refund your reasonable expenses of attending meetings.

What we will do

We promise to be open, listen to you, act on your ideas when we can, and provide regular information.

We will offer support to help you understand and carry out your role as a panel member.

You will also be able to get guidance from an independent group of experts from various fields, such as science, technology and human rights. These experts can:

- help you to identify and understand relevant issues; and
- help to promote your views or recommendations.

We will work with the public panel and experts to produce an Identity Rights Charter. This will set out the rights and responsibilities people, businesses and the Government have under the NIS.



What we want from you

We want you to be willing to give your time and be committed to preparing for and attending the meetings. We would like you to join if you:

- can communicate effectively;
- work well as part of a team;
- respect other people's views;
- are 16 or over and legally entitled to live in the UK;
- live, work or study in the panel's region;
- are not an elected official;
- have no links with us or the Home Office; and
- do not have a commercial interest in IPS or the Home Office.

To chair a meeting you will need to show that you have relevant skills and experience.

How to join the public panel

To join the panel, please visit our website and fill in the online form.

Website:

www.ips.gov.uk/publicpanel

If you need the application form in a different format, please contact us using the email address or phone number below.

Email:

publicpanel@ips.gsi.gov.uk

Phone:

020 3356 8174

(This number is only for enquiries relating to the public panel. You can find out closing dates for the panel from our website or by calling this number.)

Privacy statement

We promise to use your personal information only for the purposes of the public panel. We will not share your information with anyone without your permission in writing.



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