# UK government unveils mandatory digital ID system to combat illegal work and migration



At the recent Global Progress Action summit in London, key UK government officials highlighted plans to introduce a new digital ID system as a cornerstone of future public service reform and immigration control. Darren Jones, Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister, described this initiative as potentially "the bedrock of the modern state," emphasizing that gaining public support will be crucial to unlocking significant transformation in how public services operate.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has announced that the digital ID system will be smartphone-based and mandatory for proving the right to work in the UK. Although individuals will not be required to carry or present the ID routinely, it will be used centrally to verify eligibility for employment, thereby targeting illegal work. The system is slated to be available to UK citizens and legal residents by the end of the current parliamentary term, marking a significant shift toward digital verification in everyday life.

Further details reveal that the planned 'Brit-Card' would also act as a proof of entitlement to live and work in the UK, addressing illegal migration challenges. This card, accessible through a smartphone app, will be mandatory for new job starters and potentially for renting homes, linking checks to a central government database. However, implementing such compulsory ID cards will require new legislation, indicating forthcoming parliamentary debates.

The initiative has garnered support from former Prime Minister Sir Tony Blair, who has urged the government to adopt digital identity cards to strengthen immigration control while steering clear of distractions related to cultural or political debates often framed as 'wokeism.' Blair stressed the importance of embracing technological tools to create a more efficient and strategic government, aligning with Starmer's vision of a modern state underpinned by digital innovation.

The move towards digital IDs signals the government's intent to harness technology not only to enhance security and identity verification but also to streamline access to public services. By providing reliable proof of identity and status digitally, the government anticipates reducing illegal labour and migration, while potentially transforming the delivery and administration of welfare, healthcare, and other crucial services in the long term.

While the core aim is to combat illegal work and strengthen immigration controls, the broader promise of the digital ID system offers a vision of modern governance, potentially revolutionising citizen interaction with the state through secure, efficient, and mobile digital identification.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-prime-minister-liberal-democrats-labour-b1249936.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-prime-minister-liberal-democrats-labour-b1249936.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-prime-minister-parliament-liberal-democrats-kemi-badenoch-b1249786.html), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-parliament-liberal-democrats-government-kemi-badenoch-b1249786.html), [[7]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/prime-minister-london-mark-carney-tommy-robinson-australia-b1249760.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-david-davis-tony-labour-b1249707.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/sir-keir-tony-blair-prime-minister-tony-downing-street-b1169197.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-prime-minister-liberal-democrats-labour-b1249936.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-prime-minister-liberal-democrats-labour-b1249936.html), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-david-davis-tony-labour-b1249707.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-prime-minister-liberal-democrats-labour-b1249936.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-prime-minister-liberal-democrats-labour-b1249936.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-prime-minister-liberal-democrats-labour-b1249936.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-prime-minister-liberal-democrats-labour-b1249936.html> - At the Global Progress Action summit in London, Darren Jones, Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister, stated that implementing a digital ID system could become the foundation of the modern state, leading to significant public service reforms. He emphasized that with public support, this initiative could transform public services in the future.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-prime-minister-parliament-liberal-democrats-kemi-badenoch-b1249786.html> - Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer announced plans for a new digital ID system to be held on individuals' smartphones, aiming to make it more challenging to work illegally in the UK. The digital ID would serve as mandatory proof of the right to work, though individuals would not be required to carry or present it. The system is expected to be available to UK citizens and legal residents by the end of the current Parliament. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-prime-minister-parliament-liberal-democrats-kemi-badenoch-b1249786.html?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-david-davis-tony-labour-b1249707.html> - The UK government plans to introduce mandatory ID cards for all adults to address illegal migration. The 'Brit-Card' would require legislation to become law and would verify a citizen's right to live and work in the UK. Individuals starting new jobs or seeking to rent homes would need to present the card via a smartphone app, which would be checked against a central database of entitled individuals. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-government-david-davis-tony-labour-b1249707.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/sir-keir-tony-blair-prime-minister-tony-downing-street-b1169197.html> - Former Prime Minister Sir Tony Blair has urged Sir Keir Starmer to implement digital identity cards and to avoid vulnerabilities related to 'wokeism'. Blair emphasized the need for a digital ID system to control immigration and suggested that embracing technology could lead to a more efficient and strategic government. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/sir-keir-tony-blair-prime-minister-tony-downing-street-b1169197.html?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-parliament-liberal-democrats-government-kemi-badenoch-b1249786.html> - Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer announced plans for a new digital ID system to be held on individuals' smartphones, aiming to make it more challenging to work illegally in the UK. The digital ID would serve as mandatory proof of the right to work, though individuals would not be required to carry or present it. The system is expected to be available to UK citizens and legal residents by the end of the current Parliament. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-parliament-liberal-democrats-government-kemi-badenoch-b1249786.html?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/prime-minister-london-mark-carney-tommy-robinson-australia-b1249760.html> - At the Global Progress Action Summit in London, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer is expected to discuss the concept of 'difference under the same flag' and announce the rollout of digital ID cards. The digital ID cards could serve as a tool to verify a person's right to live and work in the UK, potentially reducing the attraction of illegal work. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/prime-minister-london-mark-carney-tommy-robinson-australia-b1249760.html?utm_source=openai))