



EXTEND DISCRETIONARY LEAVE TO REMAIN: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE

Discretionary Leave to Remain (DLR) is a form of immigration status granted to individuals who do not qualify under standard visa categories but have compelling reasons to stay in the UK. Extending Discretionary Leave to Remain is crucial for those seeking continued legal residence. This guide outlines eligibility, the application process, and key considerations.

What is Discretionary Leave to Remain?

DLR is granted at the discretion of the Home Office in exceptional circumstances, such as:

- Humanitarian or compassionate grounds
- Cases where removal would breach human rights (Article 8 ECHR – right to family/private life)
- Individuals who cannot return to their home country due to extreme conditions

DLR is typically granted for 2.5 or 5 years, after which an extension may be sought.



Eligibility to Extend Discretionary Leave to Remain

To qualify for an extension, applicants must:

- 1. Hold valid DLR** – The current leave must not have expired.
- 2. Meet the original grant conditions** – The circumstances justifying initial DLR should still apply.
- 3. Show continued need for protection** – If granted on human rights grounds, evidence of ongoing ties to the UK (e.g., family, employment) is required.
- 4. No serious criminality** – Applicants must not pose a threat to public safety.

Application Process to Extend DLR

1. Prepare Supporting Documents

- Passport & BRP (Biometric Residence Permit)
- Proof of ongoing circumstances (medical reports, family ties, employment)
- Evidence of UK residence (utility bills, tenancy agreements)

2. Complete the Application Form

- Use Form FLR(DL) for extensions.
- Ensure accurate and consistent information.

3. Pay the Fees

- Application fee: £1,048 (as of 2024)
- Immigration Health Surcharge: £1,035 per year

4. Submit Biometrics

- Attend a UKVCAS appointment for fingerprints and photos.

5. Await Decision

- Processing times vary but typically take 6–8 weeks.



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Challenges in Extending DLR

- **Changing Policies** – Immigration rules evolve; applicants must stay updated.
- **Evidence Requirements** – Insufficient proof can lead to refusal.
- **Financial Burden** – High fees may be prohibitive for some.

What If the Extension is Refused?

If refused, applicants can:

- **Request an Administrative Review** (if there's a caseworking error).
- **Reapply with stronger evidence.**
- **Appeal to the First-tier Tribunal** (if there are human rights grounds).

Conclusion

Extend Discretionary Leave to Remain is essential for individuals who rely on this status to remain in the UK legally. By understanding eligibility criteria, preparing a strong application, and addressing potential challenges, applicants can improve their chances of success. Legal advice may be beneficial in complex cases.



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