



Moving Back to the UK After Living Abroad

Moving back to the UK after spending time living abroad can be a difficult time for most people. There are a number of reasons why people decide to return “home”, most commonly home sickness, missing family members, work, or simply not settling are reasons to think about moving back to the UK.

For many, the decision will take months to make, with continual doubts as to what the right thing to do is. Some people go back and forward for many years, often known as “yoyo movers”, only to eventually return to the UK to stay. If you’re planning to move back to the UK for good, there are a number of important tasks that you must carry out before returning and when you get there.

Medical Attention and Returning to the UK

Before you leave your current location abroad, you should let your doctor know that you will no longer need to be on the medical roll and are returning to the UK. If you have private medical insurance, you should let them know of your change of circumstances. Some may be able to simply

transfer your policy to the UK, while others may require you to cancel your policy before leaving. If possible, get your current GP, dentist and any other healthcare records sent to the UK before leaving. This will require you to register with a dentist and GP in the UK first. Many will let you do this over the phone, or online, but some will require you to attend in person. Speak to them on the phone first to see which is the best option for you.

Benefits, Entitlements and Other Government Agencies

When returning to the UK, there are a number of important legal steps you must take to ensure that you receive everything that you are entitled to. Some of the most important areas that you need to look at revolve around benefits, pensions, national insurance and tax.

- Contact the Department for Work and Pensions to find out whether you are able to transfer your pension back to a UK account. They can also help you find out if you are entitled to any other benefits.
- Tie up any tax payments you need to make in the Country you're currently living in before leaving.
- Speak to HM Customs and Revenue to let them know that you are coming back to live in the UK permanently. They can help you with any tax issues that you may encounter on your return.
- To obtain your National Insurance number and to find out about any NI contributions, you should contact the HM Revenue and Customs National Insurance Contributions Office.

Selling Your Home and Buying a New Home

Before you leave to move back to the UK it is advisable to arrange some place to stay even if it's only temporary. Most people will stay with relatives where possible or some may book into a hotel for some time. This can be expensive however and it might be worth considering a temporary or short term rental.

Check out online websites that deal specifically with short term rentals and see if they have anything that would suit. If you're selling a home in the place you currently live, you should do this well in advance of your moving date. These things can take time and sorting out paperwork and payments are usually due to time constraints. Get your house on the market and know when you need to sell it by.

If you're buying in the UK, you can be brave and buy unseen, but generally it is best to wait until you're there so you can get a feel for the place. If you're even slightly unsure about how long you're staying, rent rather than buy. It can be more difficult and expensive if you buy and have to sell again within a short term period.

Moving Back to the UK With Children

Although children are relatively good at adapting to new circumstances, it can be an emotional time for them to up and leave friends and a school that they're settled in. Try to make the move back to the UK an exciting time for them and remind them that they can stay in touch via email with friends they're leaving behind. As well as the emotional support you'll need to provide them, there's also a number of legal issues to take care of.

- Notify the local school and official school authorities that you are leaving the country and let them know your forwarding address.
- Contact the UK authority that deals with school admissions in the area you're moving to. Some areas have difficulties in placing children at specific schools, so arrange this in advance of the school term if possible.
- It is always advisable to start your child at the beginning of a school term where possible. This means they don't have to come in during a term where people are already settled into their new classrooms and new teachers.

At Alan Franklin Transport we have provided our specialist Removals and Storage services to a large number of customers who have moved back to the UK after living abroad. With our dedicated Removals and Transport service we can give you the peace of mind that our professional, friendly and efficient service will help you throughout the process of the move.

For more details of our services please call us today on (+ 44) 1202 826539 or visit www.alanfranklintransport.co.uk

