



Planning your Journey to UNFCCC COP26

Glasgow, 31 October – 12 November 2021

Latest Update	Additions/Changes
29/09/2021	Updates to visa sections
21/09/2021	Publication

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21 September 2021

Introduction

As hosts of COP26 we recognise the world must urgently come together - in person and inclusively - to agree on action to tackle climate change. We are working tirelessly to deliver a safe, successful COP26 and are really looking forward to welcoming all of you.

This document provides the detailed information that all UNFCCC registered COP participants (including party, observer, media and international organisations) need in order to plan their journeys to Glasgow. We know how important clarity is, so we hope it provides the reassurance and level of clarity required to plan your travel to COP26.

Separate guidance for those attending the World Leaders' Summit (WLS) and for those who have been invited to both the WLS and COP26 will be provided through diplomatic channels.

Context

The safety and security of everyone at COP26 and in the surrounding community is of the utmost importance. We showed at the G7 this summer that, with the right precautions, it is possible to safely run in-person events and we have therefore put a comprehensive set of Covid-19 mitigation measures in place. They include **strongly recommending that everyone coming to COP is fully vaccinated**, a bespoke test, trace and isolate regime, social distancing, face coverings and enhanced hygiene/ventilation. Everyone coming to COP26 has an important role to play in keeping themselves, their fellow participants and the community safe.

The UNFCCC COP26 Code of Conduct defines the behaviour expected before departing to England or Scotland and throughout the event in terms of Covid-19 safety, and to ensure a fair and inclusive event. Breaches of the Code of Conduct risk the safety of everyone and as such will be taken very seriously; if serious breaches occur those involved will not be permitted further access to the event and/or criminal prosecutions will be pursued.

The COP26 travel regime is a specific set of protocols put in place to protect public health in England and Scotland during the pandemic. The UK and Scottish Governments have both **amended legislation** on their travel regimes for COP26, and will recognise, uniquely for the COP26 summit, **all Covid-19 vaccines**. These changes will help ensure an inclusive summit and can be done safely as a result of the comprehensive set of Covid-19 measures in place for COP26. We all need to work together to keep numbers at COP26 to the minimum that is

essential - we ask each and every delegation, organisation and individual coming to consider carefully if they are essential.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to evolve, we will keep our Covid-19 measures for COP26 under constant review. Whilst we will try to avoid last minute changes, if they prove necessary we will update you on our website as quickly as is possible.

The COP26 specific travel regime only applies to people who have **been registered to attend COP26; have had confirmation of their registration from the UNFCCC secretariat; have confirmed compliance with the health protocols; and have received written confirmation from the UK Government that the COP26 travel regime applies to them** (this includes, but is not limited to, members of party delegations, accredited observers, media, speakers and international organisations). Registration is via the UNFCCC website. For anyone travelling in order to attend COP26 Fringe Events¹, including the Green Zone, COY16 and protest marches, the normal regulations apply. The normal rules are available for [England](#) and [Scotland](#) on the linked websites.

Summary of Travel Rules

The UK travel regime is based on assessments of the Covid-19 risk in each country and territory alongside wider public health factors. Travellers can sign up for email alerts [here](#) to be notified of updates to the regime in England. Travellers are also reminded to check the COP26 website for updates to ensure they understand the latest entry requirements and Covid-19 rules.

The requirements for people entering England and Scotland under the special arrangements for COP26 differ depending on whether they:

- have been in a red listed country or territory in the 10-days immediately prior to their arrival into England or Scotland. (The current red list for England is [here](#), and for Scotland is [here](#).)
- are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, noting that those under 18 and those who have participated in Covid-19 clinical trials will be treated as if they were fully vaccinated. (All Covid-19 vaccines are acceptable for the purposes of COP26.)
- have been invited, by the UK Government, to both the World Leaders Summit and COP26. (Separate guidance will be provided through diplomatic channels in this case.)

¹ Events outside of the Blue Zone of the UNFCCC COP26 conference area. Fringe events will be taking place in the Green zone, which is the public area of the conference.

To support these rules, the UK Government:

- will recognise all Covid-19 vaccines for the purposes of attending COP26 (participants will need to state their vaccination status through the UNFCCC registration process and, where applicable, on their passenger locator form)
- will provide a confirmation letter via the UNFCCC portal which participants can provide to their travel operator and/or UK Border Force to help facilitate their travel
- will provide required PCR or LFD tests except for the Pre-Departure test required before entering the UK and any testing required to exit the UK and onward travel. which will need to be organised and paid for by attendees themselves
- will fund all required Managed Quarantine Service stays for those (vaccinated or unvaccinated) who would otherwise find it difficult to attend COP, including:
 - all Registered COP participants from the Global South;
 - all Registered COP participants who are observer, non-state actors, media and representatives of international organisations; and
 - all registered party participants who are from developing countries on the red list.

This does not apply to anyone who is not a UNFCCC registered COP26 participant, including those people travelling to attend fringe events or the climate march.

More detail on each of these measures can be found in the following sections - please ensure you read and understand them fully alongside the COP26 Code of Conduct which will be available on our website in due course.

Enforcement

As part of the UNFCCC registration process, everyone attending COP26 and everyone entering the UNFCCC Blue Zone², will need to sign up to the UNFCCC COP26 Code of Conduct before they receive their ‘badge’. The Code of Conduct defines the Covid-19-safety measures everyone attending COP26 must abide by.

The UNFCCC Secretariat and UK authorities will take action if any breaches of the Code of Conduct occur. The response will be graduated and proportionate. Major breaches may result in removing an individual’s access to the conference (known as ‘debadging’). In some instances, breaching the rules will constitute a criminal offence and will be treated as such.

Checklist

- 1. Before you travel - take action now**
 - i. Get your Covid-19 vaccinations and declare your vaccination status on the UNFCCC registration portal
 - ii. Apply for a UK visa, if you need one, as early as possible before departure. If you do not apply for one in time, you may not be able to enter the UK

² The Blue Zone is the UN-managed space which hosts the negotiations. All participants within the Blue Zone must be accredited by the UNFCCC.

- iii. Book your Managed Quarantine Service stay through the COP26 bespoke booking process, if you are required to do so (further guidance will be issued shortly)
- iv. Book your conference accommodation

2. Pre-departure

- i. Take a Covid-19 test and get evidence of a negative result in the 72 hours prior to your departure
- ii. Complete a [passenger locator form](#)
- iii. Have the confirmation letter from the UK Government that specifically names you. This will be obtained via the UNFCCC portal once you have confirmed you will comply with the Code of Conduct

3. Arriving in England or Scotland

- i. Provide the correct documents at the UK border
- ii. Undertake the relevant post-arrival Covid-19 tests

Exclusions: Aircraft Crew

Aircraft pilots and crew are not included within the scope of the COP26 exemption. Aircraft and crew supporting delegate travel may be eligible for a separate exemption. The guidance on this exemption, including eligibility can be found [here](#).

1. Before you Travel - take action now

i) Get your Covid-19 vaccination and declare your vaccination status

- **Full vaccination is strongly recommended for all those attending COP26. The safest way for COP26 to happen in person is for those attending to be fully vaccinated, protecting themselves, the event and the community.**
- Exceptionally for COP26, given the robust Covid-19 testing and safety protocols that will be in place, **the UK will recognise all Covid-19 vaccines.**
- Participants are considered fully vaccinated two weeks (14 days) after completing a full course of Covid-19 vaccinations. For most vaccines that is two jabs. Additional booster jabs are not required.
- To demonstrate vaccine status, participants should provide this information through the [UNFCCC COP26 portal](#) and, where applicable, state their vaccine status on the passenger locator form required before departing to England or Scotland (as set out below.)
- The UK offered vaccines to registered COP26 participants who were unable to access them through other means; the window to sign up for this programme has now closed and we are working hard to continue to get the vaccines out to those who requested them. Information on next steps and appointment bookings has been sent to those registered and first doses have started to be administered.

ii) Apply for a UK visa (if required)

We strongly urge COP26 participants who require a visa ('Visa Nationals') to complete their applications as soon as possible to ensure their visa can be processed in time for their journey to the UK.

Visa national delegates attending COP26 will need to factor in both standard visa processing timescales and Managed Quarantine (MQ) requirements when applying for a visa, or risk their travel being delayed and missing part/all of the Conference.

Visa national delegates with an official acknowledgement from UNFCCC

- [Visa national](#) delegates attending COP26 must apply in advance for a visa to travel to the UK.
- Visa national delegates who have an official acknowledgement from UNFCCC, will be able to make a gratis (free) application via the [COP26 visa form](#).
- Visa national delegates will need to visit a Visa Application Centre (VAC) to provide their biometrics (fingerprints and photograph) as part of their application.
- At the start of the application process, visa national delegates will need to choose a VAC from where they will provide their biometrics before being able to select the bespoke visa application form for COP26.
- Further information on VAC locations and opening hours can be found on our commercial partners' websites.
 - [TLS contact](#) in Europe, Africa and parts of the Middle East
 - [VFS global](#) for all other countries
- The [Find a visa application centre](#) page on GOV.UK also has links to VAC websites by country.

Visa nationals without an official acknowledgement from UNFCCC

- Visa nationals attending COP26 without official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC must apply for a standard visitor visa, pay the associated visa fee and demonstrate that they meet the requirements of [Appendix V of the Immigration Rules](#).
- Visa nationals without official acknowledgement from the UNFCCC and who apply under the COP26 route will be asked to withdraw and re-apply using the standard visitor visa application online.
- Visa nationals applying for visit visas from [red list countries](#) will continue to have their applications paused until travel restrictions are lifted. Further details on applying for visit visas from red list countries can be found [here](#).
- Your vaccination status has no impact on your visa application.

Standard visa processing times:

- The standard processing time for the COP26 visa and the standard visit visa is **15 working days** once biometrics (fingerprints and photograph) have been submitted at a VAC.
- UK Visas & Immigration will not routinely expedite COP26 visa applications.

Priority visa (PV) service

- [Priority Visa \(PV\)](#) services are available in most countries.
- Delegates who pay for the PV service will have decision made on their visa application within 5 working days from their appointment at the visa application centre.
- Please check with [your visa application centre](#) to see if the priority visa service is available in the country you are applying from.
- There will be an additional cost for the PV service and delegates who chose to use this service must meet this cost themselves. The UK Government will not provide a refund of any PV costs incurred.

Exemptions

- Some delegates, such as heads of state, employees of [certain International Organisations](#) and serving ministers, may be exempt from immigration control.
 - Delegates who believe that they may be exempt from immigration control are encouraged to consult the [exempt guidance on GOV.UK](#).
 - Delegates who are visa nationals and meet the criteria to be exempt from immigration control are encouraged to apply for an exempt vignette to facilitate their travel to the UK.
 - Exempt vignettes are issued free of charge
 - We recommend delegates who meet the [criteria to be exempt from immigration control](#) need to arrange for their passport (and a photograph) to be submitted to the nearest VAC and we recommend this is undertaken **no less than 15 days in advance of travel** so that it can be endorsed with an exempt vignette.
 - Exempt applications are normally processed within 5 working days of submission
 - Visa nationals who are part of national COP26 negotiating delegations led by a minister (and therefore constitute the official party or delegation of a Serving Government Minister) do not need to submit biometrics as part of their application.
 - Journalists, business leaders or other people not employed by the sending state, but that are included in official parties, are not exempt from immigration control. These individuals must apply for a visit visa and meet the requirements of the [Immigration Rules](#), if not eligible to apply via the gratis COP26 route.
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- There is **no link between vaccines and visas**. There is no requirement to be vaccinated against Covid-19 in order to apply for a UK Visa.

iii) Book your Managed Quarantine Hotel (if required)

COP26 participants who have been in any **red listed countries or territories in the 10 days immediately prior to their arrival into England or Scotland** are required to spend a period of time in a UK-Government, or Scottish Government approved Managed Quarantine Service (MQS) hotel.

- the quarantine period is 5 days for fully vaccinated COP26 participants³, and those under 18 years of age⁴ on arrival (if they are accompanied by a fully vaccinated adult)
 - for unvaccinated COP26 participants, the quarantine period is 10 days
 - if a positive Covid-19 test result is recorded during the MQS period, the period is extended by an additional 10 days starting from the day after the test
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- Where quarantine is required, participants must pre-book their managed quarantine **before** travelling to the UK. A COP26 specific booking process is in place.
 - To book a managed quarantine package, participants **must** be registered COP participants, via the UNFCCC registration portal and have declared their vaccination status in order to begin the booking process.
 - Further guidance on the process for booking managed quarantine will be issued shortly.

³Participants are considered fully vaccinated two weeks (14 days) after completing a full course of Covid-19 vaccinations. For those who are required to go into MQS on arrival, you will need to have received your final vaccine dose at least 10 days before you arrive in the UK, with the day of your final dose being day 0 and the day of arrival being day 10, to qualify for 5 days MQS.

⁴ Under 18s are going to be treated as vaccinated but they need to be accompanied by an adult to qualify for the reduced quarantine period

The UK Government will fund the required managed quarantine stays for all registered COP26 participants who would otherwise find it financially difficult to attend COP26, including:

- all those from the Global South;
 - all Registered COP26 participants who are observer, non-state actors, media and representatives of International Organisations; and
 - all registered party participants who are from developing countries on the red list⁵
- The quarantine package will include transport from your point of arrival in England or Scotland to the MQS hotel, the hotel accommodation, three meals each day, required Covid-19 testing during the stay and transport back to your point of arrival after your MQS period has completed. It will not include onward travel to Glasgow from your point of arrival following your completed MQS period. You can also arrange your own transport from your MQS hotel to Glasgow.
 - Covid-19 tests will be required during, and potentially after, MQS. These will be provided as part of the MQS package and do not need to be booked or paid for separately.
 - **Participants required to be quarantined will be asked for proof of their managed quarantine booking** in order to check-in for international flights, ferries or international trains to the UK, and again on entry into England and Scotland.
 - More information on Managed Quarantine rules, including those for young people (under 18 years of age), Ministerial heads of departments that are also members of their national delegation attending COP26 and identified in the confirmation letters from the UK government, and those with medical conditions seeking exemption from MQS are provided in *Annex A*.

iv) Book your accommodation for your time at the conference

- We encourage you to book your accommodation as soon as possible. Capacity within Glasgow itself is very close to being full. Do consider locations within a commutable distance from Glasgow, such as Edinburgh, which is less than an hour away and served by regular direct trains; during COP these services are being extended late into the evening.
- MCI, our accommodation booking agency, has sold out of their contracted hotels on their portal. Accommodation is still available to book directly with hotels and on third party booking websites.
- As with any large scale event, accommodation in and around Glasgow will be at a premium during COP26, please be wary of offers of accommodation that appear too good to be true and carry out your own due diligence before providing financial or other personal information.

2. Pre Departure

i) Take a Covid-19 test and get evidence of negative result

- All participants at COP26 must be able to provide evidence of a negative Covid-19 test taken in the 72 hours before departing to the UK. You may be asked to show this before boarding the service departing to the UK. More information can be found [here](#) for participants arriving in England, and [here](#) for participants arriving in Scotland.

⁵ If in doubt consult the local UK Embassy or High Commission .

ii) Complete a passenger locator form

- All arrivals to the UK, including those attending COP26 must complete a [passenger locator form](#) up to 48 hours before they arrive in the UK. You may be asked to show this before boarding the service departing to the UK or when arriving.
- We will issue specific guidance on how COP26 participants should fill in the passenger locator form closer to the event.

iii) To note: International transit hubs

- **We are aware of the challenges some people face in reaching COP26, particularly those who need to transit via a third country and who have concerns about unreliability of flight schedules at this time. For example, Australia and New Zealand are major transit points for Pacific countries, but this may require quarantine on outward and return journeys to or from Glasgow.**
- We are working closely with international partners and UNFCCC, to address the challenges that delegations from the Pacific Islands and elsewhere may face in travelling to COP26.
- This includes helping find solutions to the challenges faced in transiting. We are working to identify where and what these challenges are and are working collaboratively with the governments in major transit hubs to agree an approach to help facilitate travel for COP26 participants.
- More information will be provided on our website in due course.

3. Arriving in England or Scotland

i) Provide the correct documents at the UK Border

All participants must be able to provide, when asked by their travel operator and/or Border Force:

- their passenger locator form;
- evidence of a negative Covid-19 test, taken in the 72 hours before their departure;
- where MQS is required, evidence of a managed quarantine hotel booking if you have been in a red list country in the last 10 days;
- COP26 confirmation letter, containing your individual name- this will be issued to all registered participants to confirm the COP26 specific travel regime applies to them.

Failure to do so may impede your ability to travel to England or Scotland.

ii) Undertake the relevant post-arrival Covid-19 tests

- The relevant post-arrival Covid-19 testing regime will be based on your vaccination status and if you have been in a red-list country or territory in the 10 days immediately prior to your arrival into the UK.
- Please do not book post-arrival tests at this stage. A bespoke COP26 system will be made available shortly

A. Participants who have **not** been in **red list** countries or territories in the 10-days immediately prior to their arrival into the UK must:

- a. undertake a PCR Covid-19 test within 48 hours of arrival to England or Scotland;
- b. undertake an additional PCR Covid-19 test on **day 8** if they are **not** fully vaccinated; and
- c. undertake self-administered **daily Lateral Flow Device (LFD)** Covid-19 tests each day of the conference in advance of attending the conference venue.

These tests will all be provided by the UK Government if travelling to attend COP26- full details will be provided in due course.

- B. Vaccinated or unvaccinated participants who have been in **red list** countries or territories in the 10-days immediately prior to their arrival into the UK, will:
 - a. participate in COVID-19 tests provided to you during and after your MQS stay. These tests are included in the MQS package
 - b. undertake daily LFD Covid-19 tests in advance of attending the conference venue - these will be provided by the UK Government, full details will be provided in due course.

Please note, if you are arriving ahead of COP26, you will not be subject to daily testing until the start of the conference.

iii) Public Transport

When in the UK and through border control, delegates are free to travel using the variety of public or private transport options available. When doing so they will be expected to adhere to the public health rules specific to the UK at the time, just as all members of the public will be. It is worth noting that rules between England and Scotland may vary, particularly in relation to facemasks. These are **required** on both public transport in Scotland and on the London Underground, and are recommended (but not mandated) on all other forms of public transport. The majority of, if not all, public health stipulations will be communicated by the transport provider ahead of and during the journey.

4. During the Conference

To gain access to the conference, participants will need to have been registered and have received confirmation of their registration from the secretariat of the UNFCCC.

All participants will also need to comply with the relevant health protocols in accordance with the Code of Conduct when they are within the Blue Zone and when they are outside it. That includes:

- observe 1m distance from others
- wear a face covering as required
- undertake a self-administered Lateral Flow (LFD) test in your accommodation before travelling to the summit every day throughout the event. A negative result will be required to gain access to the Blue Zone each day.
 - If a positive LFD result occurs, the individual must immediately self-isolate in their existing accommodation. The result will be confirmed via a PCR test (provided by the UK Government). If this is negative

the individual is free to return to the event, if it is positive, the individual must follow public health guidance which may include 10-days of self-isolation. Contact tracing will be conducted to identify anyone at risk who may also be asked to self-isolate.

- Those identified as close contacts of a positive individual will be provided with public health guidance which they will be required to follow.
- A confirmatory PCR test will also be required for those that report COVID-19 symptoms.

5. After the Conference/Exiting the UK

Once COP26 has finished, you are expected to make your own arrangements to leave the UK as soon as practicable.

The COP26 specific travel regime only applies to people whilst they are attending or facilitating COP26, or travelling in order to leave the UK. Its use to enter the UK does not permit extended stays for other purposes after the event. Neither the Protocol Directorate nor COP26 Unit have capacity to help delegates who want to add additional programmes should those visiting ignore the request to only visit WLS or COP26 related events. The COP26 specific travel regime only applies to people whilst they are attending or facilitating COP26, or travelling in order to leave the UK.

The UK does not require an exit test for those leaving the Blue Zone at the end of their involvement in the event.

All COP26 participants must individually check the pre-travel requirements for their onward travel after COP26. Some countries require evidence of a negative PCR test to enter. COP26 participants need to arrange and pay for these tests privately but we will be able to signpost participants to private providers where necessary.

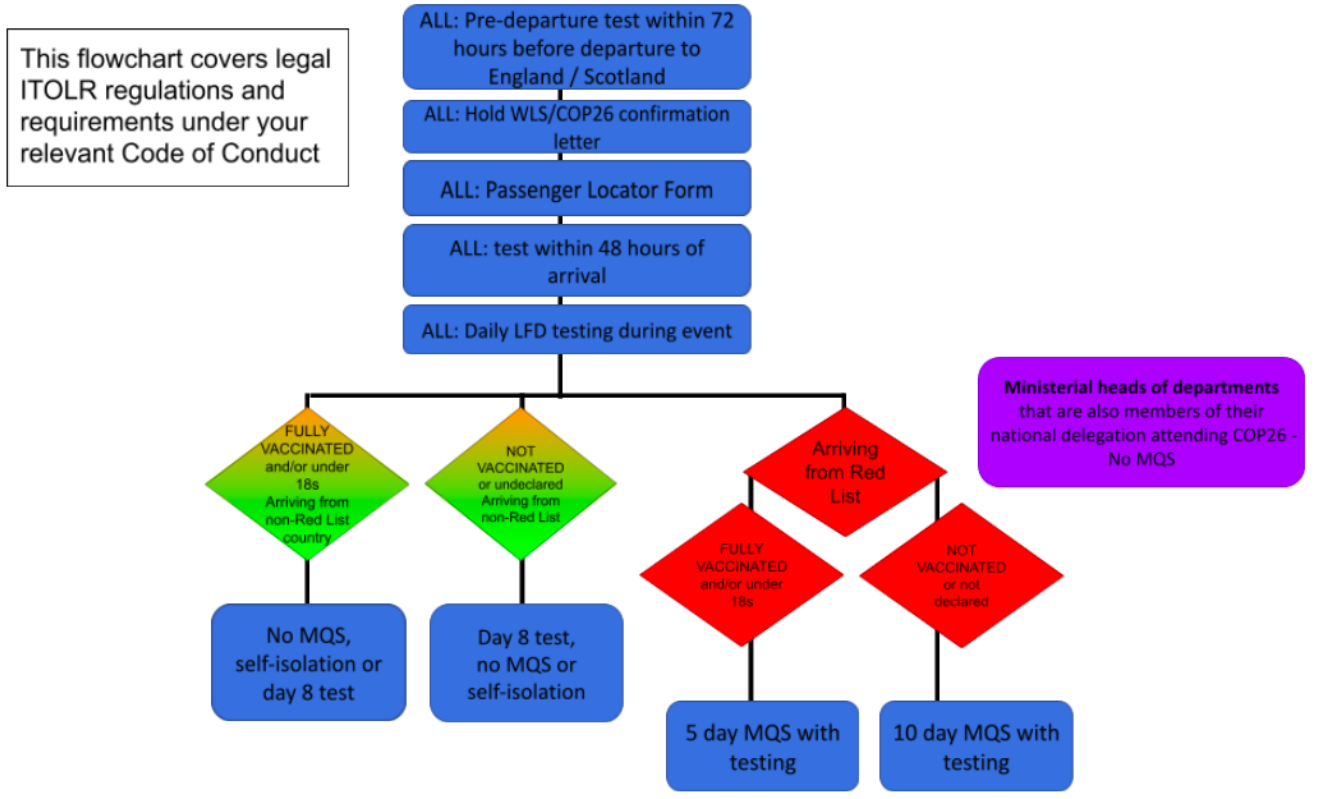
Following the conference, participants are responsible for their own onward travel arrangements between their COP26 accommodation and their point of departure from the UK. Transport will not be provided by the UK government or UNFCCC. A variety of public transport options are available.

Annex A - Managed Quarantine - Further Information and Exemptions

- **Ministerial heads of departments** that are also members of their national delegation attending COP26 and **two** named essential staff accompanying them travelling from red list countries/territories will be exempt from managed quarantine. These individuals **must be** identified as such in the confirmation letters from the UK Government to COP26 (via the UNFCCC portal).
- If you have **specific medical needs** and you are concerned that these will not be met in a managed quarantine facility (thereby risking detriment to your health), you can apply to quarantine in an alternative location; see [here](#) for conditions and process.
- **Young People, under the age of 18, will be treated as vaccinated and so are eligible for the reduced quarantine period of 5 days, at the point of arrival.** However, they must be accompanied by a responsible adult (parent or carer) for the

duration of their stay in MQS. The responsible adult must be fully vaccinated and registered for COP26 to allow both the adult and the young person to qualify for the 5 days MQS. If the responsible adult is not fully vaccinated, or not registered for COP26, they and the participant under the age of 18 will both have to quarantine for 10 days.

Annex B - Summary flowchart of COP26 entry, testing and MQS requirements



Annex C - Visa Application Process

