

## **Migratory Species and Climate Change Expert Workshop**

*11-13 February 2025, Edinburgh, UK*

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### **FACT SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS**

#### **Local Information about the UK and Edinburgh**

##### **Currency**

The official currency in the UK is the pound sterling (£), often abbreviated to GBP. Currency can be exchanged in banks, post offices and travel agencies. Debit and credit cards can be used to withdraw cash from ATMs. Credit cards such as Visa and Mastercard are accepted in the UK.

It should be noted that Scotland, one of the four countries comprising the UK, where Edinburgh is located, also uses pound sterling banknotes issued by the Bank of England and the Bank of Scotland. The Scottish banknotes will always be accepted in Scotland, but in some parts of the UK they may not be as readily recognised.

##### **Language**

Scotland's main language by custom and usage is English.

##### **Standard time zone:**

The UK time zone is GMT during the winter months, including February.

##### **Voltage**

In the UK, the standard voltage is 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz.

##### **Sockets and plug types**

The power plug sockets are of type G.



##### **Weather**

Edinburgh, like most of Scotland, has a temperate maritime climate. The average maximum daytime temperature in Edinburgh in February lies at 6°C (42.8°F), with average nighttime minimum temperatures of 2°C (35.6°F). Rainfall during February is moderate with an average of 50mm (2.0 inches) and 15 rainy days. February is the month with the most snowfall. On average, snow falls for 2.8 days and accumulates 24mm (0.94") of snow. We would advise bringing a warm winter coat and boots.

## **Tips**

Some restaurants may include a tip on the receipt, but the payment is optional and typically conditional on good service. If you would like to include a tip and it has not been specified, a general rule is to pay 10% of the total amount.

## **Accommodation**

The following hotels are all within the heart of Edinburgh and no more than a 10-15 minute walk from the venue:

[Market Street Hotel](#)

[Old Waverley Hotel](#)

[Leonardo Royal Hotel Edinburgh](#)

[Mercure Edinburgh City - Princes Street Hotel](#)

[Motel One Edinburgh-Princes](#)

[The Parliament House Hotel](#)

[Motel One Edinburgh-Royal](#)

[ibis Edinburgh Centre Royal Mile – Hunter Square](#)

## **Meeting venue location and airport transfers**

The venue for the meeting will be Queen Elizabeth House (address: 1 Sibbald Walk, Edinburgh, EH8 8FT) located in the historic Royal Mile area of Edinburgh. It is approximately 8 miles / 13km from Edinburgh Airport.

Edinburgh Airport has good public [transport links](#) with the [tram](#) being one of the easiest ways to get to and from the airport with fast and frequent services to Edinburgh city centre. Trams depart every 7 minutes, between 7am and 7pm, and every 15 minutes outside these hours, with an end-to-end journey of about 30 minutes. The airport tram stop is outside the main terminal next to the plaza. The last stop on the tram line, St Andrew Square, is the closest to Queen Elizabeth House and is about a 10 minute walk.

The journey from [Edinburgh Airport](#) takes around 35 minutes by car. You can take a taxi or an Uber (app) service if you don't have a pre-arranged transfer. Taxi services are located in the East Terminus facility located across the plaza from the main terminal. View the airport transport map [here](#).

## **Travelling from London to Edinburgh**

For those with international flights arriving at a London airport, there are fast train options taking 4-5 hours from London Kings Cross station (for help getting from the airport to Kings Cross see [Plan a journey - Transport for London \(tfl.gov.uk\)](#)) to Edinburgh Waverley station. Waverley station is a 5 minute walk to Queen Elizabeth House. There are also domestic flight options between London and Edinburgh.

## **Local information about Edinburgh**

For information about Edinburgh and things to do in Edinburgh see the Forever Edinburgh website [here](#).

## **Local contacts**

If you need further information, please contact:

Sarah Scott – [Sarah.Scott@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:Sarah.Scott@jncc.gov.uk)

James Williams – [James.Williams@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:James.Williams@jncc.gov.uk)

## **Visa requirements for entry into the UK**

Information on visa requirements to enter the UK, including full instructions on what delegates need to do before, during and after applying for a visa, can be found on the UK Government website at:

[www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/what-you-need-to-do](http://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/what-you-need-to-do)

Depending on nationality, it is likely that delegates will either:

- have to apply for a Standard Visitor visa before travelling to the UK; or
- be able to visit the UK as a Standard Visitor for up to 6 months without needing a visa

Delegates can check if they require a visa here:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-visitor-visa-national-list>

## **CMS Parties**

The majority of delegates planning to attend the workshop in February will be able to enter the UK without a visa as a Standard Visitor. This allows visitors to do certain business or academic activities, for example go to a conference or a meeting, such as attending a CMS workshop.

Further information on visiting the UK as a Standard Visitor can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor>

Some CMS Parties are likely to require a Standard Visitor visa to enter the UK in February for the CMS workshop.

## **Applying for a Standard Visitor visa**

For delegates requiring a Standard Visitor visa to enter the UK, information on applying for a visa is on the UK Government website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor/apply-standard-visitor-visa>

A Standard Visitor visa costs £115 for up to 6 months and must be applied for online before travel to the UK. **The visa processing time varies but can take up to 3 months.** Participants travelling from countries requiring a visa are therefore **strongly encouraged to register for the workshop with the CMS Secretariat as soon as possible to begin the visa applications process.**

The UK Government will issue a letter of invitation (by email) to registered delegates requiring a visa to enter the UK to accompany the visa application. The UK Government will need the following information in order to be able to issue a letter of invitation:

- full name - as it appears in the passport
- email address
- date of birth
- nationality
- passport number
- dates of arrival and departure to and from the UK

Please provide the above information to the UK CMS National Contact Point at [Caroline.Daisley@defra.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.Daisley@defra.gov.uk) when you register with the CMS Secretariat to attend the workshop. The UK Government will then issue the letter of invitation.

Delegates must provide all the necessary information with their visa application to meet UK immigration rules. Guidance on documents to support a visa application can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visitor-visa-guide-to-supporting-documents/guide-to-supporting-documents-visiting-the-uk>

At the end of the online application process delegates will be asked to book a biometric appointment at a Visa Application Centre and pay the visa application fee. Details of the nearest visa application centre can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/find-a-visa-application-centre>

Delegates must go in person to the chosen Visa Application Centre with their passport, printed application form and any other supporting documents (including the letter of invitation). They will also be required to give their biometrics (digital photograph and fingerprints).

If CMS delegates have any questions on UK visa requirements, please contact the UK CMS National Contact Point at [Caroline.Daisley@defra.gov.uk](mailto:Caroline.Daisley@defra.gov.uk)