



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Mr Ross Allen
Ambassador
British Embassy Tallinn

09.12.2024 № 9-8/46-1

**Possibility of permitting UK nationals to
use the e-Gates**

Dear Ambassador Allen

Let me begin by confirming that Estonia supports your idea to ensure fast and convenient border crossings for UK citizens at Tallinn Airport.

The EU's new Entry-Exit System (EES) was expected to come into force from November 2024 and suppose to remove the Schengen Border Code requirement for manual passport stamping. Unfortunately, the implementation of the information system has been postponed and there is currently no official implementation date.

Despite the fact that the new information system replaces manual stamping by the electronic stamp and that we have made changes in Estonian law for UK citizens to use ABC gates, due to technical reasons, the use of ABC gates at Tallinn Airport is not possible immediately after the implementation of EES.

The current ABC gates leasing contract expires at the end of 2026 and next year we will start preparing the procurement for new ABC gates. When preparing the procurement, we are already taking into account that these gates would be available for use by UK citizens.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to make any quick changes at this moment, but we will continue in cooperation with the Police and Border Guard Board to find alternative solutions in the meantime.

Yours Sincerely,

Lauri Läänemets
Minister of the Interior