

## Media Release

**Date: 7 July 2021**

### **Update: Travel via the Common Travel Area from non-CTA countries**

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Since new travel rules came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, one area where there has been confusion has been in relation to ‘blue’ travellers who are fully vaccinated coming via the Common Travel Area from a non-CTA country or region.

In cases where the non-CTA region is a lower Category than the UK or Jersey, travellers have questioned why their category and associated self-isolation has been increased to ‘Category 4’ as a result of transit through the CTA.

The Civil Contingencies Authority does not intend for this to be the case, and is making clear that for fully vaccinated ‘blue’ travellers (who would face no restrictions if they were travelling only to the UK or another part of the CTA), travelling *via* the CTA should not put them in a more restricted category than the one they are travelling from outside of the CTA.

For example, if a “blue” traveller, who has been fully vaccinated in the Common Travel Area (the UK, Republic of Ireland, Isle of Man and Jersey) has travelled to Italy (which is Category 2), then travels back to Guernsey via London (which is Category 4 for non-blue travellers), the person should follow and benefit from the Category 2 rules and not Category 4.

The Travel Tracker is being updated to take into account these kinds of journeys and ensure travellers are given the correct direction in terms of their requirements on arrival.

However if any travellers has already input their travel history for this kind of journey, or if they have already arrived and begun self-isolating, they should contact us on 01481 747578 or [isolationrelease@gov.gg](mailto:isolationrelease@gov.gg).

For those who have not yet input their journey on the Travel Tracker, they should follow the instructions on the Travel Tracker site carefully, noting that they will be prompted to state if they are transiting through England, Scotland or Jersey when they provide details of their travel history.

For those who are not fully vaccinated with two doses of a vaccine administered in the Common Travel Area, plus 14 days since the second dose, they are not eligible for travel under the ‘blue’ channel and therefore the categories of all countries and regions they have

been to, both within and outside of the CTA, will factor into their testing and self-isolation requirements.

Separately, the States has continued to receive enquiries about whether 'blue' channel travel should or could be fully extended to non-CTA countries, either for Bailiwick residents or non-residents or both.

The Civil Contingencies Authority appreciates that for many Bailiwick residents, unrestricted travel to the UK alone means they still face challenges in meeting up with family and friends they have not seen in many months, as many residents have family based elsewhere in the world. The CCA has committed to reviewing this but does not intend to do so before the 19<sup>th</sup> July. Firstly, it is assessing the data of travel from the changes to travel rules brought in on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Secondly, it continues to work with the UK and other jurisdictions on processes for validating vaccinations carried out in other countries. And thirdly, the Bailiwick's relationship with the UK means it has greater access to information on new and emerging variants of the virus, which may impact on travel safety and could significantly impact our situation locally.

**Ends**