

**Have you registered – do you know your warden?**

On arrival in Riyadh it is a good idea to register with the Embassy. This is a simple process and can be done on-line. [www.britishembassy.gov.uk/saudi-arabia](http://www.britishembassy.gov.uk/saudi-arabia). You will then be contacted by the Embassy and assigned a warden. In an emergency our warden network are invaluable, over the years they have proved their worth time and time again. We communicate to the expat community through our warden network and the RGBB network is part of that group.

**Know before you go.....**

Have you heard of “know before you go” campaign? The Foreign Office are promoting their “Know Before you Go” campaign... simply go to the FCO website [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk) and follow the simple instructions through the travel advice and get up-to-date advice on the country you are going to visit, along with contact details for the British Embassy in that country. This covers over 200 countries worldwide.

**Where to go for further information – have you seen our website?**

We have been developing our website and it is now a wealth of information:

[www.britishembassy.gov.uk/saudi-arabia](http://www.britishembassy.gov.uk/saudi-arabia).

Our consular email is [consular.riyadh@fco.gov.uk](mailto:consular.riyadh@fco.gov.uk)

You will receive a return email which gives lots of information. If you need anything that isn't answered by that response just resend the email to the same address marked 2<sup>nd</sup> enquiry and we will get back to you.

**Our opening hours are:**  
0830-1500 Saturday – Wednesday.

Main Embassy number 01 488 0077

In an emergency our Duty officer number is 050 544 9640

**BIOMETRIC PASSPORTS**



Over the last two years, the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) has successfully implemented a range of new procedures and systems to prevent identity and passport fraud. In March 2006, the UK launched one of the most important counter-fraud initiatives, the Biometric Passport, and in July 2006 IPS issued the millionth biometric passports to a member of the UK public.

**What are biometrics?**

Biometrics are unique, measurable, physical characteristics which can be used to recognise the identity or verify the claimed identity of an individual. Examples include facial image, fingerprints and iris patterns.

**Why is the UK introducing biometrics in its passport?**

The increasing threat of identity fraud necessitates the strengthening of security features in passports. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) - which sets international standards- nominated facial recognition as the primary biometric with iris and fingerprint as backup but not mandatory. The use of biometric information to link a person to a passport can help to counter identify fraud. In practice, biometric verification can be used at border controls and to verify the image on a passport renewal application against images held on record.

The use of biometric information to link a person to a passport serves a dual role:

- Helps to detect counterfeit or manipulated documents
- Confirms the identify of the individual

**How will facial biometrics work?**

Facial recognition will map various features on the face, for example, the distances between eyes, nose, mouth and ears. The measurements will be digitally coded and held on an electronic chip secured in the passport page. This can then be used for comparison and verification purposes. Biometric technology is perfectly safe as facial biometrics can be taken from a good quality passport photo.

**How will the new passport be different?**

The Biometric British Passport (sometimes known as ePassport) has a new design with additional security features, including a chip. Externally, the new Biometric Passport appears very similar to the current one, although it also features a logo indicating that there is a chip inside. Internally there are many new security features including pages with intricate designs and new complex watermarks.

**What information is stored on the chip?**

The chip stores the passport holder's photo and the personal details printed on page 31 of the passport.

**When can I get a new Biometric Passport?**

Biometric passports are being introduced gradually over a period of six to eight months in 2006. During the transition, some people will receive a new biometric passport, but some customers will receive an existing digital passport. We cannot give customers the choice between a digital or biometric passport for logistical reasons. In Riyadh the Embassy is currently issuing 32 page Biometric passports and hopes to have the 48 page (Jumbo) available in 2007 when new supplies become available.