

Getting Photo ID After Leaving Prison (UK)



Having a valid photo ID is important for work, housing, benefits, banking, and healthcare. If you've just left prison and don't currently have ID, here are the main options and steps you can take.

What Counts as an Acceptable Photo ID?

The most commonly accepted forms of photo ID in the UK are:

- Passport
- Driving licence (full or provisional)
- CitizenCard or other PASS-accredited card (used as proof of age and identity)

Start With What You May Already Have

- Check your property – sometimes documents like birth certificates, expired passports, or licences are held by prison property or family.
- Ask probation / resettlement services – they may help retrieve or replace documents.

Easiest Route for Many: Provisional Driving Licence

- Cost: £34 online or £43 by post (as of 2025).
- Requirements:
 - Address (probation hostel, approved premises, or your current accommodation is acceptable).
- Proof of identity: you can use a birth certificate plus supporting documents.
- Apply: GOV.UK Provisional Driving Licence
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-first-provisional-driving-licence>

Passport (if you want broader ID)

- Cost: £88.50 online / £100 by paper form.
- Requirements:
- Original documents (birth certificate or previous passport).
- A digital photo.
- Support: Some resettlement charities (e.g. St Giles Trust, NACRO) can help fund passport applications for people leaving prison.
- Apply: GOV.UK Passport Application
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-renew-passport>

Birth Certificate (if missing)

This isn't photo ID, but it's often needed to get one.

- Order a replacement online: £11 from GOV.UK Birth Certificate Service.
<https://www.gov.uk/order-copy-birth-death-marriage-certificate>
- You'll need your place and date of birth.

Low-Cost Alternative: Citizen Card

- Cost: Around £15–£30
- Accepted as valid ID by many employers, housing providers, and for everyday use.
- Apply: <https://www.citizencard.com/apply-for-a-uk-id-card-online>

Help and Support

- **Probation Officer, Approved Premises Keyworker or Support Worker:** if you are residing at an AP, your assigned keyworker or any of the support staff can assist you in applying online for ID forms.
- **Jobcentre Plus:** if you're applying for Universal Credit, they can help verify your identity and sometimes contribute towards ID costs.
- **Charities:**
 - **Nacro** – offers resettlement and ID support.
 - **St Giles Trust** – can help with ID and paperwork.
 - **Crisis** (for homeless people) – sometimes funds ID applications.

Tips if You're Struggling

- Always keep a photocopy or photo of your ID once you get it.
- If you don't have stable housing, you can usually use an Approved Premises or support service address.
- Ask your AP Keyworker or Support Workers about **Hardship Funds** or **Local Welfare Schemes**, which sometimes cover ID costs.

Summary

1. Try for a provisional driving licence – easiest and widely accepted.
2. Apply for a Citizen Card if you need something quicker and cheaper.
3. If possible, work towards getting a passport for the most universal ID.
4. Use probation, Jobcentre, or charities for financial and practical help.

Who we are

New Connections is an organisation which provides support for prisoners and ex-offenders with addiction and mental health challenges who are preparing for Parole or release after a substantial period of imprisonment.

New Connections provides support and guidance in prison through individual and group sessions and the agreement of individual recovery plans to give the ex-offender the opportunity to recover from their addiction and change the direction of their life away from drugs and crime.

If you are interested in hearing more about our work, have any questions, or know someone who could benefit from our services, please contact us via our website.



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