



British Embassy
Phnom Penh

PRESS RELEASE

ALL APPLICANTS FOR A UNITED KINGDOM VISA: BIOMETRIC DATA

The British Government is introducing biometric data collection (ten-finger scans and a digital photograph) as part of a world-wide biometric identification process, designed to protect an individual's identity, facilitate entry to the UK, combat visa fraud and abuse of the UK's immigration and asylum systems.

With effect from **22 June 2007** applicants for a UK visa in Cambodia, irrespective of nationality will be required to provide their biometric data in the form of finger scans and digital photography.

However, the British Embassy will continue, until further notice, to issue a limited number of visas locally, for holders of diplomatic and official passports travelling on official business. **All** other applications will be forwarded to the British Embassy, Visa Section in Bangkok. Applicants may be required to travel to Bangkok to provide their biometric data.

The application cannot be processed if an applicant refuses, or cannot provide, acceptable biometric data.

Fingerscans will be collected from each applicant by using an electronic scanner. No ink, liquid or chemical will be used and the procedure will take no more than two minutes to complete.

All applicants should ensure that their fingertips are free from any forms of decoration (henna, for example), abrasions or other markings, and that any facial cuts and bruises have healed or disappeared prior to providing their biometric data as these may affect their ability to provide acceptable fingerscans and photographs. Digital photographs cannot be taken with applicants wearing head coverings that hide the face, dark glasses, face or neck coverings.

It remains our commitment to ensure the integrity of our visa process. Any applicant submitting false documentation or other information in support of their application may be refused a visa and the matter may be referred to the local authorities.

For further information about the application process please contact our Visa Section on tel: 023 427 124, email: Consular.PnomPenh@fco.gov.uk.

For further information about this press release please contact the Press and Public Affairs Section on tel: 023 427 124, fax: 023 427 125, email: Press.Pnompenh@fco.gov.uk

**Phnom Penh
21 June 2007**