

Immigration authorities

UK Visas & Immigration

Dear UK Visas & Immigration,

Re: TrustedHousesitters

By way of introduction, we are TrustedHousesitters, a UK-headquartered global company which facilitates relationships between people who love to travel and homeowners who wish for the peace of mind of having trusted individuals staying in their homes and caring for their pets while they (the homeowners) are away. You can find more information about our company at trustedhousesitters.com.

We provide this letter with the intention of providing clarity and a more detailed description of our company, and the way our traveller members travelling to the UK use the service we offer.

Broadly, TrustedHousesitters offers an online “matching” system for individuals who wish to open their homes for travellers to stay and those who wish for a more intimate and cost-efficient accommodation arrangement while they travel away from home.

We note that there are several well-noted companies which provide a similar type of “matching” service, however, our company, in particular, specialises in households which also have pets for which the visiting travellers provide care during their brief stay (though, we note, that homeowners are not required to have pets to subscribe to our site).

In summary, TrustedHousesitters acts as an introductory platform allowing members to visit and stay at members’ homes in the UK. Those who subscribe to our site pay an annual subscription fee to access our site, but there are, otherwise, no additional payments made to our company and no exchange of monetary payment between or among members. Our traveller members, in subscribing to our site, are purposefully seeking a more cost-efficient manner of holidaying, and NOT seeking a “job” or to otherwise provide a service.

We are aware that the Immigration Rules, specifically Appendix V relating to the activities of visitors to the UK, confirm that there are 4 types of visitor, including ‘standard’ visitors whose permitted activities include tourism, leisure activities, and visiting family and friends. In particular, we note the eligibility requirements under Appendix V and the genuine visitor requirement set out in Appendix V (4.2-4.4) which confirms that visitors must demonstrate:

- They are seeking entry to the UK for leisure purposes.
- They do not intend and will not be undertaking any prohibited activities during their stay in the UK, which include:
 - ... taking employment, either paid or unpaid;
 - ... doing work for an organisation or business in the UK;
 - ... establishing or running a business as a self-employed person;
 - ... doing a work placement or internship;
 - ... providing goods and services while they are in the UK.
- They will not remain in the UK for longer than the period allowed to them as a Standard Visitor – i.e., 6 months.
- They intend to leave the UK at the end of their stay.
- They have the means to support and maintain themselves financially from their own resources throughout the period of their stay in the UK, and will not have recourse to public funds at any time throughout the period of their stay as visitors in the UK.

As part of their visit, our traveller members have agreed, on a short term basis, to take care of matters around a household, such as watering plants, collecting the mail, and caring for the household pet(s), etc., in exchange for short term accommodation while they holiday in a place away from home. Our homeowner members, on the other hand, gain the peace of mind that trustworthy individuals will care for their homes and pets while they are away.

These arrangements are always made for only brief periods (with the average stay of being 1-2 weeks – the amount of time for which an average person might take a holiday). We believe that subscribers to our website who enter the UK to stay at accommodation arranged through our website are doing so as visitors.

We trust that the above provides sufficient information on the arrangements made by and between our members through TrustedHousesitters to satisfy any queries you may have.



Should you require any additional information on our company and our service, please do not hesitate to contact our customer service team on +44 808 178 0207.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

Yours faithfully,

TrustedHousesitters