

《英国民众申请爱尔兰护照 邮局内表格被抢空》

导读:英国人显然想保住他们的欧盟公民身份：脱欧公投结果使爱尔兰护照申请打破记录。



Britons apparently desperate to hang onto EU citizenship in the wake of the Brexit referendum result have been making record numbers of applications for Irish passports.

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Ireland's embassy and post offices in Northern Ireland received more than 4,000 enquiries on Monday, compared with the 200 it normally receives, Reuters reports.

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Anyone born in the Irish Republic, Northern Ireland or with an Irish parent or grandparent, is eligible for an Irish passport – some six million people living in the UK.

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Ireland's foreign minister Charlie Flanagan has appealed to Britons to stop rushing for Irish passports, as the surge threatened to overwhelm Irish consular offices.

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In a statement he said: “An unnecessary surge in applications for Irish passports will place significant pressure on the system and on turnaround times.

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“The increased interest clearly points to a sense of concern among some UK passport holders that the rights they enjoy as EU citizens are about to abruptly end.

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“I want to state clearly that this is not the case.”

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Ireland's embassy in Paris has also been dealing with a record number of requests, Reuters reports.

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The stampede for Irish passports was also fanned by the Democratic Unionist Party MP Ian Paisley, who had campaigned for Brexit. He tweeted: “My advice is if you are entitled to a second passport then take one.”

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Last year Ireland issued about 670,000 passports, mostly to Irish citizens, while at least 500,000 of Northern Ireland's 1.8m citizens hold an Irish passport.

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Northern Irish citizens can hold both a British and an Irish passport.

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