

TOTAL ID

The Future of Identification

Digital Meets Physical

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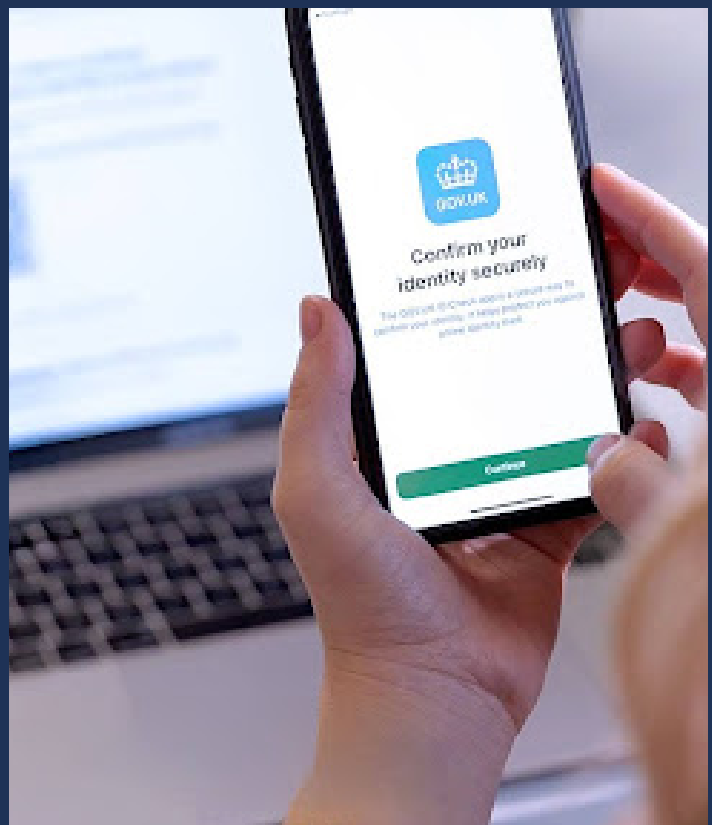


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This guide explains the UK government's new Digital ID scheme, what it means for organisations, and why physical ID cards remain essential.

Use the Table of Contents to explore key details, from Digital ID benefits to the continued role of PVC ID cards and how Total ID can support your identification needs.

What Is Digital ID?

The way we prove our identity in the UK is about to change. The government has announced a new Digital ID scheme designed to make it easier for citizens to access essential services while also tackling illegal working.

By the end of this Parliament, Digital ID will become mandatory for Right to Work checks, meaning employers will need to use the system to confirm someone's legal status to work in the UK.

Digital ID will be stored securely on people's phones, much like the NHS App or contactless mobile payments.

It aims to:

- Simplify applications for services like driving licences, childcare, welfare, and tax records.
- Cut down on paperwork and reliance on paper copies of documents.
- Combat illegal working by making identity checks more secure and harder to forge.
- Reduce identity theft by only sharing the minimum personal data required.

The government has also promised inclusion will be built in, with support for those who don't use smartphones, such as older people and those without easy access to digital tools.



Why Physical Cards Still Matter

While the government is rolling out Digital ID, PVC ID cards and physical badges will remain essential for organisations of all sizes. Digital solutions may be convenient, but they can't replace the practical, everyday benefits of cards in the workplace, at schools, or during events.

Here's why:

Access Control

Digital ID on a phone won't replace staff ID badges, employee access cards, or visitor passes. Physical cards are still the fastest way to manage secure entry into buildings, offices, and restricted areas. Integrated with door entry systems and access control readers, they remain the most reliable solution for workplace security.

Everyday Visual Identification

A lanyard and photo ID card provide instant recognition. Whether it's teachers identifying pupils, security staff checking badges, or visitors navigating a building, nothing beats the speed and clarity of a physical card worn on display.

Backup And Reliability

Smartphones can run out of battery, be lost, or simply not work with every system. Physical cards act as a dependable backup credential that keeps operations running smoothly.

Customisation And Branding

Unlike Digital ID, PVC ID cards can be fully customised with logos, colours, job titles, or department names. They double as a professional branding tool, reinforcing your organisation's identity every time they're worn. Custom printed ID cards also enhance trust and create a professional image for staff and visitors alike.

Event and Membership Use

From event passes and membership cards to loyalty and discount schemes, physical cards provide a tangible, memorable touchpoint with customers and guests. Digital ID doesn't offer this same physical brand connection.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Not everyone has access to a smartphone or feels comfortable using digital systems. Physical cards ensure that every employee, visitor, or student can be included without barriers.

At Total ID, we specialise in PVC ID cards, ID card printers, and consumables that keep businesses, schools and events secure, professional and running smoothly. Whether you need staff badges, visitor passes, or branded employee ID cards, we've got you covered.

The Hybrid Future

The future of identification isn't just digital, it's digital and physical working together.

Instead of replacing one another, Digital ID and PVC ID cards will complement each other, offering organisations the best of both worlds.

Here's what that future looks like:

Seamless Integration

Businesses will adopt Digital ID for compliance checks such as Right to Work, while still issuing physical staff ID badges for everyday access control and visual security. This blended approach ensures organisations remain legally compliant while maintaining practical on-site security

Convenience And Security

Digital IDs provide a quick way to prove identity online or through mobile devices. Physical ID cards provide a visible, always-available credential. Together, they create a dual-layered security system that improves reliability and reduces risk.

Inclusivity by Design

Not everyone has or wants to use a smartphone. By combining both options, organisations can ensure no employee, visitor, or student is excluded from secure access or identification systems.

The Workplace Of The Future

Many organisations are already moving toward hybrid ID solutions, where employees use a digital credential on their phone for online services and a printed ID card for workplace access and identification. This mirrors the way many people already use both contactless cards and mobile wallets side by side.

Beyond the Workplace

Hybrid systems also benefit:

- Events – Digital passes for ticketing + physical lanyards for branding and access.
- Education – Student digital IDs for online platforms + photo ID cards for campus security.
- Healthcare – Digital ID for patient data + printed staff badges for on-site verification.

At Total ID, we see the future as digital and physical working hand in hand. That's why we provide PVC ID cards, printers, and consumables to support organisations today, while keeping an eye on tomorrow's innovations.

Whether you're preparing for Digital ID or strengthening your physical ID systems, we're here to help you build a secure, inclusive, and future-ready identification strategy.

Contact Us



Need More Information On ID Consumables? For expert advice & tailored solutions to help you meet your security obligations, get in touch with us today:

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