

Digital Photo Requirements:

Project Context

What is the context around the project?

In 2015 OIX UK published the findings of a project to explore requirements for a [“Digital ID Photo Sending Service”](#). The project envisaged that applications for passport and driving licence renewals would soon allow users to submit digital photographs. Currently many people have their photographs taken at high street photographers and photo booths. The paper photographs are submitted through the post with the applications. The project explored how a service might work that allowed photographs to be submitted digitally.

In 2016 Her Majesty’s Passport Office introduced [a service that allows digital photographs](#) to be submitted for passport renewals. It is anticipated that many other public services that require photographs will soon allow digital photographs to be uploaded. Many users will wish to continue to use high street photographers and photo booths, however.

Standards for paper photographs are not uniform across UK public services. This makes it challenging for high street providers of photographs to meet users’ needs. As the market adapts its services for digital submission of photographs it would be beneficial to explore if public sector requirements can be communicated to users and met through high street services.

The most robust form of rules lie with those applying for a UK passport or a biometric residence permit, i.e smiling in the photos is not allowed, hair must not cover the face, the photo must have been taken in the last month and be of a professional standard. Blue badge photo ID requirements follow closely those of the UK passport ones; they need to be taken within the last month, have a closed mouth with a neutral expression, are in colour and against a light background. In contrast, the National Union of Students (NUS) card photo requires less restrictive requirements such as no obscuring of the face, and a plain and light background with a head and shoulders shot. The student 16-25 railcard has the least amount of requirements in that the subject can smile, it can be in black and white but the face can’t be obscured by hats or hair.

Project Hypothesis

What is the hypothesis to be tested by the project? (Repeat on front page)

High street photographers can develop services that help users to meet differing requirements for digital photographs across the public sector in a consistent user experience.

Project Objectives

1. Participating public sector organisations propose a framework of requirements for submission of digital photographs in digital applications.
2. Collaborating high street service providers develop a prototype service that helps users to meet the specific needs of the public service for which they are applying.
3. The prototype service is tested with users to determine its viability.

Action if interested in this project: Please email oixuk@openidentityexchange.org with project name in the Subject line, by the 5th September 2016.

Please include the following:

Your Name

Company name

Contact email

Brief description of what you proposed to contribute to the project