

French Matters: Helping Expats Navigate French Bureaucracy

Liz Ford founded French Matters in 2021, providing comprehensive support to English-speaking expats navigating France's complex administrative system. A bilingual consultant, she assists with visa applications, property purchases, healthcare enrolment, vehicle registration, banking, utilities, and tax compliance.

She also specializes in business formation, maintaining a 100% success rate in registering Microentrepreneur businesses across various sectors.

From Scotland to the French Limousin: A Farmer's Journey

In early 2024, Liz helped Andy Graham, a Scottish cattle farmer with 35 years of experience, relocate his business to France's Haute-Vienne region. With the help of his sister Anne, Andy had already purchased a farm. However, as a non-French speaker and without local regulatory knowledge, he needed comprehensive assistance.

The process involved multiple challenges. As a non-French citizen, Andy required specific farming permits and a specialized visa. Liz navigated the complex documentation requirements, successfully securing his farmer's visa on the first attempt. She then managed the practicalities of his relocation: importing a vintage tractor, setting up banking, telecommunications and utilities, and handling business registration.

The project required establishing Andy's agricultural enterprise in France, including:

- Obtaining a professional tax account and business VAT number (Andy's sister Anne is kindly dealing with the actual VAT accounting)
- Registering with the MSA (Mutualité Sociale Agricole) for healthcare coverage
- Enrolling with the Chambre d'Agriculture for grants and livestock declarations
- Purchasing and registering a French vehicle

"I'm proud we overcame every potential obstacle smoothly," says Liz. "Although I'm not an agriculture expert, attention to detail and thorough research ensured success."

Andy adds, ***"Liz has done an amazing job with this move. There's no way I could have done this without her. I can't recommend Liz highly enough and I'm looking forward to many happy years farming in my new location."***



Liz Ford, founder of French Matters



Andy Graham on his farm in the Limousin, France



Andy's vintage tractor which Liz helped to import from the UK