

# Mallorca Bulletin

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## PALMA AIRPORT DRONE



Palma airport is preparing for the future. This week a series of trials involving a "cargo drone" took place at the airport. The trials, despite the weather, proved to be successful and more are being planned. PHOTO: JOAN LLADO.

## NEW TWIST OVER TIE RESIDENCE CARDS

*Palma.*—The British Ambassador to Spain, Sir Alex Ellis, stressed to the *Bulletin* during an interview last October the importance of British residents getting the TIE identification card ahead of April this year when all of the EU Schengen region will have the new biometric EES entry and exit scheme in operation.

However, it appears that there is a snag when it comes to renewals. The *Bulletin* has been informed

this week by Spanish immigration department sources in Palma that Britons who only have a temporary TIE card, one which is for five years, **can only renew their cards after the expiry date**, which could leave thousands of people in limbo.

New post-Brexit arrivals in Spain who were not residents prior to the UK leaving the European Union are more likely to have the five-year temporary TIE

card and those who obtained one when the cards were first rolled out will find that they are soon to be up for renewal.

Despite getting an appointment at the immigration office being as difficult as ever, regardless of claims by the Spanish authorities that steps have been taken to ease lists and free up more appointments, little appears to have changed. However, there is a 90-day grace period after the cards ex-

pire, although some form of proof that you are in the process of renewing the card may be required, especially when travelling.

Travelling to and from the UK and Spain is proving a bit of a problem as the EES systems at some airports are not working as smoothly as they should, with Britons complaining of long queues and confusion.

*By Humphrey Carter*