



Home Office

EU Settlement Scheme

EU CITIZENS
IN THE UK.
STAY INFORMED.

To find
out more,
visit
[GOV.UK >](https://www.gov.uk)



HM Government

Agreement reached with the EU

EU CITIZENS IN THE UK.
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An agreement on
citizens' rights has been
reached with the EU.


HM Government



- ❖ In December 2017 and March 2018, the UK government reached agreements with the European Union on citizens' rights, now reflected in the Withdrawal Agreement
- ❖ The Withdrawal Agreement protects the rights of EU citizens living in the UK by the end of the Implementation Period, and enables them to continue to live their lives as now. It also covers their family members. There are separate arrangements that have been agreed for EEA and EFTA citizens in the UK. They can also apply to the EU Settlement Scheme

No deal

- ❖ In a no deal scenario, EU, EEA and EFTA citizens and their family members resident in the UK by 29 March 2019 will be able to stay. They will still need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. We are engaging with EU counterparts to urge them to make the same commitment to protect the rights of UK nationals in the EU
- ❖ We have published 106 specific technical notices to help businesses, citizens and consumers to prepare for March 2019 in the event of a no-deal scenario. These are available in one place on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)
- ❖ On 28 January, the Home Secretary set out that in a no deal scenario, there will be a transition period until the new skills-based immigration system is introduced at the start of 2021. During this period, EEA citizens arriving in the UK can visit for three months visa-free. EEA citizens who wish to stay in the UK for longer than three months will need to make an application for European Temporary Leave to Remain



Applying to the EU Settlement Scheme

- ❖ EU citizens and their family members in the UK will need to apply to secure their rights through **a simple digital system** to get their status
- ❖ The application process is **quick** and **user-friendly**. The Home Office worked closely with representatives of EU citizens on its design and development
- ❖ A dedicated and proactive **contact centre** and casework team is in place to support citizens
- ❖ We are looking for **reasons to grant**, not to refuse

Applying to the EU Settlement Scheme

- ❖ To obtain **settled status** EU citizens and their family members will generally need simply to have lived continuously in the UK for **five years**. Those with **less than five years'** residence will be granted **pre-settled status** until they accumulate their five years
- ❖ On 21 January, the Prime Minister announced that applications will be **free**. Any Scheme application fees paid in the test phases of the EU Settlement Scheme will be **refunded**
- ❖ We check the employment and benefits **records the Government holds** to establish the period of residence, meaning most applicants won't need to do anything to prove their residence. Where there are gaps, a wide variety of documents can be photographed and uploaded as **evidence**
- ❖ Irish citizens do not need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to protect their status and rights. They are covered by Common Travel Area (CTA) arrangements



Applying to the EU Settlement Scheme

- ❖ Most applicants will only need to prove their **identity**, demonstrate their **residence** in UK and declare any **criminal** convictions
- ❖ The application form is **accessible** through phones, tablets and computers and we will provide **support** for those that need it. Identity can be verified remotely via an android app, or via a quick postal route
- ❖ We tested the application process through a series of pilots with the higher education and health and social care sectors. We also tested the application process with some vulnerable individuals being supported by a small number of local authorities and civil society organisations
- ❖ The Scheme is being implemented on a phased basis and will be **fully open by 30 March 2019**

1

IDENTITY



Use your EU passport or national ID card to prove your identity

2

UK RESIDENCE



Use your National Insurance number or select from a wide range of documents to prove UK residence.

3

CRIMINALITY



Declare any criminal convictions. We will check that they are not serious or persistent.

The role of employers and sector bodies

The Government is communicating with EU citizens about the EU Settlement Scheme through the four key channels, below:

Employers

Community groups

Local authorities

Direct marketing

Why are we focusing on employers?

- More than two thirds of all EU citizens in the UK are currently working here
- Employers are often a trusted source of information
- Some businesses are already preparing for the potential impact of the UK's exit from the EU. Their workforces are a key part of this

What the EU Settlement Scheme means for employers?

- Employers have a duty not to discriminate against EU citizens in light of the UK's decision to leave the EU as both a prospective and current employer
- Current 'right to work' checks (e.g. EU passport and / or national ID card) apply until the end of 2020. There will be no change to the rights and status of EU citizens living in the UK until 2021
- There is no legal obligation for them to communicate the EU Settlement Scheme, however they may wish to signpost the information the Government is providing
- They do not have to interpret information provided by the Government and they must be careful not to provide immigration advice



How can employers and sector bodies help?

The Government has produced an employer toolkit on the EU Settlement Scheme, which is a suite of materials for EU citizen employees which explain what the Scheme is and how it works. The toolkit materials are available for any employer to download from GOV.UK. They do not need to be interpreted, and we simply ask that you download and cascade them to your EU citizen employees through your most appropriate channels

Toolkit introduction pack

Overview of the employers' role, toolkit contents and how to use it, including a practical delivery plan



Materials to support employers

EU Settlement Scheme briefing pack

Key information about the EU Settlement Scheme including support available



Videos / animations

Informative videos including an application outline animation and videos of EU citizens' stories



Leaflets

Leaflets focusing on awareness, eligibility and more



Posters

Posters providing key information and timelines



Factsheet

Factsheet providing an overview of the EU Settlement Scheme



Materials to share with EU Citizens

❖ The toolkit is being evolved to include digital and social media assets

VULNERABLE OR AT RISK EU CITIZENS

Diverse group with wide range of needs, such as:

- Identifying need to apply
- Help with technology
- Support with language
- Demonstrating meet criteria

End-to-end application assistance/help accessing services with status once granted, including:

- Resolution centre
- Translations
- Assisted digital
- All staff trained in safeguarding & specialist teams
- Direct support from external parties, such as local authorities (e.g. looked after children), community groups and charities.



Communications and Engagement

- ❖ Targeted national campaign: Educate – prepare – deliver – sustain
- ❖ Multi-channel engagement is underway to reach the estimated 3.4m EU citizens living in the UK
- ❖ Direct email contact with 300,000+ subscribers to EU citizens' updates
- ❖ Stakeholder engagement including through communities, employers and local authorities

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