



Home Office

Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP
Minister of State

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15 August 2019

By Email Only

Dear Colleague

EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME – 1 MILLION GRANTED STATUS

I would like to update you on the progress to date of the EU Settlement Scheme, which enables resident EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members to secure their rights here.

I am pleased to inform you that the latest internal figures show that more than one million EEA and Swiss citizens and their families have been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme, just a few months after the Scheme opened. This significant milestone sends a clear message to EU citizens; they are our friends, family and neighbours and we want them to stay.

The official statistics for July have also been published today, 15 August, and are available on GOV.UK. We hope that this milestone and the latest application statistics will continue to encourage those who have not yet applied to the Scheme to make their applications.

Citizens' rights

I would like to echo the Prime Minister's recent words and our unequivocal guarantee to the 3.2 million EEA and Swiss citizens and their families living and working in the UK. I thank them for their continued contributions to our society, and I can assure them that under this government they will have the absolute certainty of the right to live and remain here. Deal or no deal, EEA and Swiss citizens will have until at least 31 December 2020 to apply.

I understand the huge importance of ensuring that resident EEA and Swiss citizens feel valued and reassured that their future in the UK is certain. The EU Settlement Scheme offers them the security they require, enabling them to continue living in the UK after we leave the EU, with the same rights to work, study and access benefits and services as they have now. The secure online status granted to them under the Scheme will make it quick, easy and convenient for them to evidence their rights at any point in the future.

Support, engagement and communications

To coincide with the launch of the Scheme, the Home Office launched a £4 million marketing campaign to further encourage EEA and Swiss citizens to apply. We continue to engage with stakeholders across the UK, hosting webinars, teleconferences and events to promote the Scheme and inform businesses, devolved administrations, embassies, local authorities and community groups about how best to support these individuals. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your engagement with my officials on the Scheme. Your support is very much appreciated.

We have also awarded up to £9 million to 57 voluntary and community sector organisations across the UK, who are mobilising their services and are already providing outreach to help us reach vulnerable and at-risk citizens and their family members. Additional support in completing an application has been made available through a network of over 300 assisted digital locations across the UK and assistance is available by telephone or email from the EU Settlement Resolution Centre.

Future activity

As the Scheme progresses, our communications activities will become more focussed to reach those EEA and Swiss citizens who are yet to make their application. We will be using the insight gained through our conversations with your representatives and other stakeholders to ensure that we produce further communications materials that are relevant to EEA and Swiss citizens, including infographics, animations and printed materials, to ensure that guidance around the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible to all. You will shortly have access to an online portal where you will be able to order a supply of printed materials to aid your communications and outreach activities.

We will soon be launching a search function on the GOV.UK website to enable users to find their nearest support services for the EU Settlement Scheme. This includes the network of 57 organisations who have received grant funding from the Home Office to support EU citizens who might need additional help when applying to the EU Settlement Scheme, and the UK-wide network of assisted digital support centres. A tool is already available on GOV.UK to locate the nearest ID document scanner, where individuals can go to get their biometric ID document scanned, as an alternative of using the EU Settlement Scheme app.

Further information

Please do continue to direct EEA and Swiss citizens to GOV.UK to stay informed, and encourage them to sign up to receive EU Citizen Email Alerts from the Home Office.

I would like once again to extend my thanks to you and your staff for your continued collaboration and close working in support of our shared objectives on the EU Settlement Scheme. My officials will continue to work with yours as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BL' with a flourish.

**RT HON BRANDON LEWIS MP
MINISTER OF STATE**