



Home Office

EU Settlement Scheme

EU CITIZENS
IN THE UK.
STAY INFORMED.

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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
- ❖ Further information on the agreement at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

No deal

- ❖ In a no deal scenario, EU 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 strongly 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
- ❖ We will be setting out further detail on what the process will be for EU citizens who wish to travel to the UK, after 29 March 2019 and before the future skills-based immigration system comes into force, in due course



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 will be as **quick** and **user-friendly** as possible. The Home Office worked closely with representatives of EU citizens on its design and development
- ❖ A new 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 will 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 EU citizens will only need to prove their **identity**, demonstrate their **residence** in UK and declare any **criminal** convictions
- ❖ The application form will be **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 have been testing the application process through a series of pilots with the higher education and health and social care sectors. We have 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**

Frontier workers

- ❖ The rights of EU citizens who currently live outside the UK but travel regularly to and from the UK for work or self-employment – **'frontier workers'** – are protected by the Withdrawal Agreement. Individuals will be able to continue to travel to the UK for work or self-employment in future
- ❖ Many frontier workers will spend enough time in the UK to qualify for status under the EU Settlement Scheme
- ❖ Otherwise they will be required to obtain a document to evidence their right to enter the UK and work as a frontier worker
- ❖ We will be setting out further details on how frontier workers will be able to apply for such a document in due course. In the meantime, there will be no change to their rights and they can continue to frontier work into the UK



Private Beta 2 (PB2)

- ❖ Following a successful initial Private Beta (PB1), a second, expanded private beta (PB2) was launched on **1 November 2018 and ended 21 December 2018**
- ❖ PB2 has tested the online application process as an **integrated, end-to-end process**
- ❖ PB2 has been successful, with **29,987 applications** submitted from 1 November to 21 December 2018
- ❖ It has been available, on a voluntary basis, to staff in the **higher education, health and social care sectors across the UK**
- ❖ PB2 has also been available to **some vulnerable individuals, being supported by a small number of local authorities and community groups**, in order to test the operations of the scheme for those with support needs
- ❖ We published a **full report on PB2 on 21 January 2019**. Findings from this phase have been **positive**



Key stats from PB2

- ❖ **29,987** applications
- ❖ By 14 January 27,211 decisions had been made, 70% granted settled status and 30% granted pre-settled status. **No cases refused**
- ❖ **69% of decided cases were processed in three working days**, 81% processed within a week
- ❖ 1,330 completed feedback, **77% stated it was easy or fairly easy**
- ❖ **90%** of users successfully proved their ID using the app
- ❖ Over **500 different devices** used
- ❖ **84% proved residence through the interface to HMRC/DWP** and did not have to send any further information



PB2 lessons learned & next steps

- ❖ We have learned lessons which have enabled further improvements to be made
 - ❖ Updated communications and guidance material to help
 - ❖ Improved functionality in respect of how an applicant verifies their email address
 - ❖ An increase in the size of files an applicant can upload
 - ❖ Introducing technical safeguards against any disruption in the automated checks of HMRC or DWP data
 - ❖ Updates to the case working system
- ❖ In light of the successful testing during the private beta phases, we have proceeded with the start of the **wider public implementation of the EU Settlement Scheme from 21 January 2019**
- ❖ The Scheme is **available to resident EU citizens (and their EU citizen family members) with a valid passport, and to their non-EU citizen family members holding a valid biometric residence card**, so that they can prove their identity remotely using the identity verification app
- ❖ We currently anticipate that the further implementation of the EU Settlement Scheme will be secured through further Immigration Rules changes to be laid before Parliament in early March 2019, so that the **Scheme will be fully open by 30 March 2019**



EU Settlement Scheme timeline



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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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