



Scottish Government
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Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport
Jeane Freeman MSP

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

COSLA Interim Health & Social Care
Spokesperson
Councillor Stuart Currie

T: 0131 474 9200
E: info@cosla.gov.uk

EU and EEA citizens working in
Social Care in Scotland

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Dear Colleagues,

EU AND EEA CITIZENS WORKING IN SOCIAL CARE IN SCOTLAND

You may recall that we wrote directly to you in December, with regards to the UK's exit from the EU. We had hoped then that, by this point, we would have had more clarity. Unfortunately, it is still the case that the UK Parliament has not agreed a deal or a clear way forward. As a result, our future remains uncertain. Given this, we wanted to write jointly to you again today to provide you with the most recent and accurate information we have.

First, we want to reiterate that the top priority of both the Scottish Government and COSLA continues to be to ensure that your rights are protected and that you have access to the information and assistance you require. We are very grateful for the work that you do, and the contribution you make to the health, care and wellbeing of people in Scotland. Your work is important and we want you to continue to live and work in Scotland.

Second, we want to reassure you that we have been working very closely with health and social care partnerships over the past months to do all we can to make sure that the sectors are as prepared as they can be for the various scenarios we might face over the coming days, weeks and months. This includes doing what we can to ensure continuity of supplies including of medicines, medical devices, clinical consumables, and non-clinical goods.

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

COSLA (Edinburgh), Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards,
Edinburgh, EH12 5BH, www.cosla.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



EU Citizen Settlement Scheme

The EU Settlement Scheme fully opened on 30 March 2019, allowing EU citizens to apply for the UK immigration status they need to continue to live and work in the UK. Any EU citizen who applies must prove their identity, show that they reside in the UK, and declare any criminal convictions, before they can be assigned either pre-settled or settled status. This process is free and we would encourage all EU staff members, and their families, to apply, if they have not already done so, as soon as possible. This can be done by following the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>

Those who applied during one of the pilot phases and were required to pay a fee, will be refunded. The Home Office has announced that this will happen automatically from 30 March 2019, and a confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided on the application, when the refund has been processed. Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-application-fee-refunds>

The Home Office also recently confirmed that even if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, EU citizens who are resident in the UK before the withdrawal will continue to be eligible to apply to the settlement scheme, until at least 31 December 2020. Arrangements after this date have yet to be agreed upon.

To provide further support and advice to EU citizens, the Scottish Government has now launched a 'Stay in Scotland' campaign. The campaign will provide additional reassurance to EU citizens, support and advice for those applying for Settled Status, and a toolkit for employers to assist them in holding meaningful and supportive conversations with EU staff. We hope this will prove helpful.

Registration Status

We recognise that some staff might be worried about what might happen to their professional registration if we leave the EU without an agreement. We can confirm that you will not need to do anything, and will remain on the register for as long as you continue to meet all the normal requirements of continued registration.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the EU Exit section within the mygov.scot website, which contains the most up-to-date information about how EU Exit could affect people and businesses in Scotland. We would encourage you to look at this should you have any questions and to regularly check for updates. The website can be found here: <https://www.mygov.scot/eu-exit/>

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Thank you again for all that you do. We hope that this letter provides some comfort and reassurance in these uncertain times.

Kind Regards,



JEANE FREEMAN



COUNCILLOR STUART CURRIE

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