

Subject: EU Settlement Scheme Launch



29 March 2019

Dear Local Authority Chief Executive,

EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME

On 30 March, the UK Government is launching the EU Settlement Scheme. Throughout establishing the Scheme, we have always been clear that we want EU citizens and their families who have made the UK their home to stay. EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society; they are integral to our national culture and life. The full opening of the Scheme shows clearly our commitment to enable them to continue living and working here just as they do now after the UK leaves the EU.

The EU Settlement Scheme provides a simple and straightforward process for EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members who want to stay in the UK to get the UK immigration status they need. They will only need to complete three key steps – prove their identity, show that they live in the UK, and declare any criminal convictions. Applications to the Scheme are free and are made via a short online application process.

Now that the Scheme is fully open, there are different routes available for applicants to have their ID documents checked as part of their application. These include scanning identity documents using a mobile Android phone, sending documents by post, or visiting one of our many ID document scanner locations across the country.

Private and public test phases

Since August last year, the Home Office has been running a series of private and public test phases to ensure that we fully test the various elements of the system, including the app which checks identity documents, before the full launch of the Scheme.

I am pleased with the progress we have made in getting the Scheme ready, and with the applicant feedback we have received during the test phases, which has enabled us to make improvements along the way. Already over 200,000 people have been granted status under the Scheme.

Support, engagement and communications

The Home Office has invested heavily in the Scheme, developing a new case working system, as well as putting in place a range of user-friendly guidance and support services, including a customer contact centre, to help EU citizens through the process.

This week, a UK-wide marketing campaign was launched to increase awareness of, and encourage EU citizens to apply to, the EU Settlement Scheme. Outdoor advertising can be seen at around 6,000

across the UK including in every major city. There is also digital advertising on catch-up TV, radio, media and online, running from Saturday 30 March.

The marketing campaign will direct EU citizens to guidance on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), which is available in all 23 official EU languages and Welsh from 30 March. We will be producing further translated communication materials, including videos and animations, to ensure that guidance around the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible to all.

We are taking particular care that adequate support is in place for more vulnerable and at-risk citizens. The Home Office grant funding scheme will help voluntary and community organisations provide application support for the most vulnerable. We will announce which organisations have received funding in April.

Public information and communications will continue throughout the lifetime of the Scheme, alongside continued work and engagement with employers, local authorities and voluntary and community organisations, to ensure no-one is left behind.

Local authorities

We have sought to engage local authorities at each stage of the development and roll out of the EU Settlement Scheme, working closely with local authority representatives throughout the UK to understand local needs. This has led to a range of local engagement with EU citizens, as well as with community groups, voluntary sector bodies and businesses that have strong local links with EU citizens and their communities.

Throughout the lifetime of the Scheme, we will be enhancing our engagement and working directly with local authorities in more ways to ensure that all EU citizens are aware of the need to apply. This includes planning significant local outreach in Scotland to reach all parts of the UK and speaking to harder to reach communities.

Looked after children

Local authorities play a critical role in ensuring applications are made for eligible looked after children. Local authorities in Scotland have a duty to ensure that applications to the Scheme are made on behalf of all looked after children who are EU citizens and for whom they have parental responsibility.

Local authorities also have continuing duties to support care leavers up to age 26. Eligible care leavers will be required to make an application to the Scheme. Local authorities should therefore ensure that care leavers are made aware of the need to do this. We will continue to support local authorities to ensure you are able to make applications on behalf of eligible children in your care.

No deal arrangements

While the Government remains committed to leaving the EU with a negotiated deal, in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal, I want to reassure you that the EU Settlement Scheme will continue to support EU citizens who are resident in the UK before the UK leaves the EU will continue to be eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, until at least 31 December 2020.

For EU citizens arriving after the UK's exit from the EU, transitional immigration arrangements will be in place.

EU citizens wishing to stay in the UK for up to three months will be able to continue to come to the UK to visit, work and study by using a passport or national identity card as now. They will not need to apply for any immigration status. EU citizens arriving in the UK after the UK leaves the EU who wish to stay in the UK for more than three months will need to apply for European Temporary Leave to Remain. Further guidance is available on GOV.UK, and we will continue to update you with more information.

Further information

We want to ensure that every EU citizen has the information and support they need to apply to the Scheme. You can access direct information via these quick links below:

- [EU Settlement Scheme guidance](#)
- [Access assisted digital support](#)
- [ID document scanner locations](#)
- [Sign up to receive EU Citizen Email Alerts from the Home Office](#)
- [Sign up to receive the Community Bulletin](#)
- [European Temporary Leave to Remain Guidance](#)

We greatly appreciate your continued support in promoting the EU Settlement Scheme and providing reassurance to EU citizens.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Sajid Javid