



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



Home Office

*From the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
Home Secretary*

*And the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care*

Dear Chief Executive,

## **EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME**

On 30 March, the UK Government launched 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 identity documents checked as part of their application. These include scanning identity documents using an 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, 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 sites across the UK including in every major city. There is also digital advertising on catch-up TV, radio, social 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 has been available in all 25 official EU languages and Welsh from 30 March. We will be producing further translated communications materials, including videos and animations, to ensure 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.

### **Health and social care sector**

Throughout the private testing of the scheme, we have been working closely with health and social care employers across the country. We are grateful for the commitment of your staff in helping to test elements of the end-to-end application process.

During this testing, a range of communications and engagement activities were undertaken with the health and social care sectors across the UK. The Home Office ran a series of webinars in collaboration with key partners, including the Department of Health and Social Care and the devolved administrations. A communications toolkit provided a broad range of organisations with the right information about the Scheme to enable EU citizens to apply.

We will continue to provide tools and resources to enable scheme messages to be cascaded, and we will continue to work with your sector to drive awareness and applications.

### **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. 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 put 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 MP**



**Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP**