

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th March 2017

Dear Constituent,

RE: STATUS OF EU NATIONALS.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the status of EU nationals in the UK after Brexit.

Securing the status of EU citizens, as well as that of British nationals in the EU, is a priority as soon as Article 50 is triggered and the negotiations have begun. It goes without saying that EU nationals make an invaluable contribution to our economy, our society and our daily lives. I can assure you that there has been no change in their status in the UK.

The discussions that the Government has with the European Union to agree the arrangements for the UK's exit will undoubtedly reflect the immense contribution made by EU citizens to our economy, our NHS, our schools, and in so many other ways.

I understand you are concerned about how long this is taking to resolve, but the Government remains committed to providing reassurance to EU nationals here, and UK nationals living in the EU, as a priority once Article 50 has been triggered. Some EU countries have insisted that there can be no 'negotiation before notification', and therefore this cannot be settled until Article 50 is triggered. This stance is extremely frustrating as the Prime Minister had tried to remove this uncertainty in advance of the formal negotiations starting – I believe she was right to do so, and it is disappointing that some EU leaders rejected this.

Like you, I believe it is in the best interests of all concerned for this issue to be reconciled as quickly as possible. Until exit negotiations are concluded, the UK remains a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force – indeed, I enclose a copy of a 'Dear Colleague' letter from the Home Secretary, which I hope further clarifies the Government's position and offers reassurance to you.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

with best wishes,

Tom

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

6 February 2017

Dear Colleague,

Re: European citizens in the UK

European citizens already resident in the UK make a vital contribution both to our economy and our society, and a number of colleagues have spoken to me recently seeking assurances about their immigration status when we leave the EU.

There is absolutely no question of treating EU citizens with anything other than the utmost respect, recognising the contribution they make not just to our economy, but also working in crucial public services like the NHS. Without them we would be poorer and our public services weaker. That's why we will be making securing their status, as well as that of British nationals in the EU, a priority as soon as we trigger Article 50 and the negotiations begin.

I know some colleagues are concerned about how long this might take to resolve, but the Government remains committed to providing reassurance to EU nationals here and UK nationals in the EU as a priority once Article 50 has been triggered. The hold-up is less an issue of principle than one of timing with a few EU countries insisting there can be 'no negotiation before notification', and therefore that nothing can be settled until Article 50 is triggered.

But I'd also like to reassure colleagues that Parliament will have a clear opportunity to debate and vote on this issue in the future. The Great Repeal Bill will not change our immigration system. This will be done through a separate Immigration Bill and subsequent secondary legislation so nothing will change for any EU citizen, whether already resident in the UK or moving from the EU, without Parliament's approval.

I've always been clear that after we leave the European Union we will have an immigration system that supports our economy and protects our public services, and that should mean securing the rights of EU citizens already here, as well as establishing a new immigration system for new arrivals from the EU once we have left.

But this isn't just about ensuring British businesses and our public sector have access to the right workers, we owe it to those many European citizens who have contributed so much to this country to resolve this issue as soon as possible and give them the security they need to continue to contribute to this country.

I hope this is useful and I am of course happy to meet with any colleagues with further concerns.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber Rudd'.

Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Home Secretary