



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

18<sup>th</sup> July 2021

*Jean Contrevent,*

**RE: SETTLED STATUS**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of settled status for EU citizens in the UK; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I know you have concerns about the future of EU citizens in the UK. While it is not for me to comment on any individual case, I can assure you that the EU Settlement Scheme protects EU citizens' rights and provides those citizens with an immigration status under UK law.

The new system for obtaining settled status is streamlined, user-friendly and draws on existing government data to minimise the burden on applicants to provide evidence. Applications will not be refused on minor technicalities without the applicant being given the opportunity to rectify them, and caseworkers considering applications will exercise discretion in favour of the applicant where appropriate. As a result, the Home Office has said it expects the vast majority of cases to be granted, with refusals most likely to be because of serious criminality, or if the person is not an EU citizen (or family member). Once obtained, people will be able to be absent from the UK for up to five years without losing their settled status.

As you will be aware, the 31st December 2020 was the deadline for EEA citizens to be resident in the UK to be eligible for the settled status scheme. EEA citizens were eligible to submit an application until the 30th June 2021. I understand there were concerns regarding this deadline. However, it is important to consider that the scheme was launched in 2019 and the latest statistics show that there were 5.61 million applications, with 5.27 million concluded applications. I was pleased to see that 97 percent of concluded applications have resulted in settled or pre-settled status. I know that a wide range of support is available online and over the telephone if needed and the Government is funding seventy-two organisations across the UK to ensure no one gets left behind.

You may be reassured that there will be instances where applications made after the 30th June 2021 will be accepted. In line with the *Citizens' Rights Agreement*, there remains scope, indefinitely, for a person eligible for status under the EUSS to make a late application to the scheme where there are reasonable grounds for their failure to meet the deadline applicable to them. I welcome the fact that Ministers have now published guidance for caseworkers on reasonable grounds for making a late application, which includes where a local authority has failed to make an application on behalf of a child in their care and where a parent or legal guardian failed to apply on behalf of someone aged under 18. I also know that the Government will take a compassionate approach where people need to make a late application. For instance, people who could have applied but have missed the deadline will be granted twenty-eight days to make a late application.



I was particularly glad that the Government has made clear that the guidance, which reflects engagement with stakeholders on this issue, is not exhaustive and all cases will be considered on a flexible and pragmatic basis in light of their particular circumstances. The guidance can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-caseworker-guidance>

I was also very pleased when it was announced that there will be no settled status application fee. Any person who has applied during the pilot phases will have their fee reimbursed. This decision makes clear to EU citizens living in the UK that their contribution to our society is deeply valued.

Finally, I have detailed below the latest settled status statistics (as of the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021) which I hope you will find interesting:

Total number of applications: 5.61 million  
Total number of concluded applications: 5.27 million

Total number of applications by nation:  
England - 5,040,800  
Scotland - 276,600  
Wales - 92,700  
Northern Ireland - 92,000

Concluded applications by outcome type:  
Settled - 2,754,100 (52%)  
Pre-settled - 2,276,200 (43%)

Refused: 94,000  
Withdrawn or void: 72,100  
Invalid: 74,900

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 PURSGLOVE MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**