

9 January 2020

Dear friend,

A Letter of Support to EU Citizens Living in Lambeth

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. As the Leader of Lambeth Council, I want you to know that Lambeth welcomes everyone who chooses to live in our borough.

We know that our greatest asset is our diversity, and we value all of our communities, including all of our residents from the European Union. In Lambeth, there are over 40,000 EU citizens, who are an integral part of Lambeth's communities and make an invaluable contribution to our businesses, the delivery of our public services, and to wider public life. I want to send a really clear message to all Lambeth residents who are originally from EU countries – we want you to stay.

If you are an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, then please apply for settlement or pre-settlement status at www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families. Gaining settled status allows EU citizens to remain in Lambeth with the same benefits you currently enjoy. The latest data we have show 26,540 applications from Lambeth residents by the end of September 2019 – 8th highest in London – 11th in the UK.

Please help spread the message to other EU residents living in our borough and encourage them to apply for settled status. Citizens under the age of 18 will also need to have an application completed for them.

For any support you need, whether you require guidance, want to check your eligibility, find advice, read information on settled status in your own language or join information events, please check the EU Londoners Hub: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/eu-londoners-hub>.

If you require verification assistance in completing an application, you can make an appointment for Lambeth Council staff to verify your identity, at the Town Hall in Brixton: <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/births-deaths-marriages-and-civil-partnerships/citizenship/nationality-services-eu-settlement-scheme>.

To ensure this process is as smooth as possible, we have waived the fee for such checks for Lambeth residents so that everyone is able to use it as swiftly and easily as possible.

Lambeth was the borough in the country that voted most heavily for Remain and as a council we are immensely proud of that. However, we know that the UK is expected to leave the European Union in the near future. We are working to manage the impact and uncertainty of this by waiving the fees for the settlement scheme, lobbying government to improve the settlement scheme, funding community groups to provide advice to EU citizens and helping schools, charities and businesses to prepare for the impact of Brexit.

To find out what else we are doing to respond to Brexit and for more information on your rights as an EU citizen, please go to our website lambeth.gov.uk/preparing-for-brexite.

Yours sincerely,



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