

**From the Leader of the Council**

Our Ref: **Leader/2021-06/010**

Your Ref:

Kevin Foster MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Minister for Future Borders and Immigration

Via Email:  
[kevin.foster.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kevin.foster.mp@parliament.uk)



**Wednesday, 16 June 2021**

Dear Kevin Foster MP,

**EU Settlement Scheme**

As a diverse borough that is home to thousands of residents originally from EU countries, we are joining the call from numerous organisations that have asked for an extension to the deadline for applying for the EU Settlement Scheme. We are concerned that many EU residents have not yet applied and are facing significant difficulties in doing so, especially elderly residents, those who are affected by the digital divide, adults or children in care, victims of domestic abuse and trafficking, Roma communities and those who are homeless. Research so far has shown that numerous looked-after children and care leavers are yet to submit their applications, with many having their applications rejected.

EU citizens will need this status not just to travel internationally, but also in many other situations, such as proving their right to work, proving their right to rent, being able to open a bank account or being able to access healthcare. We have all been hearing worrying stories of EU citizens that have faced numerous issues with their applications, especially children who have been refused even though their family members have been granted settled or pre-settled status. Could you, as Minister for Future Border and Immigration, inform us of what steps the Government have taken to inform potential applicants of alternative arrangements if they do not have access to documentation to prove their residency or nationality – for example if they have removed themselves from abusive relationships and a former partner holds their documentation? How many peoples does the Government estimate will find themselves without a legal right to remain in the UK on 1 July 2021?

Lastly, we know the Government wants to make immigration status digital by default and that those who may not be digitally literate have been considered when it comes to proving their Covid-19 vaccination certificate. In extremely stark contrast however,

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

EU citizens are not able to have any form of physical or printed proof of their status under the EU Settlement Scheme. They also do not get an app where they can simply show their status. Instead, they have to go through a complex process involving more than 14 steps each time they need to prove their status to someone. An app with the option to download and print a PDF of their immigration status, and a telephone number for those without smartphones to be able to request a printed version of status, would make an enormous difference to EU citizens who have made the UK their home. Would you be considering a system that would allow those who may not be digitally literate to prove their status?

Yours Sincerely



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