

Media Release 20 Jan 2021: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A 'grace period' extends the Brexit deadline for EUSS

The last date for applying to EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) is

Wednesday 30 June 2021 - APPLY NOW!

On 31 December 2020, the UK left the European Union (EU), and EU nationals in England, Scotland and Wales MUST apply for the EU Settlement Scheme by Wednesday 30 June 2021 if they wish to continue residing in the UK without losing rights. This process can take weeks, if not months, so Europa are strongly urging EU nationals across Greater Manchester to register themselves and their children before time runs out. The clock is ticking and the days are numbered with the Covid crisis exacerbating the problem and causing delays.

Greater Manchester prides itself on the diversity of its' inhabitants with over 200 languages spoken. It is estimated that half of the city's adult population is multilingual, with four in ten young people able to converse in more than one language. Our multi-cultural identity is recognised as a great benefit and is valued as an intrinsic part of our communities' identities, contributing to Greater Manchester's growth and place in the world.

Whilst many EU nationals have already received their Settled Status, thousands have not and the latest statistics from Greater Manchester (as of September 2020) are alarming, with over 8,800 applications from the 10 boroughs still outstanding. This equates to just under half of the capacity of Manchester Arena! Imagine so many people being at risk of losing their rights?

Kush Chottera, Executive Director, Europa said: *"EU nationals living in the UK are not being seen as a priority during and after Brexit. We have taken this upon ourselves to support local authorities and organisations during these extremely difficult times when they are grappling with the coronavirus pandemic. Europa has published vital statistical work analysing Home Office data to find out more about who is applying and receiving status in each local authority in Greater Manchester. Armed with detailed community intelligence, we hope to help shape their policy response and service provision to reach as many EU nationals as possible."*

The implications of EU nationals *not* applying for their EU Settlement Scheme by 30 June 2021 is that thousands of adults, children and new-borns risk falling foul of the UK Government's 'hostile environment' immigration policies. This means losing the right to work in the UK, to access education when a child finishes statutory schooling, loss of state benefits and the right to accommodation, a requirement to pay for NHS services, and potentially being detained and removed from the UK.



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Julie Ward, human rights campaigner and Labour Co-op MEP for NW England 2014-20 said: *“The EU citizens who have made their life in the UK did so in good faith enjoying the rights that all citizens benefited from across 28 Member States as part of EU fundamental freedoms. Their lives have been thrown into confusion since the 2016 referendum causing great anxiety with many still uncertain about their future. Authorities in Greater Manchester have always been clear that EU citizens are welcome and valued for the contribution they make to our local economy and cultural life. I urge all EU citizens to ensure they act in a timely manner to ensure they achieve 'settled status' before the June 30th deadline.”*

In 2019, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimated that the population of Greater Manchester was roughly 2.8 million (NS). In the same year, it was estimated that the number of key workers in Greater Manchester was approximately 432,000 - 15% of the population. This the latest available data available from the ONS.

Hundreds of thousands of key workers, who have proved themselves essential during the COVID 19 Pandemic, are from EU countries. Can you imagine if our communities were bereft of such integral key workers?

The Windrush scandal showed what can happen when residents don't hold the legal permit to reside in the UK. Hundreds of people were affected decades after their arrival in the UK, being evicted from their homes, losing their jobs or their right to medical assistance and, in some cases, being deported. Most of the people affected were unaware they were breaking the law. This could potentially happen again when Europeans' sons and daughters apply for further education or entry to University in fifteen years' time. Even new-born babies born in the UK from European parents must be included in EUSS applications.

Afzal Khan MP for Manchester Gorton, said: *“With any system used there will always be those who experience difficulties in access. In the case of the EU Settlement Scheme, we know there are a number of groups who are experiencing challenges in settling their status, for example Roma communities, older people, those with limited digital literacy, and EU national children living in care. The Windrush scandal saw people who had lived in the UK for decades and had built a life, family and career here being pursued through no fault of their own. This was a failure in the system of recording this generation's right to settle and live in the UK. Understandably there is a very real fear now that EU nationals may experience the same thing if we're not careful.”*

Let's look to a brighter future where current and next generation EU nationals live, work and thrive among us and are able to fully contribute to the communities which make up our Greater Manchester.

EU nationals must apply online through the [Government website](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status#content>

Support with applications in EU languages is available from Europaia:

www.europia.org.uk/what-we-do/euss-support

EU nationals can call Europaia on 0333 305 8570 or email euss@europia.org.uk

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Notes to Editors

How to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status#content>

Applicants will need proof of identity: An EU, EEA or Swiss Passport is valid plus a proof of residence and a digital photo. It's possible to scan the ID document with an android phone, iPhone 7 or above, or post the physical passport. There, the applicant will be without Physical ID proof for a while. There is not a paper form. Neither will be physical card to prove the status.

Further statistics:

Key figures from the full report 'EU Settlement Scheme Statistics' produced by Europaia © 2020

The latest report **EU Settlement Scheme Statistics, produced by Europaia** (covering the three month period from 28 August 2018 to 30 September 2020) reveal key findings including that the total number of applications from Greater Manchester was 155,710, an increase from 13,890 from applications received up to June 2020 and of these there were still 8,840 applications from Greater Manchester that are outstanding as of 30 September 2020.

The highest EU nationalities of EUSS applicants in Greater Manchester up to September were Polish (25,900), Italians (23,550), non-EEA (17,810), Spanish (16,650) and Romanians (14,080). In the context of this dataset, non-EEA applicants are those who do not hold citizenship of EU or EEA countries but are eligible to obtain a status under EU law.

Total applications in each borough were as follows: Bolton (16,720), Bury (6,950), Manchester (61,120), Oldham (11,830), Rochdale (10,770), Salford (20,580), Stockport (5,450), Tameside (7,920), Trafford (6,750) and Wigan (7,620).

Of all applications concluded by September 2020, 50.1% were given settled status, and 47.6% pre-settled status. 2.4% had other outcomes. Other outcomes include refused, withdrawn or void, and invalid applications, and it didn't result in a grant of UK residence status. For most nationalities, between 1-3% of concluded applications from across the UK had 'other' outcomes. However, 4.5% of concluded non-EEA applications nationwide had 'other' outcomes, the highest negative conclusion rate in the country.

** Notes:

It is important to remember that Europaia are analysing statistics released by the Home Office, not producing the statistics ourselves.



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About Europia

www.europia.org.uk

Europia, a Manchester-based charity which empowers, supports, trains and represents EU nationals in Greater Manchester and beyond, has taken responsibility for analysing the quarterly EU Settlement Scheme statistics reports released by the Home Office, focusing on the statistics for Greater Manchester. The next quarterly report will be released by the Home Office in February 2021.

Europia provides free EUSS support in different languages and staff are available to provide help on a case-by-case basis. This applies to issues regarding Brexit, as well as any other issue related with European nationals living, working or studying in Greater Manchester.

Europia FREE services for EU nationals in Greater Manchester: Legal Surgery, Benefit Advice, EUSS Support, Health and Wellbeing, Emergency Fund and more.

Support with applications in EU languages is available from Europia:

<https://europia.org.uk/what-we-do/euss-support>

EU nationals can call Europia on 0333 305 8570 or email euss@europia.org.uk

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Europia OISC Registered and Regulated Immigration Advisors No. N202000121

Sources of Information:

(Local statistics) EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics local authority tables, September 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-september-2020>

(National statistics), EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics tables, September 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-september-2020>

(Home Office Guide): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-september-2020/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-september-2020>

EEA Definition: <https://www.gov.uk/eu-eea>

Settled and pre-settled definitions: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/what-settled-and-presettled-status-means>

ONS Data:

Key Workers: Population and Characteristics, UK, 2019:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/keyworkersreferencetables>

Population of the UK by country of birth and nationality: individual country data, 2019:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/populationoftheunitedkingdombycountryofbirthandnationalityunderlyingdatasheets>

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