

EUROPE DIRECT NORFOLK IS A FREE, LOCAL INFORMATION SERVICE FROM CITIZENS ADVICE AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE IN NORFOLK

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT EUROPE? CHECK THIS OUT

European Sources Online (ESO) is a free online information service and database which brings together a variety of sources on any relevant topic relating to Europe – its countries and regions, its communities and complex realities, its national and supranational institutions (including the European Union), as well as its relations with the world. The service is aimed at students and academics, librarians and information specialists, government officials and other civil servants, stakeholders from the private and third sectors and the population in general. The database aggregates different types of credible printed and online sources – from official press releases to reports, from blog posts to journal articles and analysis, from monographs and textbooks to news reports and opinion features.

The database is managed and developed by the [European Documentation Centre at Cardiff University](#), in cooperation with a group of librarians and information specialists from other institutions across Europe.

EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME APPLICATIONS

Since 21 January the Home Office have opened a public test phase of the new EU Settlement Scheme. Any eligible person can now apply. You need to be either

- a resident EU citizen (but not a British citizen) with a valid EU passport
- the non-EU citizen family member of an EU citizen and you have a biometric residence card

You also need to have access to an Android device to use a Home Office app to enable your identity to be confirmed as part of the application process.



You can download the app onto your Android device. You can get full details and help with how to use the app here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-eu-exit-id-document-check-app>

The Free Movement website have produced a walk-through video on apply for settled status. [Here is the link.](#)

Remember, the full application process is scheduled to go live in March and almost all EU citizens living in the UK who want to continue to live, work or study here will need to apply for [settled or pre-settled status](#) by end of June 2021.

The Home Office has been testing the EU Settlement Scheme application process through a series of pilots before it launches fully by 30 March 2019. Feedback from applicants on the application process has been positive.

Making an application at this time is entirely voluntary so there is no need to do anything yet.

There are some differences with the current test phase compared to when the scheme is fully launched. In this phase, we are testing the app which checks an individual's identity document. However, when the scheme is fully live at the end of March, use of the app will be optional and people will be able to send their identity document in the post or get their passport checked in over 50 locations.

The scheme will be fully live by 30 March 2019 and, under the draft Withdrawal Agreement,

applicants will have until 30 June 2021 to apply. You will be able to use any laptop or mobile device to make an application.

On 21 January 2019 the Prime Minister announced that there will be no fee when the scheme opens fully on 30 March 2019. Anyone who has applied already, or who applies and pays a fee during the test phases, will have their fee refunded. Applicants should make payment using the card they want to be refunded on.

DECLARING CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS WHEN YOU APPLY FOR SETTLED STATUS

If you want more information on the self-declaration of criminal convictions and how this is dealt with by the Home Office when you apply for (pre-)settled status, then read this explanation and analysis by Colin Yeo on the [Free Movement](#) weekly newsletter of 18 February [here](#).

BUSINESSES AND BREXIT - ARE YOU PREPARED?

HMRC have issued their [third letter to businesses](#) with the latest guidance to businesses about the UK leaving the EU. The letter asks businesses to take a number of actions to prepare for no deal.

HMRC also have a tool for businesses with 7 simple questions to get guidance relevant to them and their sector. The tool gives information on what businesses need to do to prepare for the UK leaving the EU, what is changing in their industry and information on specific rules and regulations. You can access the tool at [Prepare your business for the UK leaving the EU](#) and there is Step-by-Step guidance on the government's Communication Resources website [here](#):



A CITIZEN OF ICELAND NORWAY OR LIECHTENSTEIN LIVING IN THE UK? A UK CITIZEN LIVING IN ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES? HOW WILL BREXIT AFFECT YOU?

The UK government has recently issued an agreement on the post-Brexit rights of citizens living in the UK from the three EEA/EFTA countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, which are members of the Single Market but not members of the EU. This agreement provides certainty to EEA/EFTA nationals living in the UK and UK nationals in the EEA EFTA states that their rights will be protected even if we leave the EU without a deal.

You can find this latest guidance on the [Free Movement](#) website [here](#) and full details – including a video clip - on the UK Home Office website. **Check out this latest website from the UK government with comprehensive information and exiting the EU: www.gov.uk/euexit**

UPDATE ON PENSION AND BENEFITS AFTER BREXIT

The government's guidance (end December 2018) on **pensions** and **benefits** for UK citizens living in Europe and for EU citizens living in the UK in a **no-deal scenario** still applies. You can find this guidance [here](#).

There is also new guidance from [Citizens Advice](#):

You might be able to claim benefits if you're from the EU or European Economic Area (EEA) and you live in the UK. The EEA includes EU countries and also Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. You might also be able to claim benefits if you're from Switzerland. You'll need to prove different things about your life here for each benefit you apply for. You might need to give evidence:

- you have the right to claim benefits in the UK - this is called a 'right to reside', you'll need this for most benefits
- the UK, Ireland, Channel Islands or Isle of Man is your main home and you plan to stay - this is known as being 'habitually resident'
- you meet other criteria for the benefit you're claiming - for example you earn less than a certain amount or you're ill

You might have a right to reside if:

- you're working
- a member of your family is working - for example, your husband, wife or civil partner
- you've recently stopped working and are looking for a new job

It's best to check what benefits you could get first. Check what you need to prove for the benefits you want to apply for. You'll then need to find out if you're eligible.

IF YOU'RE RECEIVING BENEFITS FROM ANOTHER EEA COUNTRY

You might still be able to claim some benefits in the UK. For example, if you're working and getting a pension from another EEA country, you might be able to get Universal Credit. When you apply for benefits in the UK, give details about the benefits you're claiming from another country, including how much money you get. The amount of money you're getting from your other benefits might affect what benefits you can get in the UK.

NOTE: The situation could, however, change, depending on the Brexit negotiations. Also check out our detailed **Factsheet 3** on pensions in Europe here: www.ncab.org.uk/?p=europe.direct.norfolk.news

QUESTIONS ABOUT TRAVEL AND RESIDENCE IN ANOTHER EU COUNTRY?

For information on travelling, travel documents, residence rights and retiring in another EU country, keep up to date at **Your Europe** here:



ARE YOU A CITIZEN FROM ANOTHER EU COUNTRY LIVING IN THE UK – A NEW RESOURCE FOR YOU

The European Commission in London has set up a new website resource to keep EU citizens from other countries who live in the UK up-to-date with developments on Brexit, their rights and what it means for them. Check out this new resource here: www.eurights.uk/

USEFUL LINKS AFTER 29 MARCH 2019

CLICK ON THE IMAGE TO GO TO THEIR WEBSITE

EUROPE DIRECT CONTACT CENTRE (EU RIGHTS FOR INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES, AND GENERAL QUERIES ABOUT THE WORK THE EU DOES)



THE UK GOVERNMENT'S WEBSITE AT **GOV.UK** (CITIZENS' RIGHTS, EMPLOYER TOOLKIT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR EU EMPLOYEES, IMPORTING AND EXPORTING FROM THE UK).



CITIZENS ADVICE (RIGHTS AFTER BREXIT OR IN A NO-DEAL SCENARIO, BENEFITS, HOUSING ELIGIBILITY POST-BREXIT, EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME).



UK-EU CONSUMER CENTRE (AIR TRAVEL, BUYING GOODS AND SERVICES, SHOPPING ONLINE AND ONLINE DISPUTES).



YOUR EUROPE (TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, RESIDENCY RIGHTS AND RETIRING ABROAD).



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