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LATEST ON THE WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT

The latest news taken from the UK government's website. The **Withdrawal Agreement** and **Political Declaration** on the future relationship between the UK and EU as endorsed by leaders at a special meeting of the European Council on 25 November. The Government will lay these before Parliament ahead of the parliamentary debate and vote on the approval of these documents.

The **Withdrawal Agreement** is a legally binding document and sets out the terms of the UK's smooth and orderly exit from the European Union, including provisions for an implementation period.

The **Political Declaration** is not legally binding and sets out the framework for the future relationship between the European Union and the United Kingdom. It provides instructions to negotiators that will deliver a future relationship by the end of 2020 covering an economic partnership, a security partnership and agreements on areas of shared interest. You can find full details on gov.uk.

PILOTING THE NEW EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME – PHASE 2

The UK government has now completed phase 1 of the new EU Settlement Scheme pilot. A much wider phase two has started and EU citizens living in the UK are invited to take part in the pilot. There are eligibility criteria to take part in phase 2 and you can find the full details [here](#). Here is a summary from the Home Office website.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PILOT?

Under this phase of the pilot, you'll be able to apply for status under the scheme if you're either:

- a resident EU citizen with a valid passport
- the non-EU citizen family member of an EU citizen and you have a biometric residence card

You must also either be:

- working in the higher education, health or social care sectors, as set out below
- a child under the age of 18 being looked after by one of the local authorities involved in the pilot or eligible for support or assistance from one of those local authorities because you were looked after by them as a child
- receiving support from one of the community organisations involved in the pilot

You'll also need to be able to access an Android device in order to use a Home Office app to enable us to confirm your identity as part of the application process. You must not apply under the pilot unless you meet these eligibility requirements.

Details of the pilot application process are:

FROM 15 NOVEMBER 2018

You'll be able to apply if you are:

- employed by or work at a higher education institution or overseas higher education institution in the UK which is classified as such on the [Tier 4 Register of Licensed Sponsors](#)
- a child under the age of 18 being looked after by one of the local authorities involved in the pilot, or you're eligible for support or assistance from one of those local authorities because you were looked after by them as a child
- receiving support from one of the community organisations involved in the pilot

FROM 29 NOVEMBER 2018

You'll also be able to apply if you are employed by or work at an organisation in the health or social care sector in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales.

Full details of the employers participating in this stage of the pilot in each part of the UK are available in the [Immigration Rules](#). There are some differences which reflect devolved responsibility for health and social care.

The government has said that an application under the scheme will **not** be rejected due to a genuine error by the applicant as to whether they came within the scope of the pilot.

VISIT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS

The House of the Member States welcomes individual visitors and groups alike. Test your knowledge of the two institutions in an interactive, engaging manner in our new Visitors' Centre. Or enrol your group in one of our interesting information sessions on how Member States work at the European level. Your tour could include a real meeting room where you can sit in your minister's seat, the red carpet where you can walk in the shoes of your leader, and the stunning lantern of the Europa Building. Further details on how to book your visit can be found [here](#).

CLAIMING UK PENSIONS AND BENEFITS IN EU COUNTRIES

If you are claiming benefits in the UK or are looking for work in the UK, you may be able to travel or move to another EU country and continue to claim some benefits. What you're entitled to depends on where you're going and how long for. The rules are

set out [here](#). The rules may change over the next year after Brexit and during the transition period but the government has said there will be no change to the [rights and status of UK nationals living in the EU](#), nor EU citizens in the UK, while the UK remains in the EU.

You can also claim your [State Pension abroad](#). You can claim State Pension abroad if you've paid enough UK National Insurance contributions to qualify.

You must be within 4 months of your State Pension age to claim. To claim your pension, you can either

- [contact the International Pension Centre](#)
- send the [international claim form](#) to the International Pension Centre (the address is on the form).

You can find more information [here](#).

EUROMYTHS

There are a lot of myths about the rules the EU have made and legislation they have passed, from bent bananas to names of food products. You can check all these myths [here](#).

HOW TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON BREXIT

Do you want to keep in touch with developments as we approach Brexit and beyond? Subscribe to news and regular updates from the European Commission [here](#)

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Please give us your views on our service and how we can improve to give you the information you needs. Here is am short survey [here](#).

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