



# Newsletter January 2019



Norfolk  
Diss, Thetford & District  
Mid Norfolk

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

## EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME – LATEST FROM UK HOME OFFICE

Citizens from other EU countries who want to continue to live and work in the UK after 29 March 2019 will need to apply for **settled or pre-settled status**. There is a lot of information on this on our website at [www.ncab.org.uk/?p=eu.settlement.scheme](http://www.ncab.org.uk/?p=eu.settlement.scheme)

The Home Office is currently piloting the application process and this will be available to all EU citizens by 29 March. The **deadline** for applying for the new status is **30 June 2021**.

The UK Home Office is regularly updating its webpages and you can find the latest update here: [www.gov.uk/search?q=Settlement+Scheme](http://www.gov.uk/search?q=Settlement+Scheme)

Applications are on-line and you will need to use an Android device. However, if you do not have an Android device with near field communication (NFC) the Home Office is setting up locations where you can visit to get your biometric ID document scanned.

There is a list of these locations [here](#). The nearest locations for people who live in Norfolk are **London, Hatfield or Lincoln**. You can book an appointment on-line from this link.

You can subscribe to regular updates from the UK Home Office on the **EU Settlement Scheme** [here](#).

## MORE HELP ON APPLICATIONS FOR SETTLED STATUS

Applications for all immigration services, including the new EU Settlement Scheme, are now moving to on-line applications. The Home Office has an [Assisted Digital Service](#) which has been set up to help people who have problems with digital access. The service aims to ensure that nobody is excluded from making an immigration application due to lack of digital skills or access to a computer. This service will be available to EU nationals who want to apply for **settled or pre-settled status**.

In addition, current customers and, in the future, EU nationals applying for settlement under the new scheme will be able to access **telephone support**, or **face to face support** at a library or another suitable location, to help them access and complete the online form. In the East of England face to face support will be available in **libraries** in **Cambridge, Ely, Great Yarmouth, Huntingdon, Ipswich, Kings Lynn, Lowestoft, March, Norwich, Peterborough, St Ives, St Neots, Thetford and Wisbech**. Addresses can be found by following this link: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/assisted-digital-service-england/england-assisted-digital-service](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assisted-digital-service-england/england-assisted-digital-service) .

## LATEST UPDATE FOR BUSINESSES FROM HMRC

HMRC have published an updated version of the [Partnership Pack](#) on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) to help businesses prepare for the possibility of the UK leaving the EU without a deal on 29 March 2019. This builds on the previous version of the pack, published in November and includes new guidance on the steps UK businesses trading with the EU need to take now in order to plan for a no deal scenario.

It also contains information on how customs intermediaries and traders completing customs declarations [can apply for grants](#) to support training and IT under an £8 million investment from government.

The pack focuses on how VAT, Customs and Excise could be affected and includes information split by topic and audience.

The pack is for organisations, intermediaries and infrastructure providers to use for their own contingency planning and to share with those they represent, their clients and members. It is designed so that you can take information from it and tailor it to suit your own channels and your audiences' needs.

## UK NATIONALS LIVING IN EU COUNTRIES – LATEST ON YOUR RIGHTS FROM UK HOME OFFICE

UK nationals currently living and working in other EU countries can get the latest news from the consular section of the British Embassy in their country and from various community groups. There has been a lot of talk in the UK media about a 'no deal scenario' and, at the end of December last year, the UK government published some important information for UK nationals when we leave the EU in the absence of a withdrawal agreement here:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/the-uks-exit-from-the-eu-important-information-for-uk-nationals](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-uks-exit-from-the-eu-important-information-for-uk-nationals) .

Home Office advice is this: *We will continue to provide updates to UK nationals in the EU on GOV.UK and through our network of Embassies, Consulates and High Commissions as it becomes available. We advise that you subscribe to updates from the relevant [Living in country guide](#) for the EU country you're living in.*

## TRAVELLING AROUND THE EU AFTER BREXIT

There is some uncertainty about how the rules for travel to most countries in Europe will change if the UK leaves the EU with no deal. The latest information and advice from the UK Home Office **for UK passport holders** is:

*After 29 March 2019:*

- *You should have at least 6 months left on your passport from your date of arrival. This applies to adult and child passports.*
- *If you renewed a 10 year adult passport before it expired, extra months may have been added to your new passport's expiry date, making it valid for more than 10 years. Any extra months on your passport over 10 years may not count towards the 6 months that should be remaining for travel to most countries in Europe.*

The new rules will apply to passports issued by the UK, Gibraltar, Guernsey, the Isle of Man and Jersey. You can use [this tool to check a passport for travel to Europe](#).

In addition see this BBC news report with some useful hints and tips on how Brexit could affect holiday trips to Europe: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-46627083](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-46627083)

## MORE INFORMATION ON EU LAW AND SETTLED STATUS

Seraphus Solicitors [www.seraphus.co.uk/](http://www.seraphus.co.uk/) have been contracted by the European Commission in London to run an **EU Advice Service** to help people prepare for Brexit. The service provides information on EU law, the settled status process and Home Office systems. You will also find a list of third party websites providing free advice to EU citizens and the settled status process. You can also find a list of useful resources here: [www.seraphus.co.uk/Resources.html](http://www.seraphus.co.uk/Resources.html) - scroll down to the slides headed EU Citizens' Rights and Settled Status.

## AND, FINALLY, A REMINDER THAT EU27 CITIZENS IN THE UK CAN VOTE IN THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS IN MAY THIS YEAR

EU citizens living in the UK are being encouraged to check their eligibility to vote in the upcoming [European Parliament elections](#) which take place between 23-26 May this year. Following the UK's decision to leave the EU on 29 March 2019, UK citizens will no longer be able to vote. However, EU27 citizens living in the UK are eligible to vote, subject to certain conditions. To help voters, the European Parliament has produced a set of [country factsheets](#) which provide a snapshot of voting conditions and national contacts points.

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Please give us your views on our service and how we can improve it to give you the information you need. There is a short survey [here](#).

## USEFUL LINKS



GOV.UK



European Commission



Citizens Advice

For news, events and more:



@DirectNorfolk



[www.ncab.org.uk/?p=edic](http://www.ncab.org.uk/?p=edic)



@NorfolkCAB



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