

CITIZENS RIGHTS FACTSHEET 1

ARE YOU AN EU CITIZEN LIVING IN THE UK? WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS UP TO AND AFTER BREXIT?

Brexit Day

'Brexit Day', the day the UK plans to leave the EU, is 29 March 2019. Your current rights will not change until then. After Brexit Day there will be a 'transition period' until the end of December 2020. The UK government has agreed (subject to the negotiation of the 'withdrawal agreement') that EU citizens who already live in the UK and who come to the UK during the 'transition period' will enjoy all the existing rights of EU citizens in the EU.

Settled Status

If the 'withdrawal agreement' becomes part of UK law, this is what it will mean for EU citizens and their families in the UK after Brexit Day.

- People who, by 29 March 2019, have lived continuously and lawfully in the UK for 5 years will need to apply for **settled status**. They will then be able to continue to live here, have access to public funds and services and, if they want to, go on to apply for British citizenship.
- People who have not lived in the UK for five years or who arrive before 29 March 2019, will be able to apply for **pre-settled status** until they have lived here for 5 years. When they reach the 5 year threshold, they will be able to apply for **settled status**.
- **Family members** who live with EU citizens or who arrive here in the UK before 29 March 2019 will be able to apply for **settled status** after living for 5 years in the UK.

People with **settled status** in the UK or temporary permission to stay will have the same access as they do now to healthcare, pensions and benefits

in the UK. **Irish citizens** living in the UK will not be required to apply for settled status.

How do I apply for settled status?

All EU citizens who want to continue to live in the UK will need to apply for their **settled status** document. There will be an application fee but the full details are not yet available. The UK Home Office undertakes to make the process as streamlined, quick and user-friendly as possible. You will need to provide an identity document and declare any criminal convictions but you will not be required to account for every trip you have made to and from the UK or give your fingerprints.

Indefinite leave to remain

EU citizens living in the UK who already have **indefinite leave to remain** will not need to apply for **settled status**. The Home Office will exchange the old document for the new document free of charge.

Any guarantees?

No, not until the 'withdrawal agreement' has been agreed and ratified. To receive **settled status**, EU citizens must have lived lawfully in the UK, as defined in EU law.

More information

See the UK Home Office site at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/status-of-eu-nationals-in-the-uk-what-you-need-to-know> and the European Commission London site at https://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/services/your-rights_en

Europe Direct Norfolk is a free, local information service from Citizens Advice available to everyone in Norfolk.
For news, events and more:

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