

EU Settlement Scheme

Public pilot

Important information for EU citizens in the UK

Issued January 2019





WHAT IS THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME?

What does it mean for EU citizens?

- **In line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement, if you are an EU citizen, you and your family members will be able to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 31 December 2020.** It means you will continue to be eligible for:
 - public services, such as healthcare and schools
 - public funds and pensions
 - British citizenship, if they want to apply and meet the requirements.
- **The EU Settlement Scheme will fully open by 30 March 2019.** EU citizens and their family members will have until 30 June 2021 to apply and their rights will remain unchanged until then, provided that they are resident in the UK by 31 December 2020.

Who is eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme?

- ✓ You need to apply if you are an EU citizen or a non-EU family member of an EU citizen, this includes those with a UK permanent residence document. You do not need to apply if you have indefinite leave to remain or enter, or you are an Irish citizen, but you can if you want to.*
- ✓ You need to be a resident in the UK by the end of the planned implementation period on 31 December 2020. If you have been a resident in the UK for more than five continuous years when you apply, you will be eligible for settled status. If you have been a resident for less than five years when you apply, you will generally be eligible for pre-settled status. For more information visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).
- ✓ You must not be a serious or persistent criminal or a threat to national security.

Eligible nationalities: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden or Switzerland.

* Irish citizens do not need to apply for settled status to protect their rights in the UK, though they are able to do so if they wish. Non-Irish family members of Irish citizens will need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme if they wish to remain in the UK after 31 December 2020.



WHAT IS THE PILOT?

What is it and why is it happening?

- More than 3 million EU citizens currently live in the UK, so the Home Office expects a large number of applications to the EU Settlement Scheme. The Home Office is using pilot phases to test the system and processes ahead of the public launch.
- The public pilot launches from 21 January and is an opportunity for applicants to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme early and feed back on their experience. **Please note that making an application in this pilot is entirely voluntary.** EU citizens and their family members will have until 30 June 2021 to apply.

Who is eligible to apply in this pilot?

- **This pilot is open to you if you are an EU citizen, or non-EU citizen family member of an EU citizen.**
- You will only be able to take part in the pilot if you are an EU citizen and have a **valid biometric passport** (this is an e-passport which has a digital chip). Non-EU citizen family members will only be able to apply during the pilot if they have a biometric residence card with 'EU Right to Reside' on the back, which they have applied for on or after 6 April 2015.
- Your family members can also apply to the EU Settlement Scheme now. Your participation in the pilot allows your family members to link their application to yours, so there is no need for them to resubmit any information/evidence required from you. You can also provide your application reference number for your children's application, which automatically grants them the same status as you (subject to the other standard checks).
- Nationals of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are not able to apply during the public pilot but will be able to do so when the scheme fully opens by 30 March 2019.



HOW DO I APPLY TO THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME IN THIS PILOT?



Access to the app

To start your application visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). The online application includes instructions on how to download the EU Exit: ID Document Check app *. **You will need access to the app to take part in this pilot.**



When you apply

The application will ask for basic factual information like names and addresses, as well as reference numbers such as your passport and National Insurance numbers.



Proof of identity

Verify your passport with the EU Exit: ID Document Check app. **You will only be able to take part in the pilot if you have a valid biometric passport** (an e-passport which has a digital chip) or valid biometric residence card.



Proof of residence

Provide your National Insurance number, if you have one.

This will allow the Home Office to check your residence status automatically using government records.**



Criminality check

Complete the criminality check by declaring any criminal convictions. Only serious or persistent criminality will affect your application. This should not affect the vast majority of EU citizens and their family members.



Payment

If you want to apply now, the fee (which will be refunded) is £65. It will be free if you already have a valid permanent residence document (make sure you have this ready for your application) or indefinite leave to remain or enter.

*At the moment, you can only use this app on Android devices - an easy way to check if your Android device can use this app, is if it has the technology to make contactless payments. If you do not have an Android device you will be able to use a family member's or friend's app to verify your identity and then complete the application on any device you choose. There are no security risks in doing this and your data is not stored on the device.

**There may be cases where residence cannot be proven automatically in this way, particularly if you have not been working in the UK for the whole time you have been resident here. If this happens, or if you disagree with the outcome of the automated check, do not worry, it is simple and easy to provide additional evidence of your residence. Information on the other types of evidence you can use can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). Alternatively, if you have a valid permanent residence document or valid indefinite leave to remain or enter, you will just need to provide proof of that status.



HOW DO I APPLY TO THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME IN THIS PILOT?

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How will it work?

- The application process in the pilot is the same as the process in the EU Settlement Scheme when it opens fully, and applications will be processed in the same way. Successful applicants will receive the same settled status or pre-settled status outcome, though earlier than the wider population.
- The application will ask for **basic factual information** like names and addresses, as well as reference numbers such as your passport and National Insurance numbers.

Criminality check

- You will be asked to complete a criminality check by declaring any criminal convictions. Only serious or persistent criminality will affect your application. This should not affect the vast majority of EU citizens and their family members.

Proof of identity

- The EU Exit: ID Document Check app must be used to verify identity and is being tested in this pilot. During this pilot it will be the only way to verify your identity in the application process. You can download this app on Android devices - an easy way to check if your Android device can use this app, is if it has the technology to make contactless payments. A guide to using the app can be found [here](#). The application process is fully digital. However, if the EU Exit: ID Document Check app is unable to read your biometric chip, either due to a damaged chip or some other reason, you will be asked to send your identity document to the Home Office by post. We will ensure passports are returned without delay.



HOW DO I APPLY TO THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME IN THIS PILOT?

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- **If you do not have access to this app, you will not be able to apply in this pilot phase.** However, you can use a family member's or friend's device to verify your identity. There are no security risks in doing this and your data is not stored on the device. A number of local authorities are offering an identity verification service to ensure those who do not have access to a suitable device are able to do so.
- Details of the **locations** where this service is being provided are available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). If you cannot get access to this app during the pilot there will be alternative ways for you to verify your identity once the scheme fully launches by 30 March 2019.

Proof of residence

- There are a number of ways to provide evidence of your residence. Providing your **National Insurance number** should help the majority of applicants demonstrate whether they qualify for settled or pre-settled status.
- But there may be cases where residence cannot be proven automatically in this way for a variety of reasons. If this happens, or if you disagree with the outcome of the automated check, do not worry. You will be told if you need to give **any further evidence** which you can easily submit online by uploading photos or scanning documents into your application. Information on the types of evidence you can use can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). You can only upload a maximum of 10 documents to show evidence of residence in the UK, if more is required you will be contacted directly.
- Alternatively, if you have a valid permanent residence document or valid indefinite leave to remain or enter, you will just need to provide proof of that status. For more information visit [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).



FURTHER INFORMATION

Payment

- On 21 January the Prime Minister announced that there will be **no fee when the scheme fully opens by 30 March 2019**. Anyone who has applied already, or who applies and pays a fee during the test phases, **will have their fee refunded**. Details of the refunds process will be published shortly.
- **If you want to apply now, the fee (which will be refunded) is £65** if you're 16 or over or £32.50 if you're under 16. It will be free to apply if you already have a valid permanent residence document or valid indefinite leave to remain or enter.

My status

- If you receive **settled status** this means there is no time limit on how long you can stay in the UK. This is also known as indefinite leave to remain or enter in the UK.
- If you receive **pre-settled status** (also known as limited leave to remain) this means you can stay in the UK for a period of five years. This will allow you to remain in the UK until you are eligible to apply for settled status, generally once you have lived continuously in the UK for five years. You only have to pay once – if you have been granted pre-settled status, it will be free when you apply for settled status after the UK leaves the EU.

How do I access my status?

- **Your status will be stored electronically** by the Home Office. Once you receive your status, details will be provided on how to access it on GOV.UK.
- **You will be able to prove your rights to others online**, including employers and landlords.



WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Pilot



Contact us about your application in this pilot

EU Settlement Scheme Resolution Centre by telephone:
Inside the UK **0300 123 7379**
Outside the UK **+ 44 (0) 20 3080 0010**
Find out about [call charges](#).
By asking a question using the [online submissions form](#).

EU Settlement Scheme



EU Settlement Scheme toolkit
Our leaflets, posters and briefing packs explain more about the EU Settlement Scheme, how to apply and definitions of the key terms. These can be found on [GOV.UK](#).



GOV.UK

For more information on the pilot visit [applicant information](#).

Visit www.gov.uk/eu-settled-status to:

- Get more detail on the EU Settlement Scheme
- Find out about next steps and citizenship