

# IMA

For the Citizens'  
Rights Agreements



## **IMA's Annual Report to the Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights established under the Withdrawal Agreement and the Joint Committee established under the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

[www.ima-citizensrights.org.uk](http://www.ima-citizensrights.org.uk)



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## **Independent Monitoring Authority**

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# **IMA's Annual Report to the Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights established under the Withdrawal Agreement and the Joint Committee established under the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.**

Presented to Parliament pursuant to  
Schedule 2 to the European Union  
(Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020.



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ISBN 978-1-5286-5995-6

E03452784 10/25

Printed on paper containing 40% recycled fibre  
content minimum

Printed in the UK by HH Associates Ltd. on behalf of  
the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office

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**This is the fourth annual report prepared by the IMA and reports on the 12-month period from 1 January to 31 December, 2024.**



# 1. Introduction

This report is prepared in accordance with Article 159(2) of the Withdrawal Agreement and Article 65(1) of the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement. It reports on measures taken in the UK and Gibraltar to implement and comply with Part 2 and the number and nature of complaints made to the Independent Monitoring Authority on Citizens' Rights ("the IMA").<sup>1</sup>

The requirement for the IMA to prepare this report is set out in the UK's domestic legislation in paragraph 31 of Schedule 2 to the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 ("the Act"). Similar provision in relation to Gibraltar is made in regulation 14 of the Independent Monitoring Authority Regulations 2020<sup>2</sup> ("the Gibraltar Regulations"). In accordance with these provisions, this report also provides information on the exercise by the IMA of its functions in relation to Part 2 of the Agreements.

In addition to the prescribed matters which the IMA must report on, the report also contains information that we think is relevant to our operation which relates to this period.

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1 European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk))

2 Independent Monitoring Authority Regulations 2020 ([gibraltarlaws.gov.gi](https://gibraltarlaws.gov.gi))

## 1. Introduction

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The report is submitted to the Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights established under Article 165(1)(a) of the Specialised Committee and the Joint Committee established under Article 65(1) of the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

This report provides details on the implementation of Part 2 of the Withdrawal Agreement and Part 2 of the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement. In general, the report does not distinguish between the two except where that is relevant and helpful.

The report is submitted to the governments of each part of the UK and Gibraltar who lay it before their respective legislatures as required by the Act and the Gibraltar Regulations.<sup>3</sup>

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**The report will also be published on the IMA website where full details of all our work can be found.**

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3 See paragraph 31(8), (9) and (11) of Schedule 2 to the Act and regulation 14(8) and (9) of the Gibraltar Regulations.



## 2. Role of IMA

The IMA was established in 2020 and became fully operational at 11pm on 31 December 2020. We are an independent body that monitors and promotes how the rights of EU and EEA EFTA citizens living in the UK and Gibraltar as of the 31 December 2020 and their family members are upheld following Brexit.

**The IMA has two broad duties – to monitor and to promote.**

We monitor UK public bodies<sup>4</sup> to make sure they adequately and effectively implement the rights provided for by the Withdrawal Agreement and Part 2 of the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement. For the purpose of this report when we refer to both we use the term the Agreements.

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4 Public bodies include all parts of government and any body which exercises functions of a public nature. It would therefore include UK Government departments, the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Government of Gibraltar. It also includes local government.

### Monitoring

**When we monitor, it is to check that in the UK and Gibraltar those citizens who are entitled to those rights are able to retain and access them. This means we look at how effective the laws and actions of the governments, and other public bodies such as councils and the NHS across the UK and Gibraltar, are for the citizens covered by the Agreements.**

This action can include:

#### **Citizens:**

- Receiving complaints from citizens where they consider they are not able to access their rights. We determine whether there are any systemic issues which require further investigation and action.
- Working with stakeholders and attending citizen events to receive information from citizens as well as third party information on behalf of citizens regarding experiences of accessing rights.

### **Citizen Stakeholders:**

- Gathering and using information from third-sector organisations about the experience of citizens accessing their rights under the Agreements.
- Using information from our own data gathering to understand the experience of citizens and take action.
- Undertaking joint reviews and research with citizen's representative organisations, universities and other interested research groups.

### **Public bodies:**

- Identifying and assessing laws, guidance and decisions made or issued by the UK Government, devolved governments and public bodies to check whether they are compatible with the Agreements.
- Examining official statistics to see what picture they give us about how rights are being upheld.

## 2. Role of IMA

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- Requesting data from public bodies, ombudsmen and regulators to help us build a picture of how rights are being upheld.
- Undertaking an inquiry or compliance activity in relation to decisions or actions of a public body and concluding on the compatibility of their decisions or actions with the Agreements.
- Undertaking assurance reviews with public bodies to check how they are upholding rights in specific areas and if they are not, why not?

### **Statutory Stakeholders:**

- Identifying where legislatures, including their relevant committees, are raising potential or actual issues for citizens accessing their rights under the Agreements.
- Identifying how the work of others, including other regulators, impact the IMA's work on the access of citizens' rights under the Agreements.

### Other

- Using court reports to identify litigation being brought by individuals or organisations based on non-compliance with the Agreements. This is for the purpose of identifying where public bodies may not be complying with the Agreements and monitoring their response.
- Reviewing the media to see whether they are reporting issues or problems citizens might have with their rights being upheld by public bodies.
- Using information from the EU Delegation and EU Embassies about the citizens they represent.
- Obtaining insight from Members of the Board in terms of their specific knowledge of any issues/concerns/barriers, within the devolved areas.
- Analysing evidence from our annual survey as well as the returns to the proforma from each of the governments about measures taken to comply with the Agreements which are needed to complete our Annual Report to the Joint Committee and Specialised Committee.



### Promoting

**We have a duty to take action to help to ensure that citizens with rights under the Agreements can access these rights.**

Where we identify a problem from our monitoring activity, we can take action to seek to resolve the problem via activity that would contribute to fulfilling our promotion duty. While this requires the IMA to take 'action' this does not necessarily mean that it will always be for the IMA to take enforcement action. It can be the IMA taking steps to promote by encouraging others to take action. This could be highlighting matters to others, such as regulators, parliamentary scrutiny committees or the public body concerned, to get them to take action to remedy a problem. It can also include empowering citizens for them to be in a position to take action in their individual case.

This duty is not purely focussed on resolving problems. It can be undertaken by highlighting good practice if that could lead to wider improvements in how citizens are able to access their rights. It could also relate to empowering public bodies by promoting recommendations and commenting on their assurances and engagement activity in relation to specific issues.

This action can include:

### **Empowerment – citizens**

- Providing information to help citizens understand what rights they should be able to access and when.
- Signposting citizens to other agencies as well as referring matters to another regulator where appropriate.
- Providing information and evidence to elected representatives about issues which affect their constituents.
- Using our citizens' panel as a sounding board about how and what information we do and could provide.

### **Empowerment – public bodies**

- Publishing details of:
  - Our activity (whether monitoring or promoting) where it highlights best practice of relevant public bodies so that others better understand what they should be doing.

- Our activity (whether monitoring or promoting) which highlights incompatible action by a public body or private entity so that other public bodies can understand what they should not be doing.
- The rights and when and how citizens should be able to access them.
- Providing training and guidance to public bodies to help them make decisions that ensure citizens can access their rights under the Agreements.
- Highlighting research or undertaking our own research to deliver insights to help public authorities better understand how to uphold citizens' rights.

### **Empowerment – other stakeholders**

- Providing information, guidance or training to organisations who are involved in advising or assisting citizens to help them understand the rights.
- Publishing details of our activity so that they understand what we are doing to ensure access to rights for citizens, but also what we are not doing.



- Taking part in public webinars to explain the rights.
- Appearing before Government committees to explain what the rights are and how public bodies are upholding them - or where this is not happening.
- Engaging with committees, inquiries and calls for evidence to amplify concerns about issues in relation to citizens' rights.
- Publishing our statutory reports which highlight what the rights are, and the work public bodies do to uphold those rights.
- Making the issues we are investigating public via our Issues Log, so there is greater clarity about how those issues have been solved.
- Intervening in existing legal proceedings to help identify issues relating to the Agreements and to help provide clarity.



### **Enforcement**

- Monitoring the recommendations made in an inquiry report.
- Requests to a public body to remedy a breach following a compliance case or post-litigation monitoring.
- Litigation taken by the IMA against a public body for failure to comply with the Agreements.
- Intervening in existing legal proceedings where a public body is being challenged for failure to comply with the Agreements.
- Supporting the enforcement activity of bodies, such as ombudsmen, for example, which also has a positive impact on the rights of EU citizens.

### Our Powers

The IMA's powers are framed by the rights set out in the Agreements. These rights are extensive and were designed to broadly provide EU and EEA EFTA citizens and their family members the same entitlements to work, study and access public services and benefits as they enjoyed before the UK left the EU.

The citizens covered by the Agreements are those from the 27 EU Member states as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, along with their family members.



### These citizens' rights include:



**Residency:** this means the right to live in the UK or Gibraltar. It also includes the right to enter and exit the UK.



**The right to work:** this means the right to work, including self-employed work and also the right to continue to be a frontier worker.



**Mutual recognition of professional qualifications:** this means the right for qualifications which have already been recognised before 31 December 2020 (or in the process of being recognised at that time) to continue to be recognised in the UK.



**Co-ordination of social security system:** this means that individuals who have lived in both the UK and the EU before the end of the transition period can continue to be able to access pensions, benefits and other forms of social security.



**Equal treatment and non-discrimination:** within scope of the rights set out above, EU and EEA EFTA citizens and their family members are entitled to be treated equally with UK citizens and not to be discriminated against on the grounds of their nationality. This includes ensuring access to certain public services such as education, healthcare and certain benefits.

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**Detailed information on the IMA's powers can be found on our website including our Annual Plan for 2024/25 and operational guidance.**

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**In summary, the IMA's specific powers are as follows:**

### 2.1 Our power to receive complaints

We can receive complaints from persons who claim to have a right under the Agreements.<sup>5</sup> Complaints may report where the UK or Gibraltar has failed to comply with these Agreements, or a public body has acted or is proposing to act in a way that prevents the person exercising the right in question.

The IMA will consider every complaint received and will tell the person who made the complaint if we will carry out an inquiry. If we do not carry out an inquiry, we may advise the person about other ways of dealing with their complaint.

The issues raised by an individual complainant may not meet the threshold for carrying out an inquiry. In these cases, we may advise the person concerned about other ways of dealing with their complaint.

Our focus is on general or systemic failings in the actions or behaviours of public bodies and organisations that are impacting on the lives of citizens and their families. This is a key criteria we use to determine whether to carry out an inquiry.

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<sup>5</sup> The IMA may also receive a complaint from a person who claims to have a right provided under UK or Gibraltar law which corresponds to rights provided under the Agreements.



Complaints, however, are just one of the ways we understand the experience of EU and EEA EFTA citizens and their family members. We also collect and analyse intelligence from a range of sources to help us understand any issues citizens may be facing.

While these issues may not indicate a general or systemic failing and therefore would not of itself trigger the threshold for carrying out an inquiry, we maintain the information from both our intelligence gathering and complaints as it may help form part of a wider set of intelligence gathered over time which could indicate a systemic failing.

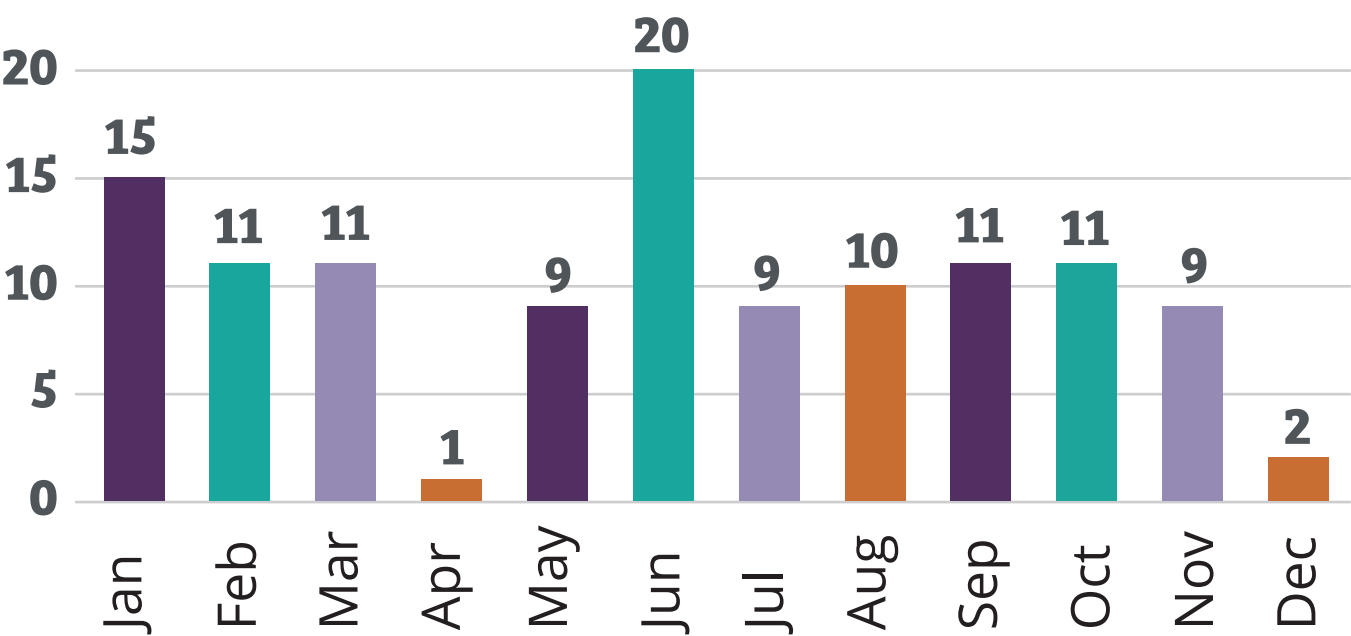
The IMA received 119 complaints in 2024. While this is lower than previous years, complaints continue to be key to helping us to understand issues citizens who feel their rights aren't being upheld by public bodies are experiencing.

The complaints also indicate that there is a need for EU citizens to continue to be empowered to understand how to challenge when they feel things have gone wrong.

Out of the complaints received that were within the IMA's remit, 69% relate to new or ongoing issues being considered by the IMA. Information about our ongoing work is published on our Issues Log.

Below we detail the types of complaints we received in 2024, including the rights affected, the public bodies involved, and the nationalities of those who submitted complaints. The data relates to all complaints, both within and not within our remit.

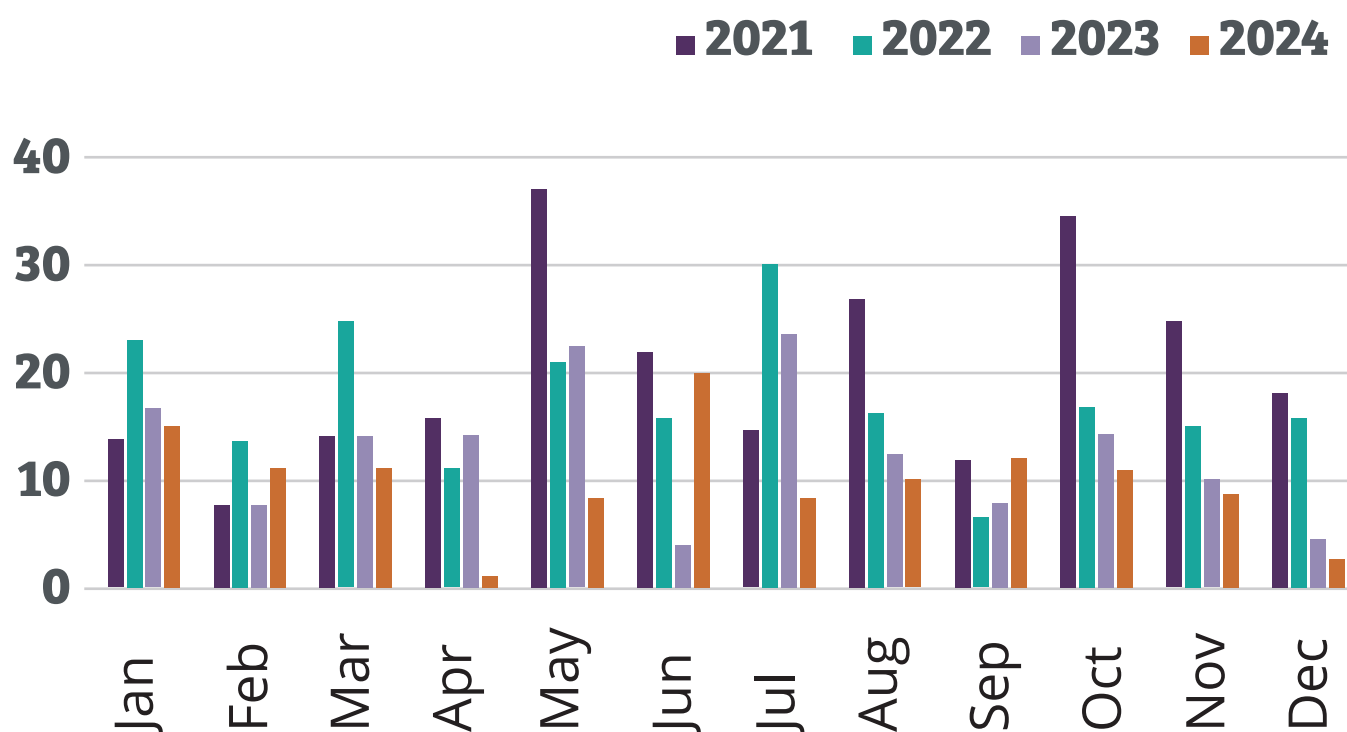
**Graph 1: Complaints received in 2024:**



We received the most complaints in June. Sixty-five per cent of the complaints received in June were in relation to the Home Office and the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

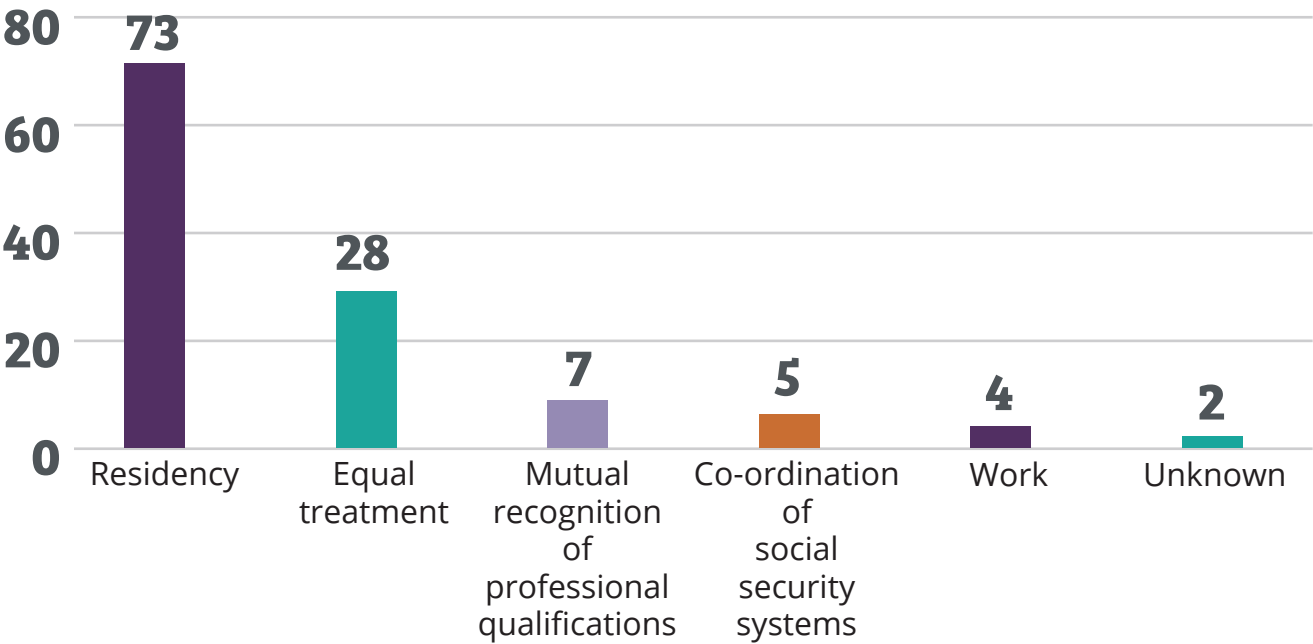


**Graph 2: Complaints received in 2024 vs. 2023, 2022 and 2021:**



Graph 2 (above) shows how many complaints have been received in each year the IMA has been in operation. The dip in complaints received in April 2024 appears to be an isolated anomaly.

Graph 3: Complaints received by affected right:



Graph 3 (above) shows how many complaints have been received in relation to each right in 2024. The largest group of complaints received continue to relate to the right to reside, followed by equal treatment.

### **Residency – The right to reside includes the right to enter and exit the UK.**

The issues raised in these types of complaints include:

- Citizens reporting experiencing long wait times for their EUSS applications, beyond estimated application processing times advised by the Home Office. There is an open inquiry ongoing in relation to this issue.
- Changes to Border Force guidance which led to reports that pre-settled status was cancelled at the border in some circumstances.
- Difficulties in understanding EUSS absence rules. We have published information to help citizens understand the rules in relation to continuous residence.
- Limitations of the Home Office passport Machine Readable Zone technology in relation to maiden names. This is currently subject to a monitoring period with the Home Office.

**Work – The right to work, including self-employed work. It also applies to frontier workers; citizens who are employed or self-employed in the UK but live elsewhere.**

The issues raised in these types of complaints include issues affecting the View and Prove service which inhibit citizens' ability to access their proof of status. We are actively seeking further information on the impact of potential issues with the View and Prove service with our stakeholders and citizens.

**Qualifications – the right for qualifications which have already been recognised before 31 December 2020 (or were in the process of being recognised at that time), to continue to be recognised in the UK.**

The issues raised in these types of complaints include an issue about recognition of EU qualifications to register with the regulator as a teacher.

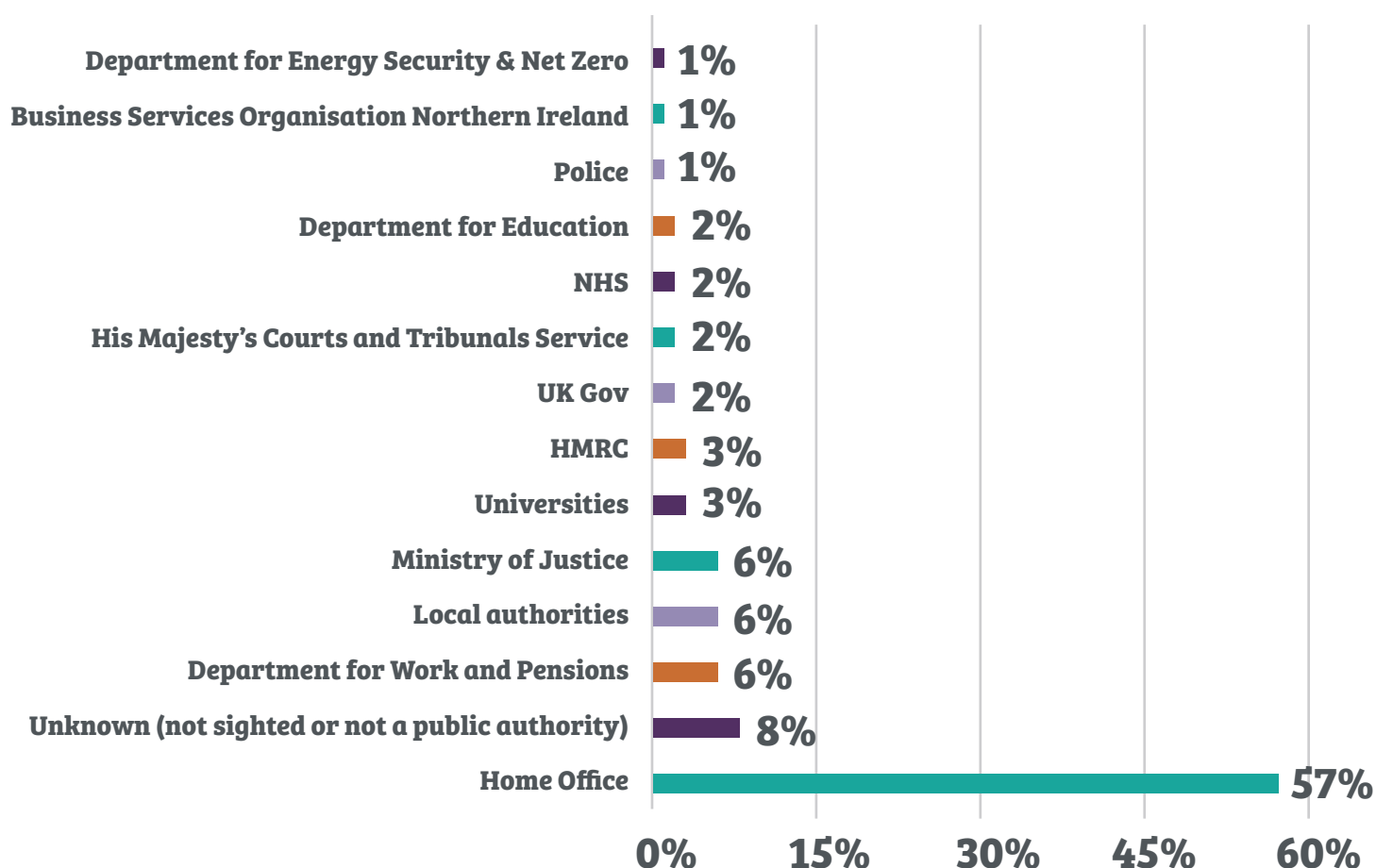
**Social Security – Individuals who have lived in both the UK and the EU before the end of the transition period can continue to access pensions, benefits, and other forms of social security. The transition period was the 11-month grace period agreed by the UK and the EU following the UK's exit on 31 January 2020.**

The issues raised in these complaints include difficulties applying for benefits, difficulties in applying for proof of national insurance contributions, and delays in receiving the proof of national insurance contributions.

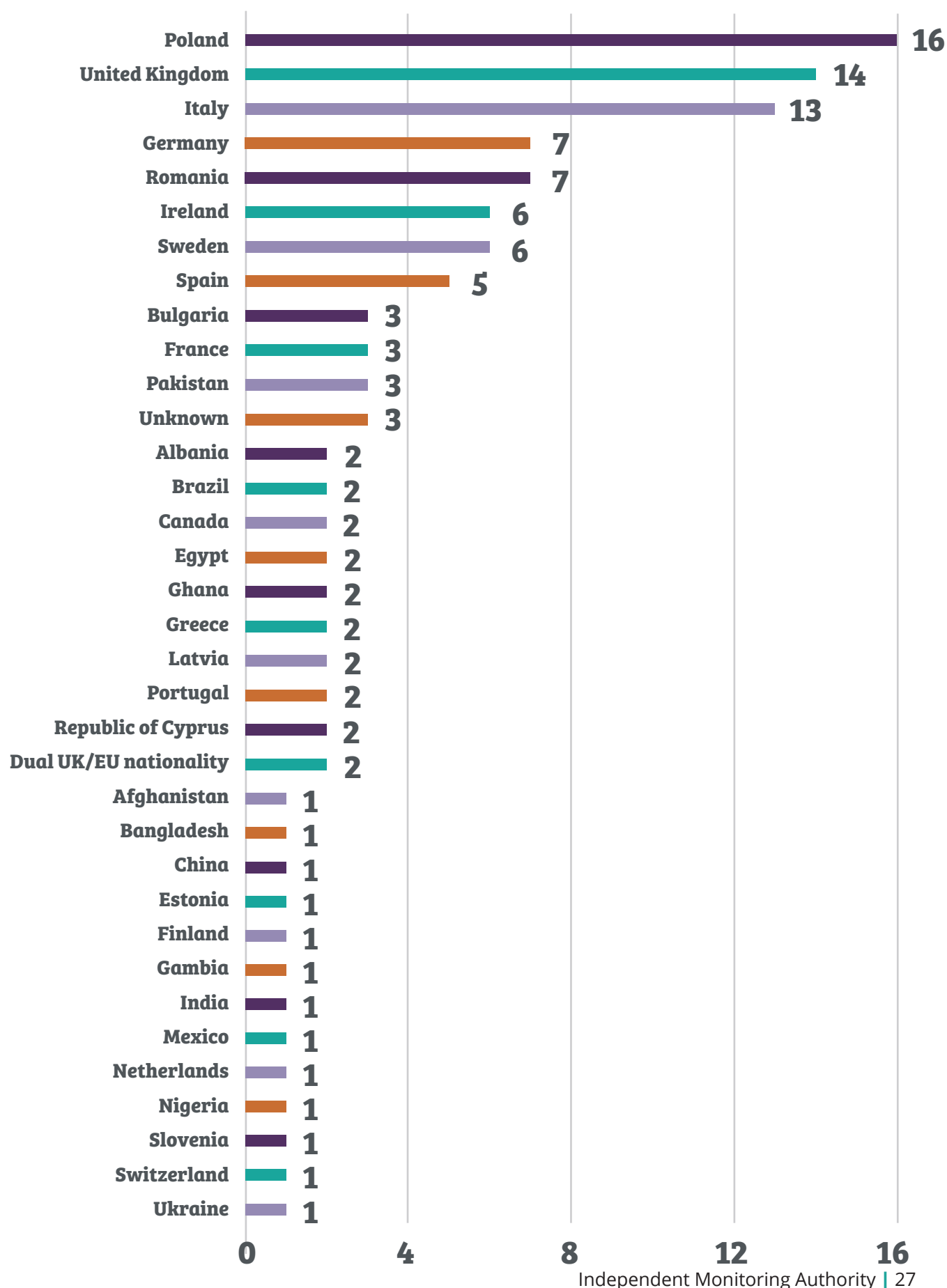
**Equal Treatment – EU and EEA EFTA citizens and their family members must be treated the same as UK and Gibraltar citizens when it comes to accessing certain public services and some benefits.**

The issues raised in these complaints include access to homelessness support for holders of pre-settled status.

### Graph 4: Bodies named in complaints to the IMA in 2024:

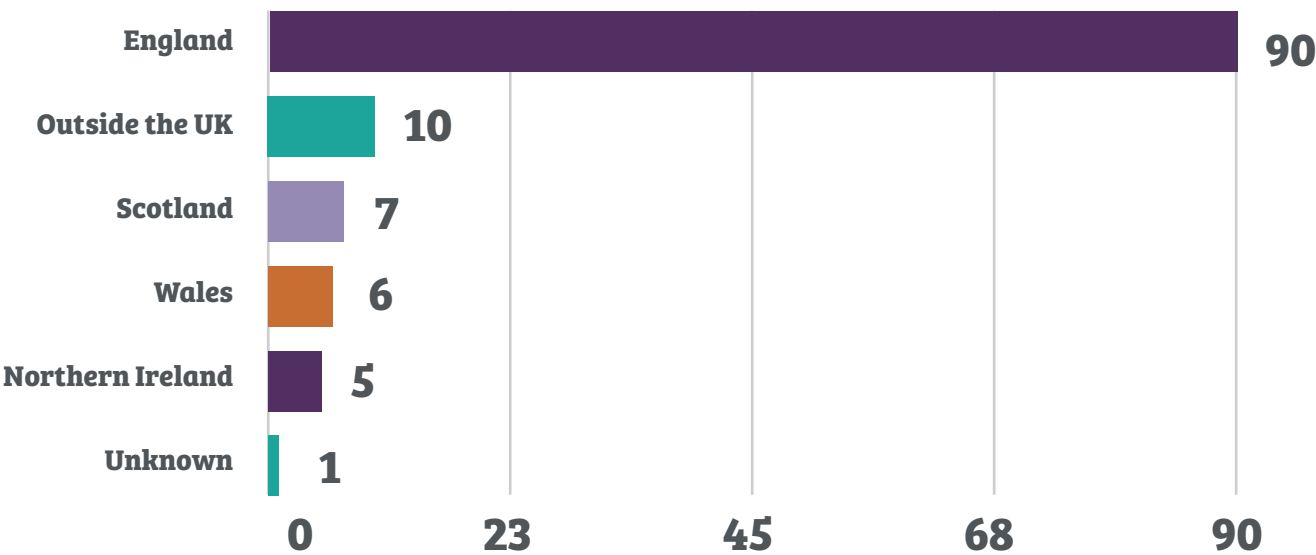


Graph 4 (above) demonstrates that most of the complaints reported to the IMA relate to the Home Office, followed by Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The unknown figure reflects complaints received where there was no UK or Gibraltar public authority identified. The most complaints about the Home Office were received from citizens marking their nationality as Italian. The most complaints about the DWP were from German citizens followed by Italians.

**Graph 5: Nationalities of complainants in 2024:**

Graph 5 shows the nationalities of those who made complaints to the IMA in 2024. We continue to receive complaints from a diverse range of nationalities. We did not receive any complaints from citizens of EEA EFTA countries. Where we refer to UK nationals this may include dual nationals. Additionally, unknown reflects those citizens who have not declared their nationality. Polish citizens submitted the most complaints about equal treatment followed by residency. UK citizens' complaints were mostly about residency. Italian citizens' complaints were mostly about residency followed by equal treatment.

**Graph 6: Where complainants reside:**





Graph 6 shows where citizens complaining to the IMA in 2024 reside. Most complainants currently reside in England, this mirrors our reports in 2023, 2022 and 2021. Those living outside the UK include complainants who are joining relevant family members already residing in the UK. The most complained about right across each region was residency, ranging from 80% in Wales to 50% outside of the UK.

### 2.2 Our power to conduct inquiries

Our powers to conduct inquiries are set out in paragraph 25 of Schedule 2 to the Act.<sup>6</sup>

#### **We may decide to conduct an inquiry in one of three situations:**

- (i) Following a request from the Secretary of State, the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government, or the Government of Gibraltar.
- (ii) As a result of a complaint or series of complaints received.
- (iii) Of our own initiative.

<sup>6</sup> The corresponding power in relation to Gibraltar is found in regulation 8 of the Gibraltar Regulations.

### **The purpose of an IMA inquiry is to:**

- (i) Decide whether the United Kingdom has failed to comply with the Agreements.
- (ii) Decide whether a relevant public body has acted or is proposing to act in a way that prevents a person exercising a relevant right (see definition in paragraph 41 of Schedule 2 to the Act).
- (iii) To identify any recommendations for relevant public bodies appropriate to promote the adequate and effective implementation of the Agreements.

When considering whether to carry out an inquiry we will consider the importance of addressing general or systemic failings. We may not carry out an inquiry in the situations in (ii) or (iii) above unless we have reasonable grounds to believe that the inquiry may conclude that a failure to comply with the Agreements has occurred or that a public body has acted or is proposing to act in a way that prevents a person from exercising their rights under the Agreements.

To inform this assessment we will carry out pre-inquiry investigations. In carrying out such investigations we may be able to resolve any issues in a more timely way than proceeding to full inquiry.

We continued our inquiry into whether citizens are experiencing significant delays with their EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) applications in 2024. More details about this are detailed in section 4.2.

We undertake compliance case investigations in relation to a number of issues which are outlined below in section 4.1 in relation to the emerging areas of focus of some of the complaints and intelligence we have received.

We also undertake assurance investigations to assure ourselves that public bodies are doing what they should to uphold the rights of EU and EEA EFTA citizens.

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**In 2024 we continued work on an assurance review involving how the rights of future generations might be upheld. More information on this can be found in section 4.3.**

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### 2.3 Our power to take legal action

**Our powers to take legal action are contained in paragraph 30 of Schedule 2 to the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020.<sup>7</sup> It provides that the IMA may:**

- take legal action, or
- intervene in any legal proceedings.



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<sup>7</sup> The corresponding power in relation to Gibraltar is found in regulation 13 of the Gibraltar Regulations.

In both cases, the IMA must be satisfied that it is appropriate to do so to promote the adequate and effective implementation or application of the Agreements.

While we are only able to take legal action by way of judicial review proceedings,<sup>8</sup> we can intervene in “any” legal proceedings. This includes not only public law actions brought against public bodies, but sometimes we may also feel it is appropriate to intervene in private causes of action in order to ensure that we are effectively performing our duties.

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**Our approach to the exercise of our litigation powers is also detailed in our operational guidance.**

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**In 2024 we have used our litigation powers in respect of four cases and further information about some of these are detailed in section four of this report.**



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8 Applications to the supervisory jurisdiction of the Court of Session in the case of Scotland.

## 3. Measures Taken on the Implementation and Application of Part 2 of the Agreements

To provide details on the measures taken on the implementation and application of Part 2 of the Agreements, we have sought information from those responsible for implementing and applying the Agreements.

**We requested the Government of Gibraltar, the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government, the UK Government and the Welsh Government to provide us with information relating to the:**

- Most relevant legislative instruments in place to implement Part 2 of the Agreements.
- Most relevant legislative instruments implementing Part 2 of the Agreements that were adopted or amended in the last year.
- Most relevant domestic jurisprudence from the last year.



### 3. Measures Taken on the Implementation and Application of Part 2 of the Agreements

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- Basic statistical data that show how the Agreements have been applied *(for example for residence rights: estimated number of resident beneficiaries of the Agreements, number of applications made in the last year and in total and their outcome (residence granted/permanent residence granted/refused/invalid applications/pending cases)).*

**To do this we provided a proforma for them to complete and their returns are included at section six numbered Annexes 1-5.**



## 4. Our Work and Exercise of our Functions

In general terms, in all the activities outlined in this section no differentiation is made between the rights provided under the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

This is because any potential breach, piece of legislation or litigation do not specifically relate to those with rights under the Withdrawal Agreement or EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

**To help citizens and stakeholders better understand our work, as well as increase our ability to communicate effectively and tell our story, we have grouped the IMA's work into four areas of focus. These are:**

- **Gaining Status:** citizens may be prevented from gaining status due to decision making by officials or lack of clarity. As a result of this they may be prevented from staying in the UK when they have a right to do so.



- Access to Support: citizens may experience difficulty accessing the support they are entitled to due to domestic legislation, policy, decision making by officials or a lack of clarity and information available to citizens.
- Travel: citizens may experience difficulty travelling and re-entering the UK due to domestic legislation, policy, decision making by officials or a lack of clarity and information available to citizens.
- Future Generations: citizens may experience difficulties in the future due to domestic legislation, policy, decision making by officials or a lack of clarity and information available to citizens.

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**To help illustrate what we mean by these areas of focus and the impact of our work we have included a number of case studies at sections 4.1 – 4.7.**

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### 4.1 Early Case Resolutions and No Further Action

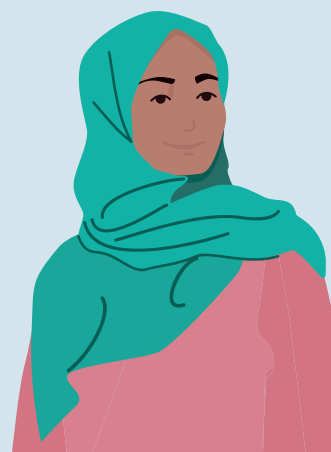
Where possible we try to resolve issues quickly, so citizens are not disadvantaged or denied their rights.

We do this by undertaking Early Case Resolutions (ECRs) which are agreed interventions with public bodies to make improvements or changes to overcome potential issues.

We then undertake a period of monitoring to ensure that the public bodies involved have made the necessary adjustments.

The enquiries which have resulted in ECRs are referred to briefly in the table at 4.1.1 and with further details in case studies.

**Our ECRs related to a range of different topics including financial support for students, leave to enter and remain in the UK and NHS Charges. All can be viewed on our website. All of these were subject to a period of monitoring to ensure the action required is taken.**



## Early Case Resolution Case Studies

### Access to Support – Student Finance – UK Government Guidance

The IMA made enquiries with the Department for Education (DfE) regarding its own and Student Loans Company's (SLC) online guidance relating to student finance for applicants to the EUSS; specifically, applicants in possession of a Certificate of Application only (meaning they do not yet have pre-settled or settled status under the EUSS). The IMA was concerned that the guidance could lead to confusion for prospective students leading them to think that they are not eligible for funding when they may be eligible.

Both departments updated their eligibility and assessment advice pages on GOV.UK to make it clearer to citizens with a Certificate of Application to understand their right to be able to apply for student finance.



### **Access to Support – Student Finance – Welsh Government Guidance**

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The IMA also made enquiries with the Welsh Government regarding Student Finance Wales' online guidance relating to student finance for applicants to the EUSS; specifically, applicants in Wales and in possession of a Certificate of Application only (meaning they do not yet have pre-settled or settled status under the EUSS).

The IMA was concerned that the guidance could lead to confusion for prospective students in Wales thereby leading them to think that they are not eligible for funding when they may be eligible.

Student Loans Company updated its Student Finance Wales website to make it clearer for citizens with only a Certificate of Application to understand their right to be able to apply for student finance.



### **Gaining Status – EUSS Family Permits**

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Following intelligence received from stakeholders and complaints directly from citizens, the IMA raised concerns with the Home Office that some citizens may not be having their EUSS family permit issued “as soon as possible, and on the basis of an accelerated procedure” in accordance with the requirements in the Citizen’s Rights Agreements.

The IMA met with the Home Office to discuss the concerns. Through these meetings, the Home Office was able to show key areas of improvements that it has put in place over the last 12 months to help enhance the customer journey, streamline decision-making processes, and increasing productivity with EUSS family permit applications. The Home Office also informed the IMA that additional resources have since been provided to the EUSS family permit team. The Home Office explained that some cases can still take longer where they become “complex” for such reasons as safeguarding checks and overseas marriage interviews needing to take place.

Following these discussions, the IMA will monitor the Home Office’s compliance with these actions.

### **Access to Support – Welfare Foods (Best Start Foods – Scotland)**

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As part of the changes, the Regulations amend the residence requirement in regulation 9 of the Best Start Food Regulations. The IMA identified that it is unclear, how applicants to the EUSS or joining family members in their first three months of residence in the UK will be eligible.

Having carefully considered the issues identified, the IMA asked the Scottish Government to clarify how applicants to the EUSS and joining family members in their first three months of residence in the UK would be eligible to apply for Best Start Foods.

Officials at the Scottish Government acknowledged that the Regulations do not reflect the terms of the Withdrawal Agreements and will be amended. They have confirmed that in the meantime, such applicants will be treated as eligible to apply, subject to meeting any other requirements.

The Scottish Government has also agreed to provide the IMA with the reassurance needed to ensure that no citizens with rights under the Agreements have been placed at a disadvantage on the basis of the Regulations.

### **Access to Support – Northern Ireland Civil Service Recruitment**

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The IMA received intelligence that the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Recruitment website's "Right to Work and Nationality Requirements" section of the "Candidate Information Booklet" on each job application only acknowledged applicants that were "EEA nationals with settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme" as well as "Certain family members of the relevant EEA & Turkish nationals". The same section appeared to have unintentionally excluded EFTA citizens, citizens with EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) pre-settled status and those with a valid pending EUSS application that have the right to work in the UK.

The IMA contacted the NICS, who agreed with the IMA's assessment and provided amended wording to the IMA that would be placed in the Candidate Information Booklet of all job adverts on the NICS Recruitment website.

Due to the prompt response from NICS on the matter and the quick turnaround in presenting the new wording, the IMA believe that the potential concerns identified will be addressed and are being resolved. Therefore, the issue was concluded as an IMA Early Case Resolution. However, there will be an active monitoring period.

## No Further Action

We refer to something as a No Further Action (NFA) when we have been in contact with public bodies about certain issues and are satisfied that the information provided does not show evidence of a breach and therefore no intervention is needed at that time. This, however, does not prevent the IMA from intervening or taking action at a later date.



**In the interests of transparency and openness our NFAs are published and some are outlined in the case studies and table at 4.2.1.**



## No Further Action Case Studies

### Gaining Status – EUSS Evidence of Residence

The IMA received complaints raising concerns that the Home Office (HO) was refusing to accept certain types of evidence of UK residence for applications under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), including payslips without a valid National Insurance Number (NINo) and statements from certain online bank accounts.

Having investigated the complaints in further detail, it was established that the complainants were not refused EUSS status solely due to specific types of evidence provided, but rather the reason(s) for the refusal of their application had not been communicated to them clearly.

The HO has assured the IMA that substantial further training has been provided to staff and additional quality assurance measures are in place to ensure that reasons for refusal are clearly communicated to citizens in the decision letter on their EUSS application.



### **Gaining Status – Biometric Residence Card Delays**

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The IMA received complaints regarding processing times for issuing a Biometric Residency Card (BRCs) and issues citizens were experiencing at the border. The IMA was unclear about Home Office policy and practice regarding any requirement for visa nationals to present a BRC or other visa exemption documents at UK border control. The IMA sought clarity on whether there were delays in issuing BRCs, replacement BRCs and/or EUSS Travel Permits. The IMA reviewed the guidance available to citizens to determine if it was clear and helpful.

After review of the evidence provided by the Home Office, the IMA considered that the concerns raised were resolved, with the issue concluded by the IMA as No Further Action required.

Nevertheless, the IMA acknowledges that, especially for those who have suffered the loss or theft of their BRC while they are abroad and need to obtain an EUSS Travel Permit before they can return to the UK, it can be inconvenient to have to wait several days for an EUSS Travel Permit to be issued. The IMA has urged the HO to continue to do its utmost to process applications for EUSS Travel Permits for those outside the UK, and for replacement BRCs for those in the UK, as quickly as possible for citizens affected.

### **Travel – UK Border Force Awareness of EUSS**

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The IMA raised concerns with Home Office and UK Border Force regarding citizens experiencing issues entering the UK via the UK border.

The IMA met with the Home Office to raise the specific concerns brought to the attention of the IMA around UK Border Force. In 2023 the IMA visited UK Border Force at Stansted Airport to witness their process and procedure in practice, specifically around citizens travelling with a national ID card and those travelling with a CoA. The IMA were able to examine and query multiple elements of the processes within UK Border Force at various stages, from the eGates right through to interviews. The IMA also managed to witness both EU EEA and non-EU EEA citizens at the Border Force desk looking to enter the UK during the visit, with each eventually gaining entry.

The IMA followed up the visit with further correspondence with the Home Office that satisfied the IMA on the current policies and procedures in place, regarding citizens protected under the Withdrawal or Separation Agreement travelling to the UK.

### **Gaining Status – Enforcement Reforms**

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The IMA sought to assess whether the removal of 28-day notices presented any compatibility issues with the Withdrawal and Separation Agreements in relation to a citizen's right to submit a late application to the EUSS.

The 28-day notices provided individuals believed to be European Economic Area (EEA) citizens and/or their family members with information telling them that they must now seek to secure their right of residence by making a late application to EUSS within 28 calendar days of the notice being served.

The Home Office provided confirmation that removal of this notice does not affect an individual's ability to make a late application to the EUSS. The Home Office explained that any decision to progress with enforcement action would need to consider the individual circumstances of each case. This includes the assessment of any vulnerabilities or support needs and any substantive evidence of EUSS eligibility (such as continuous residence in the UK by 31 December 2020).

Based on the information that has been provided, the IMA is assured that removing the

28-day notice policy will have no bearing on an individual's ability to make a late application to the EUSS when there are reasonable grounds for their delay in applying and therefore does not present any compatibility issues with the Agreements.

### **Future Generations – EUSS applications for those with PSS and newborn children**

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The IMA received a complaint from an EU citizen and information from stakeholders regarding the three-month deadline for an in-time application to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) for a child born in the UK to parents with pre-settled status under the EUSS. There were concerns that it may not always be possible to make an in-time application, for example because of not having the necessary identity document for the child.

When the issue was first raised with the IMA, the “who can apply” guidance available to citizens did refer to the 3-month deadline, the “applying for your child” guidance was not explicit and there was no reference to the 3-month deadline. However, since August 2023 the wording within the “applying for your child” guidance has been updated to reflect that there is a three-month deadline for such joining family member applications.

Information is available to citizens about what documentation is required to make an EUSS application. Citizens are signposted to the Settlement Resolution Centre if they are unsure of what identity and residence documents are required or have difficulty in providing these.

Finally, safeguards are in place to ensure citizens can make a late application to the EUSS, including on a child's behalf. The Home Office caseworker guidance sets out non-exhaustive examples of reasonable grounds for late applications and it has specific guidance on late applications in relation to children.

### **Gaining Status – NHS charging for successful late applicants**

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Stakeholders raised concerns to the IMA about a number of citizens in England who had incurred charges for NHS treatment after missing the deadline for submitting an EUSS application for children and joining family members. The IMA explored whether these NHS charges are compatible with the Agreements and whether particular cohorts of citizens are affected more than others.

The IMA considers it is compatible with the Agreements to seek to recover charges for NHS treatment during the period between the expiry of the application deadline and the submission of a valid application to the EUSS. This means that following expiry of the deadline, a child or joining family member is only able to access their rights under the Agreements where they have made a valid application to the EUSS. This includes being able to use all of the NHS for free.

However, the IMA recognises that citizens and their families can face difficulties due to incurring NHS charges, in some instances equating to large sums of money. The existence of an outstanding debt can have potentially detrimental effects on citizens' ability to access their rights in the future, for example, securing rental agreements. A child or joining family member who has not applied for status, could face difficulties accessing other rights in the future, such as the right to work or study in the UK.

We continue to keep the matter under review as new information is received.





4.1.1 The table below outlines all the ECRs and NFAs we completed in 2024.

Area of concern	– No. of Complaints / Intelligence received – Cases investigated		Outcomes
Residence	6	EUSS Evidence of Residence	No Further Action
	7	Biometric Residence Card Delays	No Further Action
	1	Enforcement Reforms	No Further Action
	1	EUSS applications for those with PSS and newborn children	No Further Action
	21	EUSS Family Permits	Early Case Resolution
Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination	1	Student Finance – UK Government Guidance	Early Case Resolution



Area of concern	– No. of Complaints / Intelligence received – Cases investigated		Outcomes
<b>Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination</b>	1	Student Finance – Welsh Government	Early Case Resolution
	12	UK Border Force Awareness of EUSS	No Further Action
	1	Welfare Foods (Best Start Foods Scotland)	Early Case Resolution
	1	Northern Ireland Civil Service Recruitment	Early Case Resolution
	1	Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) (Amendment) Order 2024	No Further Action
<b>Access to Healthcare</b>	1	NHS charging for successful late applicants	No Further Action

## 4.2 Inquiry

### **Gaining Status – Delays Inquiry**

Our inquiry into whether citizens are experiencing significant delays with their EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) applications continued in 2024.

The IMA received information and complaints from people experiencing long wait times for a decision on their application. These included people waiting beyond estimated application processing times advised by the Home Office.

As part of the inquiry which was launched at the end of 2023, the IMA has been investigating the impact these delays are having on people who have applied to the scheme and issued a call for evidence to citizens to let us know about their experiences.

We have also been speaking with the Home Office and examining their systems and processes in relation to this area as part of the inquiry.

The inquiry findings are due to be published in autumn 2025.

## 4.3 Assurance Reviews

### **Future Generations – Review of Local Government Arrangements**

We continued our assurance review to find out what measures local government across the UK is taking to ensure eligible EU and EEA EFTA looked after children, care leavers and children in receipt of local authority care and support (for example children in need) have their rights protected in 2024.

Following the UK's departure from the EU, all eligible citizens, including children, are required to apply to the EUSS to guarantee their rights to live, work, study, and access benefits in the UK. The IMA is undertaking a review of all local authorities across the UK to establish how they identify looked after children and care leavers who need to apply to the EUSS, and the procedures put in place to monitor those applications.

The IMA is seeking assurance that local authorities are discharging their responsibilities with regards to making and supporting EUSS applications on behalf of all eligible looked after children, children in receipt of local authority care and support, and care leavers. The IMA continues to conduct individual assurance reviews across England and Scotland to seek further assurance over a rolling

programme of work. Assurance reviews have been completed for Northern Ireland and Wales. All reports are published on our website.

**As at the end of 2024, more than 150 additional eligible children and care leavers have been identified and supported to make applications to the EUSS scheme as a result of local authority enhancements.**

#### 4.4 Legislation Monitoring

During 2024 the IMA looked at legislation across the UK and Gibraltar and identified 39 pieces of legislation that required a review.

**Of these 39 pieces of legislation, 12 were classed as being key legislation which needed further scrutiny to determine whether they affected citizens' exercise of their rights under the Agreements. Reports in respect of this legislation were prepared and published on our website [here](#).**



The IMA continues to liaise with public authorities in relation to legislation monitoring reports in the spirit of no surprises when reports are published. We also continue to encourage public authorities to share legislation with us as it is being drafted so we are able to provide comment on whether it is complying with the Agreements to avoid potential problems and issues emerging.

In a new development in 2024 we committed to notify the Senedd's Equality and Social Justice Committee of our reporting on statements of changes to the Immigration Rules and Wales-specific legislation. This arose from a request made by the Committee following a scrutiny session in the Senedd, in which we participated.



## Legislation Monitoring Case Study

### Gaining Status – Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) (Amendment) Order 2024

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The IMA followed up with the Home Office on its commitment to change the guidance relevant to the Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) (Amendment) Order 2024, so that it more accurately reflected the requirements under the Agreements and the policy position of the Home Office.

It updates the original 2000 Order to fix a legal issue identified by the High Court. The case was brought by the IMA.

In its 2022 judgment, the Court found that the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) wrongly allowed pre-settled status (PSS) to expire if someone didn't apply for settled status. It also confirmed that people with PSS automatically gain permanent residence after five years of continuous qualifying residence.



Before the 2024 Order, the law said PSS would lapse after two years of absence from the UK, while settled status allowed five years. This was inconsistent with the Agreements, which give those with permanent residence the same five-year absence allowance.

The 2024 Order corrects this by allowing all EUSS status holders to be absent for up to five years (or four years for Swiss citizens) before their status lapses. The Home Office has updated guidance for border officials. In the meantime, officials have been instructed to check whether someone has acquired permanent residence before deciding if their status has expired.

This change does not affect the Home Office's ability to cancel PSS for those who haven't gained permanent residence and who exceed the permitted absences—generally more than six months in any 12-month period, unless exceptions apply.



### 4.5 Litigation

The IMA intervened in four cases during 2024. Consistent with our approach to publication of our litigation activities, we have published key documents filed within these cases on our website.

### Intervention Case Studies

**Some examples of the legal intervention undertaken in 2024 are:**

#### **Access to Support – Fertre v Vale of the White Horse District Council (and others)**

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The IMA intervened in the Court of Appeal case of Fertre v Vale of the White Horse District Council and others, having previously intervened in the High Court proceedings.

The case will consider specifically whether citizens with pre-settled status are entitled to access to housing assistance on the same basis as a UK national, but is concerned more widely with the broader issue of whether a grant of pre-settled status means that an individual is within scope of the Withdrawal Agreement and able to enjoy all the rights provided by the Part



2 (citizen's rights) so long as they continue to meet the conditions of the grant of status.

Mrs Fertre, a French national came to the UK on 4 November 2020 and was granted pre-settled status on 18 November 2020.

In October 2021 she applied to her local council for housing assistance but was refused. One of the reasons for the refusal was that her pre-settled status of itself was insufficient to qualify as a person eligible for such support. To be eligible under the relevant legislation she needed to have met the relevant conditions (for example, be a worker, self-employed, have a permanent right to reside...).

Mrs Fertre argues that having been granted pre-settled status she is within scope of the Withdrawal Agreement and relying on the right to equal treatment she should be able to access housing support on the same basis as a UK national.

This case raises important questions regarding interpretation of the Withdrawal Agreement and is one of a number of cases on this issue in which the IMA has intervened. The IMA's position is that being in scope of the Withdrawal Agreement is not sufficient of itself to enable an individual

with PSS to enjoy all rights. In order to enjoy rights under the Agreements, a PSS holder would need to meet the requirements for that right. In the case of the equal treatment provisions would include being a worker, self-employed and having a permanent right to reside.

Judgment was handed down in July 2025 and the Court of Appeal upheld the High Court's decision that someone with a grant of pre-settled status could not benefit from the right under Article 23 of the Withdrawal Agreement, to equal treatment unless they were also meeting the conditions for that right.

### **Gaining Status – R (Krzysztofik) v Secretary of State to the Home Department (SSHD)**

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In July 2024, the Upper Tribunal handed down its judgment in the case of R (Krzysztofik) v SSHD, in which the IMA intervened.

Mr Krzysztofik, a Polish national, had his application to the EUSS paused because of Home Office guidance on pending prosecutions, which meant that certain applications were put on hold where the applicant had a pending prosecution that could lead to a conviction and a refusal on suitability grounds.

The guidance did not allow for any assessment to be made as to whether the criminal behaviour alleged was sufficient to lead to a refusal of EUSS status or the principle of proportionality. This is important, as where criminal offences have been committed prior to Brexit, whether they are sufficient to lead to a refusal of EUSS will depend on how long an individual has lived lawfully in the UK.

For those like Mr Kryzsztofik who had been in the UK for over 10 years, their application will only be refused on grounds of their conduct where it is serious, and they pose an ongoing compelling risk to public security. In the applicant's case he was awaiting the outcome of four charges against him in respect of conduct which took place pre-Brexit. Three of the charges were resolved with no further action being taken, he pleaded guilty to the fourth charge and was sentenced to a 46-week custodial sentence.

The Upper Tribunal agreed with the applicant and the IMA that this failure to consider the individual's circumstances and apply the correct test before placing an application on hold was unlawful and a breach of the Withdrawal Agreement.

Following the hearing, the Home Office updated the guidance to make it clear to caseworkers that disclosure of a pending prosecution which has not been determined does not present caseworkers from progressing an application.

### **Gaining Status – R (Ali) v SSHD**

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The IMA intervened in the case of R (Ali) v SSHD which was concerned with the point at which dependency for the purposes of an application to the EUSS was determined.

Ms Ali had arrived in the UK as a child under the age of 21, but by the time she applied for EUSS leave, she was no longer financially dependent on her mother (an Italian national) in part because she had taken up the right to work and therefore her application for EUSS status was refused.

The appeal raised a difficult and novel question as to the interaction between the requirement for adult children to be financially dependent on their parent/s to be within scope of the Withdrawal Agreement and the right to work granted by the Agreements.

The IMA argued that to require adult children to continue to be dependent on their parent/s would lock them into a state of dependency which would mean that the right to work in the Withdrawal Agreement was redundant. The Court agreed with the IMA submissions and found that the right to work “trumped” the requirement to be dependent.

### 4.6 Post Litigation Monitoring

We continued to monitor how litigation is being implemented by public authorities in relation to a number of judgments.

#### Post Litigation Monitoring Case Studies

##### Gaining Status – PSS to SS Judicial Review

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The IMA has been engaging with the Home Office to monitor its implementation of the agreed amendments to the EUSS in response to a successful judicial review by the IMA.

In the IMA's view, the Home Office's initial approach of automatically applying a two-year extension to all pre-settled status holders shortly before they approach their current date of expiry did not go far enough to address the first aspect of the High Court's ruling. Hence, since September 2024 citizens are receiving five-year extensions to pre-settled status.

The Home Office has also removed the pre-settled status expiry date from View and Prove and the right to work and rent checking services for employers and landlords, who are also no longer required to conduct follow-up checks once they have established that a citizen has pre-settled status. We are assured that the relevant guidance on this has been updated.

The Home Office has provided further clarity for eligible citizens who have acquired a permanent right to reside under the Agreements. The eligibility criteria for permanent residence are set out in the Home Office statement.

Obtaining settled status remains the easiest way for a person to prove their right to remain in the UK indefinitely. From January 2025, the Home Office introduced a process to automatically convert as many eligible pre-settled status

holders to settled status as possible, without the need for the citizen to make an application. This will help to align citizens' EUSS status with their underlying rights under the Agreements.

The Home Office will continue to first extend pre-settled status by five years shortly before it is due to expire if the holder is yet to obtain settled status. After pre-settled status is extended, the case will undergo checks on eligibility for settled status and, if this is confirmed, the citizen will be granted settled status, and their digital status will be updated automatically. Pre-settled status holders will be notified at key points throughout the process and so will not need to take any action.

The IMA continues to engage with the Home Office on its plans for Automation of Status, along with understanding of the policy and safeguards in place for citizens who may have pre-settled status cancelled by the Home Office because they no longer meet the requirements for it.



### **Access to Support – Secretary of State for Work and Pensions v AT**

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The IMA intervened in proceedings concerning the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions v AT.

The case concerned access to social security assistance and focused on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.

The concern was whether the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) had breached the rights of an EU citizen (AT) by refusing her claim for Universal Credit. This is a key case of significant public importance and concerns the interpretation of the Withdrawal Agreement. AT successfully argued throughout the courts, including in the Upper Tribunal and Court of Appeal, that in refusing her Universal Credit, the SSWP had breached her Withdrawal Agreement rights.

The courts consistently found that the protection in the Charter of Fundamental Rights to be able to live in dignified conditions applies under the Withdrawal Agreement in certain circumstances. Our independent view was that AT was able to rely on her Charter right to live in dignified conditions and therefore was able to access Universal Credit.



The case raises important questions regarding the meaning of the Agreements and in particular as to the extent to which the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union has an effect. It also highlights how the incorrect implementation of the Agreements can have significant impact on the most vulnerable people in society.

After engagement with the IMA, we are pleased that DWP has changed their caseworker guidance to include the third country family members of citizens with PSS. We are working to clarify DWP's position on claims made prior to the change in caseworker guidance and we continue to engage with DWP on how they are complying with the judgment within the updated caseworker guidance.

The IMA continues to look at the impact of the AT judgment in other areas relating to citizens' rights to homelessness assistance. We have welcomed the issuing of new guidance to local authorities from the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) about how to assess whether citizens with rights under the Agreements can receive homelessness support.

It now includes guidance when the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights applies in homelessness cases and suggestions for how local authorities should assess a person's Charter rights.

We have published a public statement, and we are currently working with MHCLG to address our ongoing concerns that the guidance does not fully implement the AT judgment and excludes certain vulnerable groups to whom we think the Charter applies.

Our latest statement highlights the new guidance issued by MHCLG which should provide greater clarity for citizens following concerns raised by the IMA. We are working to understand how the guidance will be implemented by local authorities, and we will continue to work with MHCLG to ensure the judgment is implemented correctly.

## 5. Other Information

In 2024 we welcomed the appointment of a new Chair to the IMA. Nicole Lappin was appointed by the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor in December following an open recruitment process which included an appearance before the Justice Select Committee.

Nicole, who brings a wealth of experience as Chair of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and as a previous Chair of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and Chief Commissioner at the Northern Ireland Charity Commission, took up the role in January 2025.

**We launched our second strategy in 2024 which sets out our strategic objectives until 2027 guiding our work to ensure we are doing all we can to deliver our key duties to monitor and promote.**

As part of this strategy we recognise that bringing transparency and clarity to citizens is an important part of our work and this continues to be a priority for us whether that be by taking legal action to better understand the parameters of the law or by ensuring our communication campaigns and guidance are as clear as possible.

We also know that we need to continue to work collaboratively with public bodies to help to address any issues as swiftly as possible, so citizens are able to exercise their rights.

A communications strategy was also launched in September 2024 to support the delivery and communication of our strategy.

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**We continued to engage with numerous stakeholders in 2024 in order to maximise not only our understanding of the experience of citizens living in the UK and Gibraltar but how we can work together to make a positive difference to how their rights are upheld.**

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We were delighted to host the EU Ambassador, Pedro Serrano, the Ambassador of Austria, Bernhard Wrabetz and the High Commissioner of Cyprus, Dr Kyriacos Kouros alongside representatives of the EU Delegation to the IMA Offices in Swansea in June.

It was another chance for us to discuss the IMA's work and learn more about the range of issues facing EU nationals in the UK and where we can add value and help make a difference.

**We facilitated regular meetings with the Devolved Administrations to ensure they were involved and sighted on the work that was being done across government to ensure compliance with the Agreements and foster better join up between decisions being made in Westminster and the Devolved Nations.**



We also refreshed our Citizens Panel, welcoming new members and adding to their numbers. The panel continues to be invaluable to the IMA and this year we have been grateful for their feedback on numerous issues and have particularly appreciated their input into the wording and language we use in our communication to help increase clarity and accessibility of our messaging.

## 5. Other Information

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In 2024, we continued to expand our stakeholder network to increase opportunities for monitoring and promotional work. We built on our working relationship with the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI) and sought input from them on issues relating to travel for citizens with rights. This work helped to expand and verify our own understanding of the borders system to better understand the issues being experienced by citizens.



**We met with the Housing Ombudsman, Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and the NI Public Service Ombudsman to discuss our work and explore ways of working together.**

We also gave evidence at the Northern Ireland Executive Committee and increased our stakeholder networks in Northern Ireland meeting with representatives from 11 stakeholder groups, including the Migrant Centre and Committee on the Administration of Justice. As part of this work, we identified issues specific to Northern Ireland, such as land-border related travel disruption and the disproportionately high rates of EUSS refusals in NI.

We were pleased to be asked to give evidence to the Senedd's Equality and Social Justice Committee in Wales to talk about the future of the EUSS and update them about our assurance review into looked after children which is part of our focus on future generations.

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**Throughout the year, we continued to develop and engage our UK-wide stakeholder network, this included regular attendance at the EUSS Alliance, EU Delegation Monitoring Network and the Welsh Government EU Citizens' Forum. Stakeholder meetings provide invaluable opportunities to hear directly from citizens, and those who support them, to inform our work.**

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We organised a stakeholder roundtable group to hear feedback about how we can make it even easier for citizens to tell us about their experiences since Brexit. One of the issues raised was about how we could continue to help to raise awareness of the rights and to highlight issues which might be affecting citizens.

As a result of these conversations, we refreshed our communication products, translating key resources such as leaflets and factsheets about the rights in many languages of the EU and EEA EFTA states.

## 5. Other Information

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We also began a project which was completed in early 2025 to improve the accessibility of the IMA website to enable it to be translated into all European languages as well as improving its accessibility to make it easier for citizens to access and understand.

Work also began on diversifying our communication content, checking tone and readability with our stakeholders and in particular members of our citizens panel to further improve clarity and accessibility of how we communicate.



## 6. Annexes

**Information provided from the Government of Gibraltar, the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government, the UK Government, and the Welsh Government in relation to implementation and application of Part 2 of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreements.**



## Annex 1 Government of Gibraltar

### 1. Residence rights

Gibraltar operates a residence scheme in accordance with Article 18(4) of the Withdrawal Agreement and Article 17(4) of the EEA/EFTA Separation Agreement (“the Agreements”).

EU and EEA EFTA nationals who are exercising residence rights under the Agreements are issued with a blue civilian registration card. Persons connected with these nationals (who are within the scope of the Agreements) may also apply for a blue civilian registration card (which is substantially in the EU’s uniform physical format) under regulation 5 of the Electronic Identity Card Regulations 2015. Provided that the person can prove their entitlement, there is no time limit for application.

The blue civilian registration card serves as proof that the recipient is registered as resident in Gibraltar and may be used as a form of ID. As such, the card may be used to access provisions relating to residence.

Where a person had a blue civilian registration card before IP completion day (issued under EU law) that person can continue to use that card to access provisions for the remainder of their residence in Gibraltar.

Gibraltar has not put in place more favourable residence conditions.

Gibraltar has not made use of derogations from equal treatment under Article 23(2) of the Withdrawal Agreement.

On 19 December 2024 the fee for the first issue of a card was revised to £35.00 and £15.00 for a renewal.

### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

Key legislative instruments in Gibraltar are:

- European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2019;
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020;
- Electronic Identity Card Regulations 2015;

The following instruments are also relevant to the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

- Immigration, Asylum and Refugee Act;
- Civilians Registration Act;
- European Union (Civilian Registration) (EU Exit) Regulations 2021;
- Notice of Prescribed fees

All of the legislation listed above implement both the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

## **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

No new key legislation has been adopted or amended in the reporting year.

### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

Technical Notice (10) Guidance to EU/EEA/Swiss Residents of Gibraltar is the key administrative document giving guidance on both the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

### **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

No jurisprudence has arisen in the reporting year.

### **E. Statistical data**

<b>A</b>	Estimated number of resident beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement	<b>1,696</b>
<b>B</b>	Number of residence applications made in the reporting year	<b>5</b>
<b>B1b</b>	Number of applications granted as permanent residence	<b>5</b>

In the reporting year 63 EU nationals resident in Gibraltar have obtained British Overseas Territories Citizenship.

## **2. Rights of workers and self-employed**

In Gibraltar, beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement are not obliged to apply for a document identifying their frontier workers' rights. Frontier Workers continue to be provided with a dedicated government electronic platform on which they can confirm whether the Gibraltar Government considers them to be frontier workers covered by the personal scope of the Withdrawal Agreement.

The platform, which was launched on 10 December 2020 includes a facility, free of charge, which allows for frontier workers to request a letter certifying that they are frontier workers covered by the scope of the Withdrawal Agreement. In the period 1 January to 31 December 2024 the electronic platform was accessed 2,708 times with no requests for the issuance of the letter received during this reporting period.

## **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

Key legislative instruments in Gibraltar are:

- European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2019;
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020;

The following instrument is also relevant to the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

- Immigration, Asylum and Refugee Act;

All of this legislation implements both the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

## **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

No new key legislation has been adopted or amended in the reporting year.

### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

Technical Notice (11) Guidance to EU/EEA/Swiss Frontier Workers is the key administrative document giving guidance on both the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

### **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

No jurisprudence has arisen in the reporting year.

### **E. Statistical data on the frontier worker scheme**

The Government of Gibraltar continues to maintain details of every frontier worker in Gibraltar. 5,724 are EU citizens falling under the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement of which two are EEA nationals falling under the UK - EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.



### 3. Co-ordination of social security schemes

No special implementation choices have been made in respect of Gibraltar.

#### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

Key legislative instruments in Gibraltar are:

- European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2019;
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020;
- Healthcare (International Agreements) and Social Security Coordination Act 2019;
- Healthcare (European Economic Area and Switzerland Arrangements)(EU Exit) Regulations 2020;

Each of these pieces of legislation implement both the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

## **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

No further legislative instruments have been adopted this year.

## **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement**

Technical Notice (16) Getting ready for the end of the Transition Period – Social Security Coordination is the key administrative document giving guidance on both the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

## **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

No jurisprudence has arisen in the reporting year.

## E. Statistical data

Applicable legislation (Portable Document A1)	0
Cross-border health care (EHIC, Portable Documents S1 and S2)	
EHIC	1,358
S1	4,605
S2	0
Pensions	
Old age pension	112
Survivors pension	2
Unemployment benefits (Portable Documents U1 and U2)	
U1	742
U2	0
Family benefits	
Maternity allowance	63
Maternity grant	169

## 4. Recognition of professional qualifications

No special implementation choices have been made in respect of Gibraltar.

### A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement

Key legislative instruments in Gibraltar are:

- European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2019;
- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020;
- Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Services (Amendments and Miscellaneous Provisions)(EU Exit) Regulations 2020;
- EEA and Registered European Lawyers and Lawyer's Practice (Revocation etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2023

## **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

No further legislative instruments have been adopted this year.

## **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement**

Technical Notice – No Deal Brexit – Recognition of professional qualifications is the key administrative document giving guidance on both the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

## **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

No jurisprudence from the reporting year.

## E. Statistical data

### Medical Practitioners\*

A	Number of applications under Article 28 of the Withdrawal Agreement made in the reporting year	16
A1	Number of applications granted	16
A2	Number of applications refused	0
A2a	Out of A2, number of applications that were invalid	0
A2b	Out of A2, number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	0
A3	Number of applications that are still pending at the end of the reporting year	0

### Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors\*

A	Number of applications under Article 28 of the Withdrawal Agreement made in the reporting year (2023)	25
A1	Number of applications granted	25
A2	Number of applications refused	0
A2a	Out of A2, number of applications that were invalid	0
A2b	Out of A2, number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	0

<b>A3</b>	Number of applications that are still pending at the end of the reporting year	<b>0</b>
<b>Dentists*</b>		
<b>A</b>	Number of applications under Article 28 of the Withdrawal Agreement made in the reporting year (2021)	<b>0</b>
<b>A1</b>	Number of applications granted	<b>0</b>
<b>A2</b>	Number of applications refused	<b>0</b>
<b>A2a</b>	Out of A2, number of applications that were invalid	<b>0</b>
<b>A2b</b>	Out of A2, number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	<b>0</b>
<b>A3</b>	Number of applications that are still pending at the end of the reporting year	<b>0</b>

Pharmacists*		
<b>A</b>	Number of applications under Article 28 of the Withdrawal Agreement made in the reporting year (2023)	<b>0</b>
<b>A1</b>	Number of applications granted	<b>0</b>
<b>A2</b>	Number of applications refused	<b>0</b>
<b>A2a</b>	Out of A2, number of applications that were invalid	<b>0</b>
<b>A2b</b>	Out of A2, number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	<b>0</b>
<b>A3</b>	Number of applications that are still pending at the end of the reporting year	<b>0</b>

\* Gibraltar continues to recognise professional qualifications of EU and EEA citizens and the figures reported include applications from all EU and EEA citizens, irrespective of whether they derive a right to recognition from the EU Withdrawal Agreement or the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement



## Annex 2 Northern Ireland

### 1. Residence rights

#### A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement

There is no specific legislation for residence rights for access to publicly funded healthcare. The Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (PNOR) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 make provisions on the exemptions from health service charges to a visitor who has an entitlement to the provision of those services by virtue of a right arising from the EU Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

The following sets of regulations were made further to both the EU withdrawal and EEA separation agreements.

The Education (Student Fees and Support) (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Education (Student Fees and Support) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021

The Education (Student Support, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022

### **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

The PNOR Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 require further amendment to make provision for the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement. The changes are known to IMA and do not affect citizens' rights.

### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

The PNOR guidance has been updated to provide access to publicly funded healthcare in NI for those EU citizens that fall within the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

The PNOR guidance is available here:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-pnor-guidance-v2.2.pdf>

The following guidance was provided on nidirect for students as a result of both Agreements.

Financial help for EU students | nidirect

How to apply for finance – EU students | nidirect

## **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not Applicable

## **E. Statistical data**

The EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) is operated by the UK Home Office and while evidence of having an EUSS status may on occasions be required for access to publicly funded healthcare in Northern Ireland, this data is not routinely recorded or reported on by the Department of Health.

## 2. Rights of workers and self-employed

### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

There is no specific legislation for rights of workers and self-employed for access to publicly funded healthcare purposes. The Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (PNOR) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 make provisions on the exemptions from health service charges to a visitor who has an entitlement to the provision of those services by virtue of a right arising from the EU Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

### **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

The PNOR Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 require further amendments to make provision for the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

The PNOR guidance has been updated to provide access to publicly funded healthcare in NI for those EU citizens that fall within the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

**The PNOR guidance is available here:**

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-pnor-guidance-v2.2.pdf>

### **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not Applicable

### **E. Statistical data on the frontier worker scheme**

The Frontier Worker permit scheme is operated by the UK Home Office and while some Frontier Workers may need to supply a Frontier Worker permit to access publicly funded healthcare in Northern Ireland, the primary requirement to have a permit is for employment purposes. This data is not routinely recorded or reported on by the Department of Health.

### 3. Co-ordination of social security schemes

#### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

The key legislative instrument for the co-ordination of social security schemes for access to healthcare purposes is the Provision of Health Services to Persons Not Ordinarily Resident (PNOR) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 which make provisions on the exemptions from health service charges to a visitor who has an entitlement to the provision of those services by virtue of a right arising from the EU Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement. These provisions have UK-wide scope and so extend to Northern Ireland. While social security is devolved, international relations is an excepted matter.

#### **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

The PNOR Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 require further amendments to make provision for the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement**

The PNOR guidance has been updated to provide access to publicly funded healthcare in NI for those EU citizens that fall within the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

The PNOR guidance is available here:  
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-pnor-guidance-v2.2.pdf>

### **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not Applicable

## E. Statistical data

This data is collected by the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) on behalf of the UK.

### Applicable legislation (Portable Document A1)

Portable Document A1	
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### Cross-border health care (EHIC, Portable Documents S1 and S2)

EHIC	
------	--

S1	
----	--

S2	
----	--

### Pensions

Old age pension	
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Survivors pension	
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### Unemployment benefits (Portable Documents U1 and U2)

U1	
----	--

U2	
----	--

### Family benefits

Maternity allowance	
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Maternity grant	
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## **4. Recognition of professional qualifications**

European Union train driving licences (EU TDLs) continue to be recognised in Northern Ireland. The Department for Infrastructure as regulator of the train driver profession in Northern Ireland facilitates the recognition of train driver qualifications obtained in other jurisdictions, whether GB, the EU or elsewhere. Individuals who obtain a train driver position in Northern Ireland can have the qualifications they obtained elsewhere recognised by their employer and subsequently the Department.

During the reporting period, no individuals sought to become entitled to practise as a train driver in Northern Ireland using the qualifications they obtained elsewhere.

Information on what professions are regulated under the 'Professional Qualifications Act, 2022', alongside their regulators can be found at UK regulated professions and their regulators - GOV.UK – The Driver and Vehicle Agency (DVA) Northern Ireland on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland) regulate Approved Driving & Motorcycle Instructors.

During the reporting period DVA were able to support an EU Driving Instructor's application to join the Register for Approved Instructors in Northern Ireland.

## **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement**

The Professional Qualifications Act 2022  
(Commencement No. 3 and Savings and  
Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023

The Recognition of Professional Qualifications  
and Implementation of International  
Recognition Agreements (Amendment)  
Regulations 2023

The Train Driving Licences and Certificates  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010

Regulations regarding recognition of  
professional qualifications for the legal  
profession – The Recognition of Professional  
Qualifications and Implementation of  
International Recognition Agreements  
(Amendment) (Extension to Switzerland etc.)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025.

## **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

None

### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement**

Information on recognition of train driver qualifications obtained in another jurisdiction, EU and EEA states, or elsewhere can be found here:

Train Driver Licensing, Certification and Regulatory Enforcement | Department for Infrastructure

Driving/Motorcycle Instructors wishing to submit an Approved Instructor transfer application to DVA can do so at Approved Instructor System | nidirect

### **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

None

## E. Statistical data

There have been no applications or admissions to the Roll via mutual recognition. In 2024 the Law Society received five applications foreign qualified lawyers, none were from Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.

<b>A</b>	Number of applications under Article 28 of the Withdrawal Agreement made in the reporting year (2023)	<b>1</b>
<b>A1</b>	Number of applications granted	<b>1</b>
<b>A2</b>	Number of applications refused	<b>0</b>
<b>A2a</b>	Out of A2, number of applications that were invalid	<b>0</b>
<b>A2b</b>	Out of A2, number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	<b>0</b>
<b>A3</b>	Number of applications that are still pending at the end of the reporting year	<b>0</b>

## Annex 3 Scotland

### 1. Residence rights

#### Bus

The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons (Eligible Persons and Eligible Services) (Scotland) Order 2006 (SSI 2002/117) and The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Young Persons (Scotland) Order 2021 (SSI 2021/175) a person must be resident in Scotland to be eligible for free bus travel. However, both schemes seek to be inclusive and include foreign nationals (including students) and people seeking asylum in Scotland so long as they can be deemed to be resident in the country (meaning for more than 6 months of the year).

## **Environment, Climate & Sustainability**

Energy Savings Trust have confirmed that they check if grant/loan applicants reside at a Scottish postcode. Nationality is not a factor and there are no barriers to an EU national applying for financial support if they live in Scotland.

For all grant and loan programmes we deliver for Transport Scotland, residence in Scotland is a key eligibility for consumers or in the case of businesses a business address in Scotland is required.

We carry out checks that we receive proof of addresses in the declared Scottish residence postcode, as well as any vehicle/charge point documents and we verify IDs as part of our anti-fraud checks.

Nationality is not an eligibility check, however we do ask this at evaluation to understand the programme demographic reach.

## **Independent Living Fund**

The Independent Living Fund has requirements around residence and immigration status that could potentially impact the rights of EU/EEA citizens to access it.

ILF policy 32 deals with presence and residence requirements. It says: A person must satisfy the following residence and presence requirements:

- a) he or she is ordinarily resident in Scotland/ Northern Ireland (NI)
- b) he or she is not a person subject to immigration control within the meaning of section 115(9) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- c) he or she is present in Scotland/NI and
- d) he or she has been present in Scotland/ NI for a period of not less than 26 of the preceding 52 weeks.

Item b) refers to people who need leave to remain but don't have it, people who have no recourse to public funds, and people who have leave to remain because someone has taken responsibility for their maintenance.

These requirements aren't new and aren't specifically targeted at EU/EEA citizens but potentially impact on them.

## **Elections**

The electoral franchise for Scottish Parliament and local government elections is largely based upon residency in Scotland. Changes in the Scottish Elections (Franchise and Representation) Act 2020 mean that foreign nationals from any country can be eligible to register to vote, provide they meet the residency requirement.

Candidacy rights are slightly different, but once commenced on the 1 August 2025 the Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Act 2025 will extend candidacy rights to all foreign nationals with unlimited or limited leave to remain, allowing them to stand for election at Scottish Parliament and local government elections. Until commencement occurs, EU nationals with settled or pre-settled status could stand for election, but those without settled or pre-settled status could not (there was an exception for standing in local government elections that only extended to citizens of Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Denmark due to reciprocal treaty agreements between these countries and the UK).



**A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

Not Applicable

**B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

Not Applicable

**C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

Not Applicable

**D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not Applicable

<b>E. Statistical data</b>		
<b>A</b>	Estimated number of resident beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement	
<b>B</b>	Number of residence applications made in the reporting year	
<b>B1</b>	Number of in time residence applications made in the reporting year	
<b>B1a</b>	Number of applications granted as pre-permanent residence	
<b>B1b</b>	Number of applications granted as permanent residence	
<b>B1c</b>	Number of applications refused	
<b>B1c1</b>	Out of B1c, number of applications that were invalid	
<b>B1c2</b>	Out of B1c, number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	
<b>B1d</b>	Total number of in time applications pending at the end of the reporting year	
<b>B2</b>	Number of late residence applications made in the reporting year	

## E. Statistical data

<b>B2a</b>	Number of applications where national authorities concluded that there were reasonable grounds for not respecting the application deadline	
<b>B2b</b>	Number of applications where national authorities concluded that there were no reasonable grounds for not respecting the application deadline	
<b>B2a</b>	Number of applications where national authorities are still assessing there were reasonable grounds for not respecting the application deadline	
<b>B2a1</b>	Number of applications granted as pre-permanent residence	
<b>B2a2</b>	Number of applications granted as permanent residence	
<b>B2a3</b>	Number of applications refused	
<b>B2a3a</b>	Out of B2a3, number of applications that were invalid	
<b>B2a3b</b>	Out of B2a3, number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	

## E. Statistical data

<b>B1d</b>	Total number of late applications pending at the end of the reporting year	
<b>C</b>	Number of entry visa applications made in the reporting year by family members seeking to join the beneficiary under Article 14(3) of the Withdrawal Agreement	
<b>C1</b>	Number of entry visas granted	
<b>C2</b>	Number of entry visas applications refused	
<b>C3</b>	Total number of entry visa applications pending at the end of the reporting year	

## 2. Rights of workers and self-employed

### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

Not Applicable

### **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

Not Applicable

### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

Not Applicable

### **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not Applicable

**E. Statistical data on the frontier worker scheme**

<b>A</b>	Number of applications made in the reporting year	
<b>A1</b>	Number of applications granted	
<b>A2</b>	Number of applications refused	
<b>A2a</b>	Out of A2, number of applications that were invalid	
<b>A2b</b>	Out of A2, number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	
<b>A3</b>	Number of applications that are still pending at the end of the reporting year	

### 3. Co-ordination of social security schemes

#### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

##### **S.I. 1989/364 - The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Scotland) Regulations 1989 ("the 1989 Regulations")**

- Link to consolidated version; The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Scotland) Regulations 1989
- This instrument is relevant to the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement. It was amended by S.S.I. 2019/333.

##### **S.S.I. 2019/333 - The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Scotland) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019**

- Link – The National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) (Scotland) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
- This instrument amended the 1989 Regulations and is relevant to the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement.

## **S.S.I 2013/292 - The National Health Service (Cross-Border Health Care) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 ("the 2013 Regulations")**

- Link to consolidated version: The National Health Service (Cross-Border Health Care) (Scotland) Regulations 2013
- The 2013 Regulations are relevant to the Withdrawal Agreement and the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement. They were amended by S.S.I. 2019/131 (The Cross-border Health Care (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2019) ("the 2019 Regulations"), which were themselves amended by S.S.I. 2020/478 (The Cross-border Health Care (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. The 2019 Regulations also made provision relating to reimbursement of health care costs.

## **National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978**

- Link – National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978
- Contains provisions in sections 75A, 75BA, 75BB and 75D in relation to the reimbursement of the cost of services provided in an EEA State.



- The Social Security Co-ordination (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendments etc.) Regulations 2020

## **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

No amendments made to the above statutory instrument in 2024-25.

Relevant additional statutory instruments from the reporting year are (all are relevant to both Agreements):

- The Disability Assistance for Older People (Scotland) Regulations 2024
- The Social Security (Genuine and Sufficient Link to the United Kingdom) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2024
- The Funeral Expense Assistance (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2024
- The Disability Assistance (Scottish Adult Disability Living Allowance) Regulations 2025

## **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement**

### **IMA Statement on NHS charges in Scotland and subsequent guidance to Boards/update of NHS Inform**

- IMA statement – NHS Charges for applicants to the EUSS (Scotland) - Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreements
- NHS Inform – EU Settlement Scheme and access to NHS healthcare | NHS inform
- Guidance to Boards issued under the cover of DL (2021) 1 - Cross-Border Healthcare And Patient Mobility In Europe – EU Exit; NHS Scotland – Publications
- Social Security Scotland - Decision Making Guide (chapters titled "Residence and Presence" refer) (applies to both agreements) – note that we are currently working on improvements to these chapters and intend to consolidate updates into a single chapter which covers all devolved benefits. The Scottish Government would be happy to share this with the IMA once complete.

- Currently living in an EEA country or Switzerland or Gibraltar - mygov.scot (applies to both Agreements)

#### **D. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement**

No known Scottish-specific jurisprudence to report.

The Scottish Government is aware of and monitoring the following case in this reporting period, which could be persuasive in devolved benefit decision making on entitlement and competency:

- SE v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions UKUT 405 (AAC)

#### **E. Statistical data**

None

## Annex 4 United Kingdom

### 1. Residence rights

The United Kingdom operates a constitutive residence scheme in accordance with Article 18(1) of the Withdrawal Agreement. The residence scheme went fully live for applications on 30 March 2019. Residence documents have been issued in a digital form since it went fully live on 30 March 2019. Residence documents are issued free of charge.

The deadline for applications under Article 18(1) (b) of the Withdrawal Agreement was 30 June 2021. This deadline applied to EEA nationals and their family members resident in the UK by the end of the transition period (31 December 2020) - it did not apply to joining family members arriving on or after 1 April 2021 who are subject to a rolling three-month post arrival deadline, as per Article 18(1)(b) of the Withdrawal Agreement.

The United Kingdom has put in place more favourable residence conditions than required under the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement. Aside from identity and suitability requirements, eligibility for the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) is based on an EEA national being resident in the United Kingdom before the end of the transition period (23:00 on

31 December 2020), rather than requiring them to have been exercising relevant Treaty rights. This expanded the scope of those EEA nationals eligible to apply for residency and simplifies the application process. As a matter of domestic policy, the UK has also chosen to allow certain derivative rights holders, who meet the residency requirements, to apply under the scheme.

The United Kingdom has made use of derogations from equal treatment under Article 23(2) of the Withdrawal Agreement. However, this is a continuation of the position which was in place prior to the UK leaving the EU.

### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk))
- The Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk))
- The Immigration (Citizens' Rights Appeals) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk))

- The Citizens' Rights (Restrictions of Rights of Entry and Residence) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk))
- The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020 (Consequential, Saving, Transitional and Transitory Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk))
- Immigration Rules Appendix EU - Immigration Rules - Guidance - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))
- Immigration Rules Appendix EU (Family Permit) - Immigration Rules - Guidance - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

## **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

- The Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) (Amendment) Order 2024

## **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance**

## on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement

### Operational guidance

- EU Settlement Scheme caseworker guidance - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- Immigration status and enforcement action: caseworker guidance - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- Cancellation and curtailment of permission (accessible) - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- EEA Operational guidance post grace period ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))
- EEA decisions taken on grounds of public policy - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- EU Settlement Scheme: Border Force guidance - GOV.UK
- Public funds - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- European Union, European Economic Area and Swiss citizens and their family members (accessible) - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

## **Wider guidance**

- Apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (settled and pre-settled status) - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- EU Settlement Scheme: family and travel permits - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- View and prove your immigration status - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- Visiting the UK as an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- Entering the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme and EU Settlement Scheme family permit - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- Landlord's guide to right to rent checks - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- EU Settlement Scheme: employer toolkit - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- Right to work checks: an employer's guide - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- Apply for an EU Settlement Scheme travel permit to return to the UK - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))



- EU Settlement Scheme: evidence of relationship - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- EU Settlement Scheme: information for status holders and applicants - GOV.UK
- EU Settlement Scheme: applying from outside the UK - GOV.UK
- Apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by post - GOV.UK
- Coronavirus (COVID-19): EU Settlement Scheme - guidance for applicants - GOV.UK

## **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

- Leonard Vasa v SSHD [2024] EWCA Civ 777 (10 July 2024)
- SSHD v Have Rexhaj [2024] EWCA Civ 784 (11 July 2024)
- Vargova (EU national, post 31 December 2020 offending, deportation) [2024] UKUT 00336
- Here for Good, R (On the Application Of) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2024] EWHC 2817 (Admin) (06 November 2024)

- Shaun Emambux v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2024] EWCA Civ 1459
- Ali, R (on the application of) v SSHD [2024] EWCA Civ 1546
- Secretary of State for Work and Pensions v WV – SSWP v WV (UC) [2023] UKUT 112 (AAC)
- Secretary of State for Work and Pensions v VB – SSWP v WV [2024] UKUT 212 (AAC).

E. Statistical data		
A	Estimated number of resident beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement	3.5 – 4.1 million
B	Number of residence applications made in the reporting year	629,589
B1	Number of in time residence applications made in the reporting year	Unable to provide data
B1a	Number of applications granted as pre-permanent residence	47,685
B1b	Number of applications granted as permanent residence	348,401

<b>E. Statistical data</b>		
<b>B1c</b>	Number of applications refused	<b>91,975</b>
<b>B1c1</b>	Number of applications that were invalid	<b>74,043</b>
<b>B1c2</b>	Number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	<b>30,390</b>
<b>B1d</b>	Total number of in time applications pending at the end of the reporting year	
<b>B2</b>	Number of late residence applications made in the reporting year	<b>94,564</b>
<b>B2a</b>	Number of applications where national authorities concluded that there were reasonable grounds for not respecting the application deadline	<b>Unable to provide data</b>
<b>B2b</b>	Number of applications where national authorities concluded that there were no reasonable grounds for not respecting the application deadline	<b>Unable to provide data</b>
<b>B2a1</b>	Number of applications granted as pre-permanent residence	<b>14,227</b>
<b>B2a2</b>	Number of applications granted as permanent residence	<b>24,652</b>
<b>B2a3</b>	Number of applications refused	<b>18,593</b>

<b>E. Statistical data</b>		
<b>B2a3a</b>	Number of applications that were invalid	<b>32,866</b>
<b>B2a3b</b>	Number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	<b>6,556</b>
<b>B1d</b>	Total number of late applications pending at the end of the reporting year	
<b>C</b>	Number of entry visa applications made in the reporting year by family members seeking to join the beneficiary under Article 14(3) of the Withdrawal Agreement	<b>29,102</b>
<b>C1</b>	Number of entry visas granted	<b>13,250</b>
<b>C2</b>	Number of entry visas applications refused	<b>22,251</b>
<b>C3</b>	Total number of entry visa applications pending at the end of the reporting year	<b>Unable to provide this data</b>

## Notes on the data:

1. Figures provided based on published data from the Immigration system statistics publication, year ending December 2024.
2. Figures provided are for the year 2024 only.
3. Figures in these tables have been derived from live management information systems and are provisional and subject to change.

Disaggregated data by nationality, including data totals for the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement, can be found in the published immigration statistics: Immigration system statistics quarterly release - GOV.UK

## 2. Rights of workers and self-employed

In the United Kingdom, those who meet the definition of a frontier worker as set out in the Withdrawal Agreement are able to apply for a frontier worker permit confirming their status. Since 1 July 2021, frontier workers have been required to hold a valid frontier worker permit in order to evidence their right to enter the UK on this basis.

The frontier worker permit scheme opened for applications on 10 December 2020. The permits are issued primarily in a digital form. The permits are issued free of charge.

### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

- The Citizens' Rights (Frontier Workers) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk))
- The Immigration (Citizens' Rights Appeals) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk))

## **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

Not applicable

## **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

- Frontier worker permit scheme caseworker guidance

## **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not applicable

## **E. Statistical data on the frontier worker scheme**

<b>A</b>	Number of applications made in the reporting year	<b>1,874</b>
<b>A1</b>	Number of applications granted	<b>432</b>
<b>A2</b>	Number of applications refused	<b>1,499</b>
<b>A2a</b>	Out of A2, number of applications that were invalid	<b>Unable to provide this data</b>

A	Number of applications made in the reporting year	1,874
A2b	Out of A2, number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	129
A3	Number of applications that are still pending at the end of the reporting year	Unable to provide data

### 3. Co-ordination of social security schemes

#### A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement

- European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk))
- Gibraltar equivalent to WA: European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2019 ([gibraltarlaws.gov.gi](https://gibraltarlaws.gov.gi)); European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 ([gibraltarlaws.gov.gi](https://gibraltarlaws.gov.gi))
- Healthcare (International Arrangements) (EU Exit) Regulations 2023



- Amendments came into force on 18 February 2023 to the NHS (Charges to overseas visitors) Regulations 2015 to clarify the position regarding applicants to the EUSS, ensuring those applicants are not charged for the period whilst an application is under consideration, if their application goes on to be rejected.
- Cost Recovery Collection, Processing and Dissemination of overseas visitor and UK Patient-Level Data Directions 2021 (as amended) (the Original Directions) were updated to include additional data sharing requirements between the Home Office and the NHS.

## **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

Not applicable

### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement**

- Guidance relating to the UK's operational implementation of the social security coordination provisions of Part 2 of the EU Withdrawal Agreement.
- Guidance for providers of relevant NHS services on cost recovery from Overseas Visitors
- Implementation of Social Security Coordination under the Withdrawal Agreement please see Chapter 9 and Annex D. Other aspects of this chapter fall outside the scope of Social Security Coordination rules.

### **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not applicable

## E. Statistical data

Applicable legislation (Portable Document A1)

Cross-border health care (EHIC, Portable Documents S1 and S2)

Pensions

Unemployment benefits (Portable Documents U1 and U2)

Family benefits

For statistical data on all departments please see Social Security Coordination at a Glance 2024, when published.

## **4. Recognition of professional qualifications**

On 1st December 2023, the UK brought into force section 5(1) of the Professional Qualifications Act 2022, which revokes the European Union (Recognition of Professional Qualifications) Regulations 2015 ('2015 Regulations'), via The Professional Qualifications Act 2022 (Commencement No. 3 and Savings and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023. The 2015 Regulations set out an interim system for recognition of professional qualifications from the EEA and Switzerland. Regulators of professions regulated by law and professions subject to industry-led regulation (chartered professions) are now no longer required to have systems in place to recognise EEA professional qualifications and are free to maintain recognition pathways of their own choosing for professional qualifications gained from EEA countries. This is unless sectoral legislation or international agreements have specific requirements for recognition of EEA professionals.

The UK Government preserved application of relevant retained EU Law to ensure that the UK's international commitments in the Common Travel Area with Ireland, the Withdrawal Agreement with the EU, the EEA EFTA Separation Agreement, and the Citizens' Rights Agreement with Switzerland, are maintained. This includes regulators upholding recognition decisions made before 1st December

2023 and ensure applications made but not determined before this date progress for EEA and Swiss professionals.

The UK Government implemented the recognition of professional qualifications provisions set out in Chapter 12 of the UK-Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein Free Trade Agreement on 1 December 2023 through the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) Regulations 2023 ('2023 Regulations'). These 2023 Regulations require regulators of professions regulated by law to have processes in place to recognise comparable qualifications obtained in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The 2023 Regulations were amended on 1 January 2025 by The Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) (Extension to Switzerland etc.) Regulations 2024 to extend the application of its provisions to Swiss professionals in order to implement the UK-Switzerland Recognition of Professional Qualifications Agreement. Regulators of professions regulated by law are now also required to have processes in place to recognise comparable qualifications obtained in Switzerland. No changes have been made to recognition of professional qualifications arrangements for EU and EEA EFTA professionals

and DBT continues to work closely with regulators and professional bodies to monitor the implementation of these provisions.

### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement**

- Section 12 of the Recognition of Professional Qualifications section of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020
- The Professional Qualifications and Services (Amendments and Miscellaneous Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1038)
- Services of Lawyers and Lawyer's Practice (Revocation etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020 (S.I. 2020/1342)
- Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Amendment etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/312)
- Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2021
- The Professional Qualifications Act 2022 (Commencement No. 3 and Savings and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2023

## **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

- The Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) (Extension to Switzerland etc.) Regulations 2024 amended The Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) Regulations 2023 to extend application of recognition of professional qualifications provisions to Swiss qualifications.

## **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement**

- Revocation of general EU system of recognition of overseas qualifications guidance
- Recognition of Professional Qualifications under the UK's Free Trade Agreement with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein: guidance for regulators

## D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year

Not applicable

## E. Statistical data

A	Number of applications under Article 28 of the Withdrawal Agreement made in the reporting year	N/A
A1	Number of applications granted	N/A
A2	Number of applications refused	N/A
A2a	Out of A2, number of applications that were invalid	N/A
A2b	Out of A2, number of applications that were withdrawn by applicants	N/A
A3	Number of applications that are still pending at the end of the reporting year	N/A



## Annex 5 Wales

### 1. Residence rights

#### A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement

Not Applicable

#### B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year

Not Applicable

#### C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement

- The Welsh Government continues to provide a package of free support to help EU citizens continue to live and work in Wales. This package of support has enabled EU citizens to get the help they need, including:
  - Free advice and support from third sector organisation Settled

- Advice on social welfare issues and workplace rights
- Outreach support for hard-to-reach and vulnerable groups
- The funding for EUSS Advice Services provided to third sector organisation Settled was extended to ensure advice services continued for EU citizens eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), throughout 2024. Additional funding was awarded to Settled in October 2024 to extend recruit an additional outreach worker and extend their support offer to North Wales. All of this focus has ensured EU citizens with more complex applications have been able to access the necessary support for their EUSS applications.
- The Welsh Government continued to promote Wales as a 'Nation of Sanctuary' ensuring the Welsh Government's website 'Sanctuary' remained up to date on information for migrant and EU citizens. Sanctuary | EU Citizens ([gov.wales](https://gov.wales))
- Welsh Government has produced six factsheets on EU Citizens' Rights. These are:
  - Rights to access benefits

- Rights to access healthcare
- Rights to vote
- Rights to study
- Rights to housing
- Rights to work

These factsheets are updated regularly and published on GOV.WALES. These leaflets have also been shared with our stakeholders who provide advice and support to EU citizens and can be accessed at: [EU citizens' rights | GOV.WALES](#).

- As part of a wider migration issues governance structure review, the Welsh Government has developed a new EU Citizens Forum to replace the historical EUSS Co-ordination Group. The new group covers issues around the EU Settlement Scheme, along with wider considerations of EU citizens' access to rights.
- The Welsh Government continues to communicate and share information to key stakeholders on various topics which could impact EU citizens.
- In July 2024 the Minister for Social Justice, Welsh Language and Trefnydd attended a Senedd debate on EUSS and citizens rights after Brexit.

### **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not Applicable

### **e. Statistical data**

Not Applicable

## **2. Rights of workers and self-employed**

### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

Not Applicable

### **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

Not Applicable

### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

- The Welsh Government has produced factsheets on EU Citizens' Rights, including 'Rights to work'. These factsheets are updated regularly and published on GOV.WALES. These leaflets have also been shared with our stakeholders who provide advice and support to EU citizens' and can be accessed at: [EU citizens' rights | GOV.WALES](#).
- Home Office information packs have been shared with external Welsh businesses and European individuals resident in Wales with regards to checking rights to work and sharing 'share codes'.

### **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not Applicable

### **E. Statistical data on the frontier worker scheme**

Not Applicable

### 3. Co-ordination of social security schemes

#### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement and EEA EFTA Separation Agreement**

Not Applicable

#### **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

Not Applicable

#### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement**

- The Welsh Government has produced factsheets on EU Citizens' Rights, including rights to access benefits. These factsheets are updated regularly and published on GOV. WALES. These leaflets have also been shared with our stakeholders who provide advice and support to EU citizens' and can be accessed at: EU citizens' rights | GOV.WALES.

### **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not Applicable

### **E. Statistical data**

Not Applicable

## **4. Recognition of professional qualifications**

### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement**

On 30 November 2023 Welsh Ministers made and laid the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Wales) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2023. The 2023 Regulations include provision to implement the EEA EFTA free trade agreement in relation to subject areas which are devolved to Wales and impose statutory duties on regulators which the Senedd has the legislative competence to make.

On 20 November 2024, the Welsh Ministers laid The Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) (Extension to Switzerland and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2024 to implement provisions relating to the recognition of professional qualifications contained in the Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Swiss Confederation on Recognition of Professional Qualifications (“the Swiss Agreement”) in relation to matters devolved to Wales.

**B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

Not Applicable



### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement**

- The Welsh Government has produced factsheets on EU Citizens' Rights, including rights to access benefits. These factsheets are updated regularly and published on GOV. WALES. These leaflets have also been shared with our stakeholders who provide advice and support to EU citizens' and can be accessed at: [EU citizens' rights | GOV.WALES](#).
- There is also information available for all international students (including European citizens in Wales) on the [sanctuary.gov.wales](#) webpage.

### **D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not Applicable

### **E. Statistical data**

Not Applicable

## 5. Access to Education

### **A. Key legislative instruments implementing the Withdrawal Agreement**

Not Applicable

### **B. Key legislative instruments adopted or amended in the reporting year**

Not Applicable

### **C. Key administrative documents giving guidance on the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement**

- The Welsh Government has produced factsheets on EU Citizens' Rights, including 'Rights to Study'. These leaflets have also been shared with our stakeholders who provide advice and support to EU citizens' and can be accessed at: [EU citizens' rights | GOV.WALES](#).

**D. Key domestic jurisprudence from the reporting year**

Not Applicable

**E. Statistical data**

Not Applicable

## **6. Other (to include right to vote/stand in elections, information for travel, update to e-visas/use of e-visas)**

The Welsh Government has produced factsheets on EU Citizens' Rights, including 'Rights to Vote'. These leaflets have also been shared with our stakeholders who provide advice and support to EU citizens' and can be accessed at: [EU citizens' rights | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/eu-citizens-rights).

## **Information for travel / update to e-visas/use of e-visas**

### **Visit Wales Industry Engagement:**

We have engaged with the tourism industry through our social media channels and eNewsletter.

Through our X accounts we have shared partner posts and also run organic socials as follows:

**@VisitWalesBiz (8000 followers) – 3 organic posts: (plus 5 posts publicising the issuing of the eNewsletter)**

- 24/01/24 Post on X on ETA Scheme – The Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme (ETA) will be implemented in phases and apply to passengers visiting or transiting the UK, who do not need a visa for short stays. For details and booking onto a webinar, see our latest newsletter [@\\_businesswales](https://ow.ly/KA1U50RSqnz)
- 29/01/24 Post on X on ETA Scheme – The Electronic Travel Authorisation scheme (ETA) will be implemented in phases and apply to passengers visiting or transiting the UK, who do not need a visa for short stays. For details and booking onto a webinar, see our latest newsletter [@\\_businesswales](https://ow.ly/KA1U50RSqnz)
- 28/11/24 Post on X on ETA Scheme – All eligible non-European national visitors and will need an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) to travel to the UK from 8 Jan 2025. Raise awareness of ETA with your visitors, customers and staff. Download the latest Partner Pack here [ow.ly/EI7o50UhEoS](https://ow.ly/EI7o50UhEoS) @UKGovNews #ETA industry.visitwales.com/sites/tourism/... @WGEconomy @\_businesswales @WTA\_Tweets @VisitAnglesey @VisitCardiff @VisitSwanseaBay @NWTBiz

**@CroesoCymruBus (1031 followers) – 3 organic posts: (plus 5 posts publicising the issuing of the ecrms)**

- 24/05/24 Post on X on ETA Scheme – Welsh – Bydd y Cynllun Awdurdodiad Teithio Electronig (ETA) yn cael ei weithredu fesul cam ac yn berthnasol i deithwyr sy'n ymweld â'r DU neu'n teithio drwyddi, nad oes angen fisa arnynt ar gyfer arosiadau byr. Am fanylion ac archebu lle ar weminar: <https://ow.ly/gmcA50RSt18>
- 29/05/24 Post on X on ETA Scheme – Welsh – Bydd y Cynllun Awdurdodiad Teithio Electronig (ETA) yn cael ei weithredu fesul cam ac yn berthnasol i deithwyr sy'n ymweld â'r DU neu'n teithio drwyddi, nad oes angen fisa arnynt ar gyfer arosiadau byr. Am fanylion ac archebu lle ar weminar: <https://ow.ly/gmcA50RSt18>
- 28/11/24 Post on X on ETA Scheme – Welsh – Rhaid i ymwelwyr cenedlaethol nad yw'n wlad Ewropeaidd wneud cais am Awdurdodiad Teithio Electronig (ETA) i deithio i'r DU o 8 Ionawr 2025. Codwch ymwybyddiaeth o ETA gyda 'ch ymwelwyr a staff. Mae'r Pecyn Partner diweddaraf yma @UKGovNews #ETA

**Tourism industry 5 ecrms** – we have sent information via our newsletters to our 20,000 subscribers as follows (this includes running a simultaneous social post on the channels above to promote the ecrm being published):

- 15/ 04/24 – UK Visas and Immigration – eVisa – Tourism Industry Update / Y Diweddaraf i'r Diwydiant Twristiaeth
- 17/05/24 – REMINDER – Electronic Travel Authorisation – Tourism Industry Update / Y Diweddaraf i'r Diwydiant Twristiaeth
- 23/08/24 – Online immigration status (eVisa) – Tourism Industry Update / Y Diweddaraf i'r Diwydiant Twristiaeth
- 27/09/24 – Reminder: Electronic Travel Authorisation – Tourism Industry Update / Y Diweddaraf i'r Diwydiant Twristiaeth
- 19/12/24 – UK Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) Information Events December 2024 – March 2025 – Tourism Industry Update / Y Diweddaraf i'r Diwydiant Twristiaeth









For the Citizens'  
Rights Agreements

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ISBN 978-1-5286-5995-6

E03452784 10/25