

**COUNCILLOR BRIGID JONES**

**DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

COUNCIL HOUSE

VICTORIA SQUARE

BIRMINGHAM

B1 1BB

Tel: 0121 464 4000

Email: [Brigid.Jones@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Brigid.Jones@birmingham.gov.uk)

Our Ref: BJ/1403-lh

22 June 2021

**SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY**

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Home Secretary

**RE: EU Settlement Scheme**

As the deadline approaches for the EU citizens to register with the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), I am writing to you to voice increasing concerns about the impact of this deadline and resulting fall out on the most vulnerable EU citizens in our city.

On 1 July, there is a significant risk many EU nationals will unknowingly become undocumented migrants. The repercussions and impact of this would be significant.

According to the most up to date Home Office statistics, over 116,000 EUSS applications had been made in Birmingham by March 2021, significantly more than the 94,000 EU nationals noted as living in the city (ONS - December 2019). And, if compared to even greater under-estimates for other UK cities, we could potentially expect an additional 20,000 applications. The lack of reliable data creates a significant challenge to local authorities and other organisations when trying to support people to achieve settled or pre-settled status before the deadline.

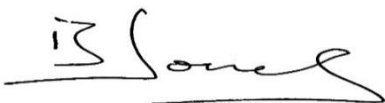
The impact of the coronavirus restrictions has significantly affected the level of outreach, support and advice available and has exacerbated existing challenges for people, as well as their ability to access face-to-face services. This predominantly affects households with dependent children, women, survivors of domestic abuse, older people and other vulnerable groups.

Given these factors and the life-changing consequences this scheme will have for so many, I would urge you to consider the following measures ahead of the 30 June deadline:

- The Government should **extend the 30 June 2021 deadline for EU nationals to apply to the EUSS in order to remain in the UK.**
- We request that government to release its **own estimates of how many EU citizens have not applied to the EUSS** so that they can be best assisted by local councils and support organisations.
- EEA and Swiss citizens do not get any physical proof of pre-settled or settled status. Until 30 June 2021, they can show their passport as proof of their rights. However, from 1 July 2021, proving pre-settled or settled status will be digital and involve a complex set of steps, which will be extremely difficult for many people. Which is why we request the government to provide a physical proof of the EUSS status for all and EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK.
- Many EEA and Swiss citizens have already applied for pre-settled or settled status but are still waiting for a decision. Many have been waiting for weeks, months or even longer than a year. This causes anxiety and panic because their lives are on hold whilst they wait. We are asking the government to clarify how things will work for those who have applied but not yet received their status by 30 June.
- We request that clear guidance and a targeted campaign be provided for businesses, employers and other relevant bodies about the **rights conferred by pre-settled status**, including right to work and access to benefits, so that no citizen with this status is wrongly discriminated against.

I hope the government will take on board these concerns and the recommendations above, and continue to work with Birmingham City Council, other local authorities and supporting organisations to best support those EU citizens who have built a life in the UK and want to continue to do so.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Brigid Jones**  
**Deputy Leader**  
**Birmingham City Council**