

THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME

**A GUIDE TO SUPPORTING YOUR EU CITIZENS
THROUGH THE PROCESS**



THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME

In order to secure their rights, EU citizens will be required to apply for settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme. The scheme will open fully by 30 March 2019.

Acquiring status under the scheme means EU citizens can continue to live and work in the UK as they do now. It will mean they will continue to be eligible for:

- public services, such as healthcare and schools
- public funds and pensions
- British citizenship, if they meet the requirements

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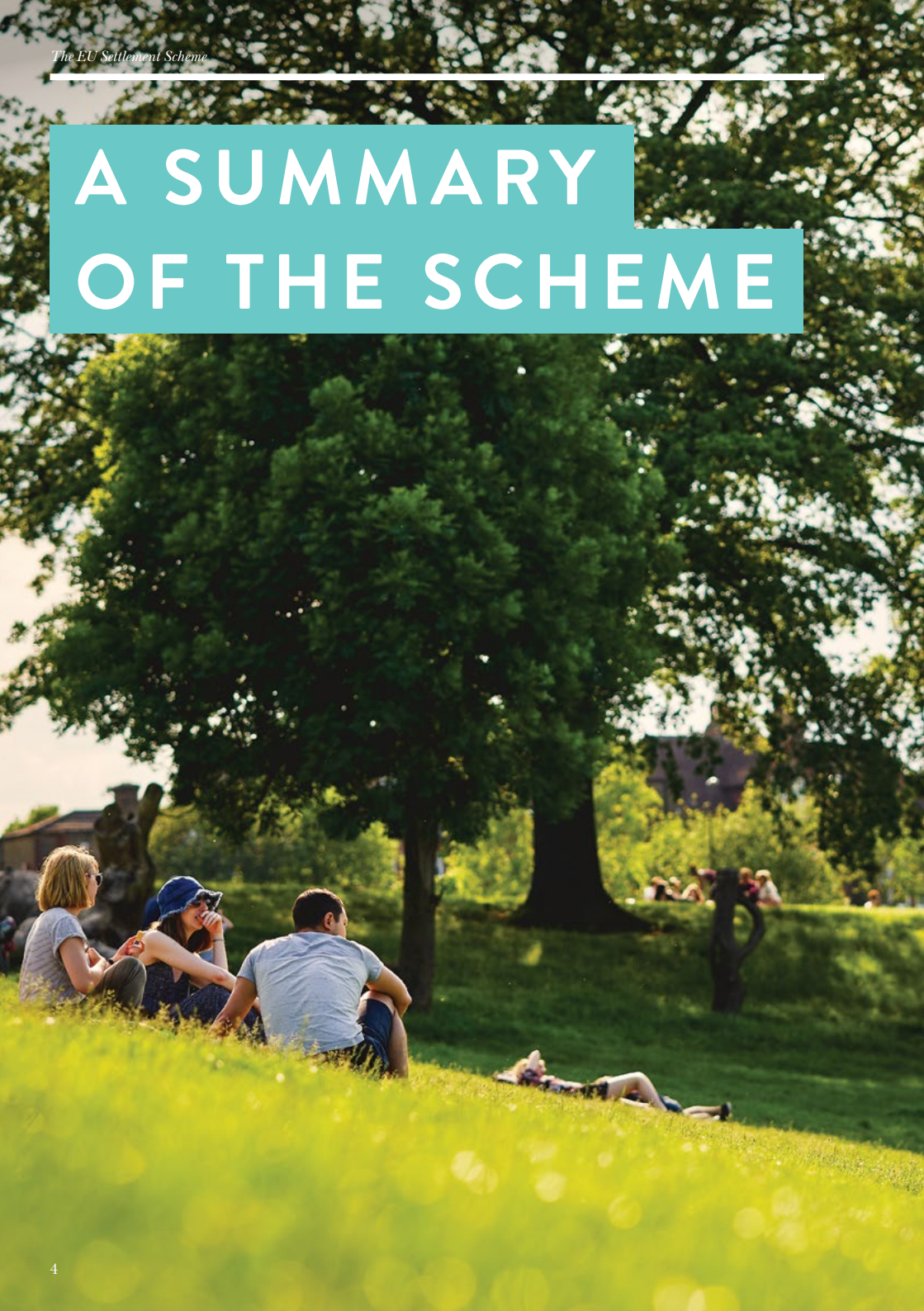
To apply under the EU Settlement Scheme, each EU citizen will need to file a valid application.

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BREXIT IMMIGRATION SERVICE

Talk to Smith Stone Walters about how we can support your organisation and assist your EU employees in securing their long-term status in the UK.

A SUMMARY OF THE SCHEME



EU citizens and their family members who are resident in the UK before 31 December 2020 will be able to apply for UK immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme. The main requirement for status to be granted is residence in the UK.



PRE-SETTLED STATUS

EU citizens granted pre-settled status will have the same access as they currently do to healthcare, pensions and other benefits in the UK.

EU citizens resident in the UK for less than five years will be eligible for pre-settled status. This temporary status will allow EU citizens to accumulate five years residence before obtaining settled status.

Where an applicant is granted pre-settled status under the scheme, with effect from April 2019, there will be no fee when they apply for settled status.

SETTLED STATUS

Effectively replacing permanent residence beyond Brexit, settled status will become the new right to remain in the UK for qualifying EU citizens.

Those EU citizens and their families continuously resident in the UK for five years by 31 December 2020 will be able to obtain settled status.

Holders of settled status under the scheme will be able to be absent from the UK for any reason for a period of five consecutive years before their status lapses.

DID YOU KNOW?

Irish citizens will not need to apply under the EU Settlement Scheme but their family members from outside the UK and Ireland will.

FAMILY MEMBERS ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHEME



Family members who are living with, or join, an EU citizen resident in the UK by the end of the implementation period on 31 December 2020 will be eligible to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme.



ELIGIBILITY

Under the agreement on citizens' rights reached with the EU, an EU citizen resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 will be able to be joined at any point thereafter by close family members resident overseas, if the relationship existed on 31 December 2020 and it continues to exist when the family member applies to come to the UK.

Whilst, family members will be able to apply under the scheme on their own account, applications made by families at the same time will be considered together.

IMPORTANT DATE

29 MARCH 2019

This is the date of the UK's planned departure from the European Union. The Withdrawal Agreement also covers what happens during the period immediately after the UK leaves the EU, known as the implementation period. This period will run from 30 March 2019 to 31 December 2020.

DID YOU KNOW?

Applying for settled status or pre-settled status will cost £65 for an adult and £32.50 for children under 16.

HOW TO APPLY UNDER THE SCHEME



Applying to the EU Settlement Scheme will involve each EU citizen completing an application form online using a computer, tablet or smartphone.



THE FOUR KEY STEPS

1. Verifying identity and nationality

For an EU citizen, this will be a valid passport or a valid national identity card.

2. Criminality check

A declaration from the EU citizen confirming they have no serious or continuous criminal convictions.

3. Evidencing UK residence

Where possible, the application process will help the EU citizen to establish their continuous residence on an automated basis using data held by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC). If the Home Office does not hold enough data to confirm this, the EU citizen will be able to submit documentary evidence of their continuous residence.

4. Application fee

EU Settlement Scheme applications will cost £65 and be half that cost for children under 16.

IMPORTANT DATE

31 DECEMBER 2020

The UK's transition out of the EU should be complete by 31 December 2020. EU citizens' rights will remain unchanged until then.

DID YOU KNOW?

EU citizens who already hold valid permanent residence or ILR documentation will be able to exchange it for settled status, free of charge.

SUPPORT YOUR EU EMPLOYEES





With Smith Stone Walters by your side, you can play a crucial role in providing practical advice and reassurance to your EU citizen workers.

PARTNER WITH US

Many EU citizens and their families remain worried and confused about the approach they should take to secure their long-term status in the UK.

The government's aim is to make the process as simple as possible for the great majority of EU citizens. However, many EU citizens will be required to submit evidence of residence to substantiate their claim to settled status.

By partnering with our team, Smith Stone Walters will work with you to assess your EU workers' individual circumstances and help them avoid any errors or omissions when applying under the scheme.

IMPORTANT DATE

30 JUNE 2021

EU nationals living in the UK by 31 December 2020 will have until 30 June 2021 to apply for either settled status or pre-settled status via the Home Office EU settlement scheme.

DID YOU KNOW?

It will be free of charge to move from pre-settled status to settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

EMPLOYERS: TAKE THE INITIATIVE



UK employers can play a crucial role by providing practical advice and reassurance to unsettled EU staff.



A CLEAR STRATEGY

Now is the time to conduct a workplace audit, communicate directly with your EU staff and reassure them.

- Are you aware of how many EU nationals you have recruited within your organisation and their individual family status?
- Is your business ready and able to answer questions from your EU employees regarding their immigration status and those of their close family members?
- What level of support do you intend providing to your EU employees to secure their long-term status under the EU Settlement Scheme?

Articulate a clear strategy before communicating the level of support your business intends to provide staff and their family members towards applying under the EU Settlement Scheme.

In doing so, you will reassure your EU employees that they are valued and supported.

IMPORTANT DATE

1 JULY 2021

From this date, EU citizens and their family members in the UK will be expected to hold or have applied for UK immigration status to remain in the UK legally.

DID YOU KNOW?

An employer's 'right to work' check on EU citizens (e.g. EU passport and/or national ID card) will continue to apply until the end of 2020.

BREXIT IMMIGRATION SERVICE



Smith Stone Walters is ready to assist your business. Our Brexit Immigration Service is tailored to the requirements of each client and is intended to reassure both you and your EU workers.



OUR SERVICE

Audit

We will review the status of all your EU employees to see how the Settlement Scheme will affect them and their family members.

Brexit Presentations

We will deliver seminar sessions to your workforce tailored to meet your objectives.

Brexit Surgeries

With your consent, we will provide on-site one to one drop in sessions with your EU employees.

Submit Applications

We will assist with submitting pre-settled status and settled status applications via the EU Settlement Scheme on behalf of your workers.

Review Compliance

We will review your Right to Work checks and provide advice on best practice post-Brexit.

EU TRACKER

Manage and track the progress of your EU citizens' progress towards EU Settlement via our unique EU Tracker.

Boasting a host of features, our robust and secure software platform will support both you and your EU employee through the process of applying for UK immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

The EU Tracker will provide your business with a real-time overview of the current progress made by your EU staff towards settled status and ensure they apply within the permitted time.

Talk to Smith Stone Walters about how we can start supporting your organisation and assist your EU employees in securing their long-term status in the UK.

We hold the answers.

CONTACT US

USA

NEW YORK

Smith Stone Walters
733 3rd Avenue, 16th Floor,
New York
NY 10017

Tel
+1 646 790 5913

Email
usa@smithstonewalters.com

UK

LONDON

Smith Stone Walters Ltd
12 Masons Avenue
London
EC2V 5BT

Smith Stone Walters Ltd
Hanover Place
8 Ravensbourne Road
Bromley
BR1 1HP

Tel
+44 (0) 208 461 6660

Fax
+44 (0) 208 461 6661

Email
info@smithstonewalters.com

MUMBAI

Smith Stone Walters (INDIA)
The Capital, 701,
Plot No. C-70, G Block,
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E),
Mumbai 400051, India

Tel
+91 22 4905 5632

Fax
+91 22 4905 5999

Email
info.india@smithstonewalters.com

IND

HONG KONG

Smith Stone Walters HK
1601-02, 16th Floor
Car Po Commercial Building
18-20 Lyndhurst Terrace
Central
Hong Kong

Tel
+852 3956 1901

Fax
+852 3529 2528

Email
info.hk@smithstonewalters.com

www.smithstonewalters.com

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UK Immigration Practice