



Rt Hon Lord Ricketts
Chair, European Affairs Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

24 June 2025

Dear Lord Ricketts,

EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME IMMIGRATION RULES CHANGES

I am writing to inform you of changes to the Immigration Rules relating to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) which are being laid today.

Under the EUSS, an applicant who meets the requirements in Appendix EU is granted settled status (indefinite leave to enter or remain), generally where they have been continuously resident in the UK for five years, or otherwise pre-settled status (five years' limited leave to enter or remain). Those who are granted pre-settled status can apply for settled status as soon as they are eligible for it, but they must maintain their continuous residence in the UK in order to qualify for settled status.

Currently, 'continuous residence' generally means that they have not been absent from the UK for more than six months in total in any given 12-month period. There are some exceptions to this, such as a single period of absence of up to 12 months for an important reason, as well as some exceptions for absences related to COVID-19.

However, stakeholders have highlighted some confusion on the part of pre-settled status holders regarding permitted absences from the UK, which may have led some to inadvertently break their continuous residence in the UK (and thereby cease to be eligible for settled status) by exceeding the permitted absence(s) from the UK.

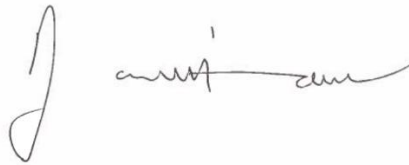
To simplify the assessment of continuous residence, these changes enable a pre-settled status holder to be granted settled status where they have been resident in the UK for at least 30 months in total in the most recent 60-month period. This can be any 30 months within that 60-month period.

These changes will apply under the automated process, which, where possible, converts eligible pre-settled status holders to settled status (and which I wrote to you about on 16 January), as well as where a pre-settled status holder applies for settled status. The evidence of UK residence on which an EUSS applicant can rely will remain as set out in published guidance.

We are also correcting a drafting error in the family Immigration Rules in Appendix Adult Dependent Relative and Appendix FM, so that a sponsor with pre-settled status under the EUSS, based on their residence in the UK before the end of the transition period at 11pm on 31 December 2020, must also have been an EU, other European Economic Area or Swiss national by then.

These changes to the Immigration Rules are being laid on 24 June 2025 and will come into effect on 16 July 2025.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hanson', written in a cursive style.

Lord Hanson of Flint
Minister of State