

**Written evidence submitted by the Ambassador for the Kingdom of
Sweden to the UK (FRE0134)**

[evidence begins on the following page]



30 July 2020

Prime Minister's Office

Questions from the Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union, House of Commons

The rights of EU citizens living in the United Kingdom and United Kingdom nationals living in EU Member States remain a priority for the Union, its institutions and its Member States.

In order to ensure these rights, the Swedish Government has proposed supplementary provisions to the Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the United Kingdom. The Bill was submitted to the Riksdag on 16 June 2020 and is currently under consideration. It is proposed that the provisions enter into force on 1 December 2020.

The Government proposes to implement a constitutive system. British nationals and family members of British nationals who are in Sweden under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement should as of 1 December 2020 apply, free of charge, to the Swedish Migration Agency for a new residence status that confers the rights included in the agreement. In order to provide biometric data for the resident document, a visit to the Migration Agency would be necessary. More information about the application process would be made available in due course. According to the Government's plans, applications would have to be submitted before 30 September 2021.

General information for the relevant UK citizens can be found on the website of the Government:

<https://www.government.se/articles/2020/05/right-of-uk-nationals-to-continue-living-and-working-in-sweden-under-the-withdrawal-agreement/>.

The relevant Swedish authorities estimate that the number of UK residents in Sweden is 19 000.

There are no known issues or challenges specific to Sweden that are currently facing the relevant UK citizens. The Covid-19 situation has not had any specific impact on the wider process regarding the possibility for them to confirm their residency rights.



Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Email: freucom@parliament.uk Website: <https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/366/committee-on-the-future-relationship-with-the-european-union/>

16 July 2020

H.E. Mr Torbjorn Sohlstrom
Ambassador of Sweden to the United Kingdom

By email

Your Excellency,

The House of Commons [Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union](#) is inquiring into the progress of ongoing negotiations between the UK and the EU and the implementation of the Citizens' Rights provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement.

The rights of EU citizens living in the UK and UK citizens living in the EU was an important and sensitive issue throughout the Article 50 negotiations with both sides agreeing that it was essential to uphold as far as possible the rights accrued by citizens in both of these categories during the UK's membership of the EU.

The Committee would be very interested in hearing from you about the arrangements your Government is making to ensure that UK citizens living in your country can secure their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.

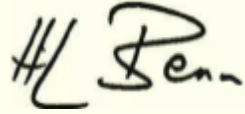
As well as any general observations you wish to make, we would welcome your answers to the following questions:

- What is your estimate of the number of UK citizens currently living in your country and on what basis have you come to that figure?
- Has your Government decided if it is going to implement a constitutive or declaratory system and has this decision been made public? If not, when will this decision be made and publicised?
- Has your Government published guidance for UK citizens, and their family members, in your country explaining what they must do to secure their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement? If so, could you provide us with a link to the guidance online? If such guidance for UK citizens has not yet been published, by what date does your Government intend to do so?
- Whatever system your Government chooses to operate, what is the first step that UK citizens have to take, and what are the relevant dates by which they will have to complete this step, and any subsequent steps, in order to secure their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement?
- Are lawmakers in your country required to pass any domestic legislation in relation to residency applications made by UK citizens living there? If so, are these laws already in place or scheduled to be considered and in effect by a certain date?
- Finally, are there any issues or challenges specific to your country that are currently facing UK citizens who want to confirm their residency rights and what additional impact has Covid-19 had on the wider process?

I am writing in similar terms to the other national Ambassadors of EU Member States to the UK based in London. All replies that the Committee receives will, in due course, be published on its website.

Should you have any questions at all, the Clerk of our Committee, Gordon Clarke, will be very happy to help. He can be contacted at clarkeg@parliament.uk.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration, Your Excellency's obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H/ Benn'.

Hilary Benn
Chair of the Committee