



Department
for Exiting the
European Union

Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP
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Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP
Chair, Exiting the EU Committee
House of Commons
London
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8 February 2019

Dear Hilary,

I am writing to inform you that an agreement has been reached between the UK and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein ('the EEA EFTA states') to protect citizens' rights in the event of a 'no deal' outcome with the EU.

In my letter of 20 December, I informed you of the separation agreement reached between the UK and the EEA EFTA states, which covers citizens' rights as well as other separation issues. In the same letter, I informed you of discussions to secure a separate agreement with the EEA EFTA states that would guarantee the rights of citizens in the event of a 'no deal' scenario with the EU. This follows confirmation from the Prime Minister in October that the UK intended to reach such an agreement with the EEA EFTA states. Discussions have now concluded and the agreement that has been reached ensures that citizens falling within scope will have broadly the same entitlement to work, study and access to public services and benefits as now.

The EEA EFTA separation agreement relies on some of the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement which would not apply in a no deal scenario. In such a scenario, therefore, we will instead bring this no deal citizens' rights agreement into force. Together, these agreements will protect around 17,000 UK nationals living in the EEA EFTA states and approximately 15,000 EEA EFTA nationals in the UK in any scenario. This is an important and welcome milestone in being able to provide certainty to citizens in the UK and EEA EFTA states who have chosen to call each other's countries home.

The Government has today published the agreement and an explainer on GOV.UK, as it did for the EEA EFTA separation agreement. I am attaching copies of these, and will be placing copies in the Library of the House, along with this letter.



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