



Department  
for Exiting the  
European Union

**Robin Walker MP**  
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Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP  
Chair, Exiting the EU Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

2 April 2019

Dear Hilary,

I am writing to inform you that the agreement reached between the UK and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein ('the EEA EFTA states') to protect citizens' rights will today be signed in London. This agreement would enter into force in the event that the UK would leave the EU without a negotiated Withdrawal Agreement in place. 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.

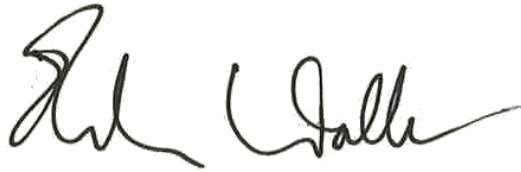
In his letter of 8 February, the Secretary of State for Exiting for the European Union informed you of the conclusion and publication of this agreement. This follows confirmation from the Prime Minister in October 2018 that the UK intended to reach such an agreement with the EEA EFTA states. The agreement delivers on that commitment and ensures that EEA EFTA nationals in the UK and UK nationals in the EEA EFTA states can continue living their lives broadly as they do now in the event that a withdrawal agreement is not reached with the EU.

Since publication on 8 February, we have agreed small changes to Article 13 to clarify the text and how it relates to the EEA EFTA states' obligations as Schengen members. The substantive obligations of the parties have not changed.

This agreement will be subject to the provisions of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act (CRaG) 2010 before ratification, and will be provisionally applied from exit day. It does not prejudice the UK's ability to conclude a Withdrawal Agreement with the EU and, in the event that a Withdrawal Agreement is approved, this agreement for a no deal scenario will not be brought into force. If the Withdrawal Agreement is agreed, we will instead sign and bring into force the EEA

EFTA separation agreement. The arrangements for citizens are broadly similar in both agreements.

I am attaching a copy of the agreement and will be placing copies in the Library of the House, along with this letter.

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

**ROBIN WALKER MP  
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION**