Further to your oral question on the EU Settlement Scheme to which I responded in the House on 23 October, I would like to clarify the following part of my response:

"settled status provides a route to settlement that gives people the same rights as any other British citizen"

Settled status secures the immigration status of EEA and Swiss citizens, and their family members, under UK law, giving them the same rights to work and access benefits and services, and to travel in and out of the UK, as any other settled person. It does not place any time limit on how long they can remain in the UK and can only be lost in very specific and limited circumstances as set out in the Immigration Act 1971 and in line with Directive 2004/38/EC (the Free Movement Directive), or after five years’ continuous absence from the UK.

It does not, however, give them identical rights to British citizens. British citizenship offers some additional benefits as British citizens are not subject to immigration control and have other rights including the right to vote in general elections, eligibility to hold reserved occupations and official office in the UK, and eligibility for consular support when outside the UK (unless in a country of which they are also a national).

Holders of settled status may become eligible to apply for British citizenship, if they wish to do so, after holding settled status for one year. Those who are married to, or in a civil partnership with, a British citizen can apply for British citizenship as soon as they are granted settled status. Children who are born in the UK to parents living in the UK who hold settled status will automatically hold British citizenship from birth.

I am copying this letter to all Peers who spoke during the debate and will place a copy in the House Library.