



Home Office

**Seema Malhotra MP**  
**Minister for Migration &**  
**Citizenship**

2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley DBE MP  
Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

16 January 2025

Dear Dame Karen,

### **EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME AUTOMATION**

I am writing to update you on changes to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) that are being announced today. These changes will help to reduce the burden on individuals, align people's EUSS status with their underlying Withdrawal Agreement (WA) rights as far as possible, and ensure that it remains easy for citizens, government departments and third parties to evidence and check those rights in practice.

From this month, the Home Office will be introducing a process to convert eligible pre-settled status holders to settled status where possible without the need for them to make a further application to the EUSS. There will be a phased approach to implementing this process, subject to ongoing monitoring and stakeholder engagement.

In the initial phase, we will continue to extend pre-settled status by five years shortly before it is due to expire to ensure that nobody loses their rights for failure to make a second application to the EUSS. After the extension has been applied, the Home Office will automatically check pre-settled status holder details against tax and benefit records to confirm if they have been continuously resident in the UK for five years or more and therefore may be eligible for settled status.

Further checks will also be made to ensure the person continues to meet EUSS suitability requirements. These checks have always been used to confirm eligibility under the scheme. If a pre-settled status holder passes these checks and the data indicates they have been continuously resident in the UK and Islands for five years then pre-settled status will be converted automatically to settled status.

We will shortly be informing the first cohort of pre-settled status holders that the Home Office will be considering their eligibility for settled status under this process. The first grants of settled status under this process are expected to be issued in the coming weeks. Pre-settled status holders will not need to take any action. Individuals will be notified if we are able to convert their pre-settled status to settled status and their digital status will be updated automatically. We will also inform individuals if we are unable to convert their pre-settled status to settled status and advise them on next steps.

The second phase of this process will be delivered later in 2025. In that phase, the Home Office intends to introduce a manual caseworking function to facilitate grants of settled status to cases that require additional consideration, such as those under 21 years old and non-EEA citizens. The Home Office also plans to make border crossing data available to caseworkers as an additional data source to evidence UK residence.

Under the second phase, we hope to be in a position to reconsider cases that we were unable to convert to settled status under the initial phase of the process. We are also considering the appropriate next steps for cases where a pre-settled status holder has ceased to meet the conditions of their pre-settled status by not maintaining their continuous residence in the UK and will provide further information in due course.

The Home Office will continue to engage with key stakeholders and gather input and feedback to ensure the needs and rights of EU citizens, in particular those who may be vulnerable, are at the forefront of our plans for implementation.

I will write to the Committee again with further updates when the process is expanded.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,



**Seema Malhotra MP**  
**Minister for Migration & Citizenship**