



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

24 June 2025

Dear Dame Karen,

IMMIGRATION RULES CHANGES

I am writing to inform you of changes to the Immigration Rules which are being laid today.

EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS): Changes to the continuous qualifying period definition

Under the EUSS, an applicant who meets the requirements in Appendix EU is granted settled status (indefinite leave to enter or remain), generally where they have been continuously resident in the UK for five years, or otherwise pre-settled status (five years' limited leave to enter or remain). Those who are granted pre-settled status can apply for settled status as soon as they are eligible for it, but they must maintain their continuous residence in the UK in order to qualify for settled status.

Currently, 'continuous residence' generally means that they have not been absent from the UK for more than six months in total in any given 12-month period. There are some exceptions to this, such as a single period of absence of up to 12 months for an important reason, as well as some exceptions for absences related to COVID-19.

However, stakeholders have highlighted some confusion on the part of pre-settled status holders regarding permitted absences from the UK, which may have led some to inadvertently break their continuous residence in the UK (and thereby cease to be eligible for settled status) by exceeding the permitted absence(s) from the UK.

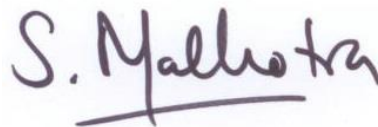
To simplify the assessment of continuous residence, these changes enable a pre-settled status holder to be granted settled status where they have been resident in the UK for at least 30 months in total in the most recent 60-month period. This can be any 30 months within that 60-month period.

These changes will apply under the automated process, which, where possible, converts eligible pre-settled status holders to settled status without the need for them to make a further EUSS application, as well as where a pre-settled status holder applies for settled status. The evidence of UK residence on which an EUSS applicant can rely will remain as set out in published guidance.

These changes to the Immigration Rules are being laid on 24 June 2025 and will come into effect on 16 July 2025.

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

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'S. Malhotra' in a cursive style, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Seema Malhotra MP
Minister for Migration & Citizenship