

Jane Hutt AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Justice



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

SeneddEquality@senedd.wales

17 August 2022

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter of the 26 July.

May I firstly take this opportunity to thank the Committee for its continued efforts within the space of the EU Settlement Scheme ('EUSS') and reassure you that the Welsh Government stands with the Committee in its advocacy for EU/EEA and Swiss citizens. The Committee's fourth report on the EUSS in Wales, marking a year of monitoring, is welcomed and encouraging to read in that many, if not all, of the issues raised within the report are already being addressed in some capacity by the Welsh Government.

I note the concerns you have raised within your correspondence, and I provide a response to each point below:

### **Pre-Settled Citizens**

The next EUSS quarterly statistical release is scheduled to be published later this month and the Welsh Government will analyse those updated figures as it has done with previous statistical releases. You will be aware that the quarterly statistical releases do provide devolved governments with data on the number of citizens who have been granted pre-settled status and will therefore need to apply for settled status in the future, however from that data the Welsh Government is unable to determine *when* repeat applications will need to be made.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Since the launch of the EUSS the Welsh Government has made numerous calls to the UK Government to provide more granular, devolved-level data to enable the Welsh Government to best plan future support. Unfortunately, statistical officers within the UK Government continue to advise that it is not within their current remit to publish devolved data on pre-settled expirations. However, the UK Government has more recently confirmed that the Home Office intends to provide individual pre-settled status holders with a timely reminder to apply for settled status before their pre-settled status expires. The Home Office has stated that the first grants of EUSS pre-settled status will not expire until mid-2023. EU citizens, and their family members, granted pre-settled status will be reminded of the need to apply for settled status before expiry of their pre-settled status, if they have not already done so. Provided an application for settled status is made before the expiry of pre-settled status, the person's existing leave will continue until the determination of their application and throughout any appeal against refusal.

The Welsh Government continues to work with stakeholders and members of the EUSS Co-ordination Group to co-ordinate services and to prepare all EU/EEA and Swiss citizens in Wales who may need to make a repeat EUSS application. More recently the Welsh Government has run a digital awareness campaign for EUSS, specifically targeting those individuals who may need to upgrade their pre-settled status. We have also been signposting support where necessary, have issued targeted communications around the year anniversary of the deadline, produced expiration reminder cards for stakeholders to cascade and more recently approved additional funding to allow Citizens Advice Cymru, Settled and Newfields Law to continue to provide support services until March 2023.

As mentioned previously, the Welsh Government does engage with stakeholders and reviews up to date academic papers and research, such as the report recently published by the Migration Observatory, to ensure any decisions around future support are well evidenced. Policy officials are currently utilising the publication by the Migration Observatory to feed into a review of EUSS advice services in Wales, this review is currently on going.

### **Late and no applications**

As anticipated, the number of EUSS applications spiked dramatically leading up to the EUSS deadline and immediately following. However, the number of late applications that continue to be made decreases on a monthly basis and now averages approximately 0.5% of all applications made to date. Given the number of concessions that have been granted by the UK Government to allow for late applications, the Welsh Government perceives that a very small number of late applications will continue to come through for a number of months and for this reason we have decided to continue funding EUSS advice services in Wales until March 2023 as detailed above.

The Welsh Government is not aware of any issues related to late applications and the UK Government has confirmed that no EU citizen in Wales has had any rights revoked due to not making an application to the EUSS to date. The Welsh Government will continue to monitor this situation and encourage EU/EEA or Swiss citizens that are still eligible to apply to the EUSS with grounds for a late application to do so as soon as possible.

### **Free advice and support**

As mentioned above, the Welsh Government has recently agreed to continue to fund Citizens Advice Cymru, Settled and Newfields Law until March 2023. Unfortunately, we have not been made aware of the UK Government's intentions for continuing funding partners, but we do invite the UK Government to the EUSS Co-ordination Group and the organisations they fund in Wales (Newport Mind and TGP Cymru) are key members of that group. A key objective of the EUSS Co-ordination Group is to facilitate discussion around

resources and future funding. I attach previous minutes of recent EUSS Co-ordination Group meetings and will ensure that you now receive them routinely following each meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for late September.

### **Ukraine and EUSS family permits**

I was very disappointed that the UK Government took the decision to not extend the *Surinder Singh* route for the EUSS, despite calls from both the Welsh and Scottish Governments in light of the situation in Ukraine. Unfortunately, there isn't devolved level data to show how many Ukrainian citizens have applied to the EUSS. Available statistics only show the total 'Non EEA' applications made from Wales, which to date totals 3,270 and covers **all** international applications.

I hope this response provides detail and clarity on the points you have raised and reassures that the Welsh Government is doing its up most to uphold its promise to EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and to support them in their settlement here in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Justice

# **EUSS Wales Co-ordination Group Meeting**

## **Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

**14 July 2022**

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **Apologies:**

Kayleigh Sweet  
Trish Bloomer  
John Davies  
Ffion Lloyd-Williams  
Chris Stickney  
Neville Rookes  
Charles Whitmore  
John Amabilino

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

- Roundtable of introductions was provided for Keith Ruffles

#### **2. Actions from March meeting**

- Open action: Trish Bloomer to check if there is a dedicated contact at the HO for professionals to raise issues on Ukrainian schemes.
- All other actions were completed and now closed.

#### **3. Home Office Update**

- This was removed from the Agenda as John Ambilino was unable to attend.

#### **4. Migration Advisory Committee - Keith Ruffles Introduction**

- Keith explained that he has recently taken up the role as the lead for Wales. Each DG now has a representative which has just been developed to improve collaboration across all devolved governments.
- MAC has overall found the EUSS scheme positive in using digital systems although is keen to see an improvement for other visa routes.
- MAC would like the HO to extend the allowance for late applications to EUSS.
- Keith is looking forward to meet and engage with stakeholders in the future to improve engagement on issues and suggestions for MAC.
- Keith provided his email address in the chat bar  
[keith.ruffles@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:keith.ruffles@homeoffice.gov.uk)

#### **5. ONS update – Chris Stickney**

This was removed from the Agenda due to data being more complex than expected. An update will be provided at the next meeting to include migration data.

#### **6. IMA update – Pam Everett/ Helena Geach**

- IMA received permission on the 24<sup>th</sup> June to proceed with a Judicial Review against the HO on the requirement to apply for Settled status before pre-settled status expires as IMA believe it goes against the withdrawal agreement.
- Still waiting for a hearing date to be set but recent data suggests that more than 2 million citizens with pre-settled status need clarity before they apply.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual survey published this week – key finding 1 in 4 did not receive their CoA immediately on applying.
- The majority of respondents felt they hadn't been discriminated against.
- 1 in 5 respondents were not confident on their rights now or in future so IMA will be calling on UK Governments to improve communication on this.
- IMA's first Annual report has been sent to both the Specialised Committee and Joint Committee
- Attention was drawn to the new IMA Issues Log which has been uploaded to their website. This will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure stakeholders are aware of the work being undertaken by the IMA.
- A complaints portal is available via website and Pam encouraged stakeholders to ensure that EU citizens report any compliance issues that need investigating. Any one can report complaints in relation to EUSS, Pre-settled or settled status.
- Inquiry to COA is the 1<sup>st</sup> inquiry launched. Investigating the cases where the CoA is not issued immediately in compliance with WA. IMA will be investigating the HO official process and how they are issued in practice along with the impact the delayed CoA has on EU Citizens.
- A Call for evidence has also been launched to help support the investigation. Mailbox also available for individuals to submit the issues they have.
- Info helps provide a more rounded picture of experiences to raise with HO.
- There will also be an onsite investigation to look at the process of how these documents are being submitted and issued.
- Email address shared (Inquiry mailbox [imainquiry@ima-citizensrights.org.uk](mailto:imainquiry@ima-citizensrights.org.uk)) and link to survey in chat bar ([Call for Evidence: EUSS Certificate of Application \(limequery.org\)](#))

**Action: Natalie Jones to update “Preparing Wales” webpage to include link to complaints portal**

## **7. EUSS updates / Planned outreach activities and support over coming months**

### **WG Migration Team Natalie Jones**

- A mini comms campaign was undertaken to mark the one year deadline of the EUSS closure anniversary.
- CAB and Settled have received additional funding to extend services until March 2023.

- Desk based review currently being undertaken on EUSS literature
- First Minister and Minister for Economy and Welsh Language met with EU Ambassador yesterday and discussions focussed on EU Citizens' Rights.
- Printed pre-settled status cards for the Royal Welsh with leaflets on EU Citizens rights – There re available on request for all members of the EUSS Co-ordination Group.
- The team are continuing to attend cross governmental meetings including the Safeguarding User Group , No Recourse to Public Funds and Cross Gov Taskforce.
- Kayleigh Sweet has offered the option for the Welsh Government Migration Team to visit members of the Group over the summer if preferable.

**Action: Natalie Jones to circulate update on Ambassador visit when released.**

#### **CAB - Alun Gruffudd**

- Three delivery partners are still seeing new clients for general support.
- Welcome the IMA wanting to hear about citizens' experiences of the EUSS process, as many citizens have been waiting for over a year for responses on their applications. Maybe IMA could look at pressing HO on prioritising certain cases.
- Continuing to see a lot of queries on family permits – which is requiring level 2 advice
- The late applications are majority on reasonable grounds. IT access and language is still a barrier for some individuals.
- Cases of discrimination in employment are still on-going and there is a lot of confusion around the definition of modern.
- The Romanian embassy are asking Flintshire Council for details of cases of modern slavery.
- Organisations/companies lacking understanding on what evidence is needed to prove the right to employment both in the private and public sector.
- There is an implication on mental health on not being able to evidence and access rights.
- Issues in the housing sector are increasing due to the lack of understanding of evidence requirements and language barriers. It is felt that the LAs need to be more empathetic.
- There is still confusion on whether children need to apply for EUSS and whether newborns will be granted British citizenship.
- LAC children and LA knowledge of the requirement to check immigration status still needs work.

#### **Newfields – Sian Pearce**

- Newfields are currently carrying on with cases although this may be Sian's last Co-ord Group meeting as her contract will finish at the end of September.

- Newfields are seeing small number of new applications, but they are more complex. Seeing a recent spike in on-going deportation cases with mental health conditions which requires a high level of resources
- The cases where the CoAs that are not being received immediately is still on -going especially with paper applications.
- LAC are still a concern and LAs need to ensure they are aware that immigration status needs to be considered and a part of the care order.

#### **WCVA - Lilla Farkas**

- WCVA supported comms message around anniversary.

#### **TGP Cymru - Trudy Aspinwall**

- TGP Cymru are continuing to be busy with regular sessions of appointments.
- They have held sessions at schools to raise awareness of EUSS and offer support. 10 sessions have been held already and more planned from September.
- TGP have picked up a lot of cases where people haven't had a response yet so have been able to re-engage.
- Increasing number of cases where individuals have paid a fee for support but then not being able to access response as they have used someone else's email address.
- Education services have notified TGP Cymru of cases where people haven't applied for EUSS.
- Referrals from homelessness charities are increasing.
- Funding confirmed to end of September. Awaiting confirmation from Home Office on whether funding will be extended.

#### **Settled - Chris Keppie**

- The number of cases where applicants have used other people's email when submitting an application to the EUSS is an increasing concern.
- Looed After Children also an on ongoing concern.
- A rise in homelessness is also a concern.
- Joining family members who have been unable to evidence cohabitation due to religious grounds is also a concern. Written to Kevin Foster about this but no response yet.
- Rebooted welfare benefit volunteer team not advertising externally but pushing internally.
- The demand for advice for Ukrainians schemes is picking up fast especially around the risk of homelessness.

Pam Everett requested that stakeholders share information they have of instances where EU Citizens are being charged for services. IMA are aware of the issue but need intelligence to be able to act on this.

#### **8. Data Linkage Project Update – written update provided by Ffion Lloyd-Williams**

- A change of scope for the project has been submitted to the ESRC.

- We are now proposing to use the Annual Population Survey for linking purposes with other relevant datasets (health, education and employment) in the SAIL databank.
- This is a result of the delay in acquiring EUSS data from the Home Office.
- We are having ongoing dialogue with colleagues at the Home Office.
- Graham Jones, Chief Digital Officer, Welsh Government and the Director of ADR UK have both written to the Home Office Chief Scientific Adviser to request a meeting with the EUSS Team to further discuss a solution in terms of obtaining EUSS data in the medium to long term.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

- The next meeting will be scheduled for October .



## **EUSS Wales Co-ordination Group Meeting**

### **Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

**25 March 2022**

**12:00 – 13:30**

### **Meeting Minute**

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

#### 2. Actions from January meeting

- There were 6 actions from January's Meeting. Five have been completed and closed.
- One remaining action for DWP to provide a response to a query regarding benefits appeals. Darran Alford confirmed that he had received the information on the 24 March but needed to go through it prior to passing it on.

#### 3. Home Office update

- The HO are receiving a small number of journalist enquires on the EUSS scheme.
- The new Ukrainian Schemes are absorbing a high level of resources and there are discussions ongoing around how these schemes will link into EUSS in the longer term. **John Amabilino to update as further information becomes available.**
- An announcement has been made to extend grant funding of EUSS support until September. The guidance on UK.Gov will be updated by the 01 April to reflect this.
- As requested by Kayleigh Sweet the older Social Assets –on the UK Gov Portal have been removed to reduce confusion, leaving only the most recent / relevant assets for use.
- KS asked if JA could clarify the changes to the Case Worker Guidance. **AP:JA to check and inform of changes following meeting.**
- Kate Smart queried the best point of contact for Ukraine queries. **It was agreed that queries go direct to KS for now.**
- Sian Pearce informed JA that they are seeing increasing cases where applicants who have had their application refused are being advised by the HO to submit new applications as oppose to an Administrative Review. However the guidance states that is not reasonable grounds for a late application. **AP: JA to look into the advice the Resolution Centre is giving in such situations.**
- Sian Pearce (Newfields) asked if the process for the standard letters of "Attempts to contact" could be reviewed as they don't always reflect the situation and these letters could be used as evidence in court cases.

**AP: JA to look into this.**

4. Round table updates since January meeting

**Welsh Government – Kayleigh Sweet**

- KS advised that WG had announced further funding for EUSS Support
- A Tripartite Letter had been issued to the UKG on various immigration issues including labour shortages.
- Advice had been received from HO on the closure of the Surrinder Singh route which confirmed that late applications could be made in exceptional circumstances, of which does include the Ukrainian Crisis
- The EUSS Digital Campaign will end next week and an update will be provided in the next meeting on the success of that campaign..
- The IMA annual return has been submitted outlining new and amended legislation that will impact EU Citizens. The final report is due to be published in the spring.
- KS requested that any queries regarding the WG’s EU Factsheets be sent to herself to review.
- KS continues to communicate with the HO of issues raised on EUSS.  
**AP: KS and team to update the EU Factsheets on the WG website.**

**Newfields – Sian Pearce**

- SP pleased with the additional 6 months of funding although highlighted that the increasing backlog of applications was a concern.
- Emily Davies has now joined the team on a part-time basis to help with the workload.
- The team are still seeing cases of LA’s providing incorrect benefits advice to migrants.
- Neville Rookes explained that he will need further details to be able to take this forward with local government contacts.

**WLGA - Neville Rookes**

- The funding for Brexit Co-ordinators ends next week but the LA’s are still working on facilitating support if needed.
- For those individuals that need new connections made WLGA can be a point of contact.

**DWP – Darran Alford**

- DA agreed to update group on how Ukrainian’s will access benefits as part of the open action from January’s meeting.

**Settled – Kate Smart**

- Settled are getting approximately 300 EUSS enquires each week
- Issues mainly seem to be around late applications, issues with “view & prove” system, citizens being stuck outside UK and issues with joining family members.
- There appears to be a rising number of EU Citizens who are entering the UK on a visitor visa and staying in the UK as they aren’t aware of the changes since free movement ended.

- The organisation has set up a new arm to support Ukrainian Schemes and KS will be sponsoring a Ukrainian family herself.
- Recruitment is underway to replace a staff member that has left following funding uncertainty.

### **TGP Cymru – Trudy Aspinall**

- TGP are continuing to hold appointments and are seeing an increased number of individuals on a face-to-face basis now restrictions are easing.
- TGP are also seeing an increase of EU Citizens using the visitor visa to enter the UK but are not aware of the new eligibility criteria.
- The team are looking at ways to support ROMA Ukrainians.
- The UKG funding has been extended until September
- There will be awareness sessions rolled out next week to frontline workers on rights and benefits.

#### 5. Planned outreach activities and support over coming months

- WG looking at delivering training sessions on submitting applications post October
- IMA are reviewing legislation that will impact EU Citizens
- Full review of Digital Campaign will be undertaken
- Trish Bloomer is in process of finalising training for LA staff/frontline workers.
- Trish Bloomer awaiting to finalise NRPf guidance for Social Services
- **KS to see if there was any formal feedback following EU Ambassadors visit to Swansea and IMA**

#### 6. EUSS Statistics

- Quarterly figures were released in February
- From 28 August 2018 – 31 December 2021, a total of 104,040 applications have been made by EU citizens resident in Wales
- Of the 104,040 Welsh applications made up until 31 December 2021, 99,860 applications have been concluded. (56,880 granted Settled Status, 36,970 granted Pre-settled Status, 2560 applications were refused, 1710 withdrawn or void and 1740 invalid)
- The highest number of applications made from EU citizens resident in Wales have been made by Polish and Romanian nationals (31,250 and 15,930 respectively).

#### 7. Future of the EUSS Co-ordination Group

- It was agreed that meetings will continue for 6 months in line with current funding.

#### 8. Update on Independent Monitoring Authority and EU Citizens Rights

- The first Annual Submission from the WG has been sent to IMA and will be laid in the Senedd in the spring.
- The IMA will now begin to review new legislation as it is developed by the WG to look at any potential impact on EU Citizens.

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> survey for EU Citizens experiences was launched on the 03 March and will be open for 6 weeks.

9. Any Other Business

- WG Super Sponsor Scheme to go live today at 1pm
- It is likely that there will be stakeholder meetings set up for Ukraine issues going forward.
- KS offered an update on the Data Linkage Project on behalf of Ffion Lloyd (KAS) and explained that there are continuing discussions with HO to obtain data for the Linkage project.
- Next Co-ordination meeting to be scheduled for the end of May 2022.

# **EUSS Wales Co-ordination Group Meeting**

**26 May 2022**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

- Introductions were provided by all attendees – Including Chris Keppie who has recently joined Settled.

### **2. Actions from March meeting**

- Emma English provided an update on all actions from the March meeting - all complete. Emma agreed to circulate the breakdown of the recent amendments to the EUSS Case Worker Guidance.
- Kayleigh Sweet advised that she will be looking to invite Policy Leads from the Home Office to future meetings as many questions raised are now out of the scope of John Amabilino's remit.

### **3. IMA Update – Pam Everett**

- Pam provided the group with the background and role of the IMA.
- Attention was drawn to the new IMA Issues Log which has been uploaded to their website. This will be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure stakeholders are aware of the work being undertaken by the IMA.
- The survey that was issued last year by IMA to EU Citizens living in the UK is currently being analysed and is hoped that it will be published in June this year.
- IMA's first Annual report has been sent to both the Specialised Committee and Joint Committee. The aim is to lay the report in the Senedd and respective parliaments on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. The report will then be published by the IMA on the 16<sup>th</sup> June.
- The IMA are now publishing reports on its monitoring activity of new legislation.
- There is no update to provide on the Judicial review that is currently underway with the Home Office.
- The IMA are aiming for the new IMA website to be launched by the end of June.
- IMA recently hosted the EU Ambassador and 3million.
- Pam advised that stakeholders may find it beneficial to subscribe to the quarterly newsletters produced by IMA which contains further details of IMA activity.
- Kayleigh advised that the 3million website has been updated to show all letters sent to HO, which contains the issues and concerns they've flagged recently.
- Kate Smart asked if IMA could add to the log the issues with cases being refused on the grounds of partners applications. There are cases

where people aren't cohabiting on cultural or religious grounds and their applications are being refused.

#### **4. Home Office Update – John Amabilino**

- John reiterated that the refusal letters are in fact sent by the HO but contain details for the Resolution Centre.
- Any individual cases highlighted in the media are being dealt with by the appropriate team.
- The HO are planning to release communications in line with the 1 year anniversary of the EUSS deadline to highlight the support that is still available.
- The HO will shortly be issuing communications to stakeholders on the quarterly stats that were released this morning.
- An email will be issued to all third country nationals highlighting the following:
  - When travelling abroad they should take the BRC with them to avoid border delays
  - To check with the carrier on their use of the “view and prove” system
  - If an individual has lost or damaged their BRC they can apply for a replacement.
  - If an individual loses their BRC whilst abroad they can apply for a EUSS travel visa.

**Action: WG & HO to chat offline to facilitate a co-ordinated comms approach to this messaging – Kayleigh Sweet/John Amabilino**

- Kate Smith asked if there was a specific contact now for professionals with Ukraine issues. John advised that there was the dedicated Ukraine helpline along with information for providers on GOV.UK that signposts to various resources and forms for stakeholder assisting Ukraine Nationals.

**Action: Trish Bloomer agreed to check with John Davies to see if he is aware of a dedicated contact.**

#### **5. ONS update – Jo Zumpe**

- Jo Zumpe – Gave the attached presentation.



ONS\_Presentation\_JZ  
26052022\_welsh\_gov

#### **6. EUSS updates / Planned outreach activities and support over coming months – All**

**WG Migration Team - Kayleigh Sweet**

- Funding extended for advice services until 31<sup>st</sup> September.
- Digital campaign closed, evaluation received and can be shared with the members of the group upon request.
- Factsheets were developed for use at Polish Festival,
- Pre-settled status expiration date reminder cards in development.
- Eu citizens' rights factsheets updated and published on Preparing Wales.
- Internal discussions to commission research on support provided to EU citizens to date and what support may look like post-September.
- Migration Team may be attending Royal Welsh Show to raise awareness of EUSS and EU citizens Rights. Not confirmed but will update group when a decision has been made .
- EUSS quarterly statistics being published today.

### **CAB – Helen**

- we helped with over 1,700 issues in this period (14 Jan - 23 May period)
- income gains (in this period alone) were over £60,000
  - Number of issues per client is high.
  - Supporting people with their rights and eligibility and making applications.
  - Had some good financial outcomes for clients, compensation etc.
  - Seeing a real increase in complexity of case.
  - Seeing high numbers of people seeking pre-settled to settled assistance.
  - Case workers advising people on income maximisation because of cost of living crisis.
  - HO delays causing issues.
  - Recurring issues with people contacting consulates to renew id docs. Advisers getting better response from consulates than individuals.
  - Some tribunals are moving back to face to face but majority are still remote which is causing some issues for accessibility.
  - Services will be winding down in September and will undertake some comms to make people aware.

### **Newfields – Sian**

- <https://freemovement.org.uk/revised-rules-for-first-tier-tribunal-appeals/> for people struggling with access issues.
- Same issues, family members are continuing to be a big source of enquiries and seeing uptake in refusal based enquiries.
- Newfields are continuing to focus on cases they support prior to funding ending in September.
- Nationwide report out today on legal advice services looking at refugees but also covers immigration advice sector. The launch of the Wales section of the report is tomorrow.

**Action – Sian Pearce to send link to Kayleigh Sweet for circulation to members**

### **Settled - Chris**

- Seeing issues with joining family members, benefits and cases increasing in complexity.
- Hoping to recruit more volunteers in wales.
- The annual volunteer conference is being held next week.
- Looking at developing more in person services post covid.

### **TGP – Alexandra**

- Same challenges when supporting people within roma community due to language barriers when accessing services.
- Helping people to provide evidence to support applications.
- Helping people with online services such as accessing share codes and accessing the details.
- Supporting those upgrading from pre-settled to settled status.
- Applications are becoming complex especially those for people who need to prove their relationships for joining family members.
- Receiving new enquiries around children being eligible for British citizenship.

### **DWP - Sarah Frost**

- Continuing to promote Sanctuary website.
- Dedicated guidance for case workers around modern slavery so they know how to report suspicious case.

## **7. Migrant Rights Update – Trish Bloomer**

- Cardiff and Vale delivering free training on citizens rights and entitlements to front line staff.

**Action - Emma to distribute training brochure to members**

## **8. Any Other Business**

- Kayleigh Sweet advised that UKG are running a call for evidence on inspection of immigration system and how it relates to agriculture sector. Kayleigh posted link to information in chat.

[Call for evidence: An inspection of the immigration system as it relates to the agricultural sector](#)

- Update from data linkage project to be circulated after the meeting.

**Action – Kayleigh Sweet to circulate link to members after meeting**



- The next meeting will be scheduled for July 2022.