

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
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

SeneddEquality@senedd.wales

31 March 2023

Dear Jenny

Thank you for your letter of 9 March including the Committee's latest report on EUSS.

I note the questions you have raised within your correspondence, and I provide a response to those questions below:

High Court ruling regarding the rights of pre-settled citizens

The Welsh Government welcomes the recent confirmation that the Home Office will not proceed with its appeal against the High Court judgment regarding the rights of citizens with Pre-Settled Status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

The Welsh Government continues to reach out to the UK Government to ask it to provide further clarity on what the High Court ruling means for Pre-Settled Status holders and to do this as soon as possible. In the interim, the UK Government has informed us that it will continue to encourage Pre-Settled Status holders to apply for Settled Status when they are eligible to do so, to ensure they secure their Indefinite Leave to Remain. We have called for the UK Government to involve all devolved governments in any decision making or further policy developments in this area.

Welsh Government funded EUSS Advice Services

Since 2019, the Welsh Government has provided over £2.7million to fund EUSS Immigration Advice Services in Wales. This funding has ensured that EU, EEA and Swiss citizens have been able to access free support to help them navigate the EUSS application process and secure their status, rights and entitlements. The EUSS Advice Services provided by Citizens Advice, Settled and Newfields Law have been invaluable to EU citizens

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru
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.

in Wales and I am pleased that we were able to continue to extend the funding for almost two years past the original deadline for applications.

The Welsh Government has recently received comments from the Delegation of the European Union to the United Kingdom, and from visiting members of the EU's Economic and Social Committee, expressing gratitude for the generous support that has been provided to enable EU citizens to continue to reside in Wales.

I issued a [written statement](#) on 23 March to provide an update on the Welsh Government's EUSS Advice Services post-March 2023 and I am pleased to confirm that an additional £200k will be provided to Citizens Advice and Settled for the next financial year so they can continue to support EU citizens in Wales.

Number of EUSS applications from Ukrainians residing in Wales

The UK Government does not publish devolved level data on the number of Ukrainian nationals who have applied to the EUSS in the EU Settlement Scheme Quarterly Statistics. However, following a request for this information from the Welsh Government, the UK Government has confirmed that, up until December 23, there had been 80 applications to the EUSS from Ukrainians with a Welsh address.

The most recent statistics for the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme show that as of 21 March 2023, 8,832 visas have been issued. We do not receive devolved data for the Ukraine Family Scheme or the Ukraine Extension Scheme. However, each of these three Ukraine schemes gives three years leave to remain with access to work and public funds.

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

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