

Jane Hutt AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y  
Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip  
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee  
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Dear Jenny Rathbone MS

Thank you for your letter of 5 June 2025. I note the questions you have raised within your correspondence, and I provide a response to those questions below:

### **Raising awareness of the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) in Wales**

I have awarded Settled £140,000 to continue to deliver EUSS advice services in 2025-26 for all EU citizens and their families who are resident here in Wales. Through this grant Settled will be raising awareness of the EUSS through workshops, community cultural celebrations, information sharing on social media, liaising with national news outlets and information leaflets in several languages.

This funding enables Settled to target outreach work, including in local communities, across North and South Wales, with higher numbers of EU residents. This valuable service is delivered in venues well attended by these groups, including the older population and those from Eastern European countries.

Settled also provides support for complex and late applications, liaising with UK Government to monitor and respond to issues. This includes information on late applications and any arising issues are provided to Welsh Government quarterly.

The Home Office has also announced that Settled will receive grant funding to provide continued EUSS advice services across the whole of the UK, with a focus on providing support to those who cannot be automatically upgraded from pre-settled status to settled status.

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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.

Through this funding Settled provides targeted multilingual services to support vulnerable groups including Eastern European Nationals, in particular the Roma community, who represent the largest group supported this quarter.

Settled collaborates with partners to facilitate an effective referral system for late applications and complex cases, especially among Roma clients. Outreach locations across north and south Wales are key access points for these communities.

Additionally, five local authorities from Wales have registered to attend a series of workshops delivered by the Home Office Vulnerability Team, specifically for social workers supporting Roma families.

My officials continue to engage with officials within the Home Office regarding collective targeted communications, however there is a lack of Home Office data relating to elderly citizens in Wales still to apply to EUSS. Both the Welsh Government and the UK Government have agreed improvement of this could assist with evidencing a future plan for increased targeted outreach.

We will continue to collaborate with Settled to review and enhance targeted outreach efforts aimed at specific cohorts. This partnership is crucial to ensure that all communities receive the necessary support and information.

Detailed information on the EUSS and the rights that that status confers is published on the Welsh Government [Sanctuary website](#) and the [EU Citizens' Rights factsheets](#). Both are designed to raise awareness and inform EU citizens about their rights and how to access them effectively.

We will continue to monitor ongoing demand for support to EU citizens in Wales, with future support contingent on analysis of ongoing need.

### **Pre-settled status**

We regularly engage with UK Government regarding the changes to the EUSS and have, voiced concerns at all stages of development and implementation, especially regarding the introduction of automation. We have not been made aware of significant issues as a result of the first phase of changes introduced to the EUSS and are committed to ensuring a continued coordinated and collaborative approach. We are awaiting further clarity from UK Government regarding how the second phase of the desk-based automation will be delivered and my officials continue to meet regularly to discuss developments. I understand the roll out of the second phase of automation is anticipated for early Autumn.

Regular requests regarding data sharing have and continue to be made to the UK Government, most recently within my letter to Minister Seema Malhotra MP on the Immigration White Paper as well as within the Safety, Security and Migration IMG meeting on 21st May 2025. The UK Government are currently unable to provide Wales-specific data on the number of pre-settled citizens who have been automatically upgraded to settled status but my officials continue to raise the importance of that data being available for the planning of ongoing support.

While data sharing between the UK and Welsh governments remains unchanged, I am encouraged by the UK Government's commitment in the recent Immigration White Paper to improving data sharing. This positive step indicates enhanced collaboration and support for EU citizens in the future.

I am also pleased to see that UK Government have included amendments in the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill that will mean that pre-settled status and settled status will now confer the same rights; regardless of whether an individual is deemed as the true cohort or additional cohort, better aligning to the rights and protections of the Withdrawal Act Agreement (2020).

My officials continue to engage in regular discussions with the UK Government regarding how best we collectively support EU citizens resident in the UK. The Safeguarding User Group and Devolved Government meetings provide a collaborative and open space for discussion and information sharing.

We will continue to maintain engagement with the UK Government and wider stakeholders to ensure that supportive messages are effectively communicated.

### **Home Office review**

Whilst I am not aware that there are any issues regarding EU citizens in Wales who no longer meet the requirements of settled status we will continue to monitor this through our extensive stakeholder networks and meetings with UK Government. As mentioned above my officials will also continue to push for data for Wales so that we can adequately monitor the impact of the automation process.

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 the UK Government [announced](#) further changes to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) following the Independent Monitoring Authority's (IMA) successful High Court challenge against the Home Office. Amongst other things, those changes ensure those with status under the EUSS do not risk losing their immigration status if they do not apply to switch from pre-settled status to settled status. This has gone some way to reassuring the Welsh Government that EU citizens with EU pre settled and settled status are treated fairly and equitably. It also gives EU citizens the confidence that their status will continue and will continue to confer to them their full rights should they ever need to rely on them.

As you've mentioned in your correspondence, earlier this year the Home Office also introduced a process to automatically convert eligible pre-settled status holders to settled status without requiring a formal application to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). This significantly reduces the burden on individuals and supports the ambition to ensure everyone eligible for settled status obtains it. The first phase uses tax and benefits data, while the second phase, planned for later this year, is anticipated to use travel data and introduce a manual case working function. The Home Office is planning to look at individuals who no longer meet the requirements for settled status and decide on the appropriate actions on a case by case basis. The Welsh Government continues to seek further clarification from the Home Office on what that 'manual case working function' will look like and how it will be implemented.

Yours sincerely,



### **Jane Hutt AS/MS**

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