

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd
and Chief Whip

05 June 2025

Dear Jane,

EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) in Wales

As part of the Committee's continuing interest in monitoring the EU Settlement Scheme in Wales, the Committee would welcome an update on developments since the plenary debate held in November 2024.

Raising awareness

The Committee would appreciate an update from Welsh Government on:

1. the latest steps taken to raise awareness of the need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.
2. whether steps taken have targeted awareness raising campaigns at specific age/nationality groups, such as citizens aged 65+ and eastern European nationals, in light of specific evidence received by the Committee, that these groups may be harder to reach.
3. the financial and non-financial support currently provided by Welsh Government to EU citizens to apply, including the amount and duration of current funding.
4. how Welsh Government is working with the UK Government to support EU citizens, including coordination funding.

Pre-settled status

Information about pre-settled citizens is not provided by UK nation, and therefore we do not know how many second applications have been received from pre-settled citizens in Wales trying to convert their status, nor how many have been automatically upgraded.

Please could you provide an update on:

5. in relation to changes to the EU Settlement Scheme:
 - (i) the Welsh Government's role in implementation.

- (ii) whether the Welsh Government has successfully obtained Wales-specific data on the number of pre-settled citizens who have been automatically upgraded to settled status and how many have applied to upgrade.
 - (iii) whether the Welsh Government is aware of any issues as a result of the changes; and
 - (iv) whether any issues or concerns around the changes remain unresolved.
6. whether there are any new or emerging issues relating to pre-settled status.
 7. whether data sharing between the UK and Welsh governments has improved since the Committee's debate in November 2024 when the Cabinet Secretary told Plenary she thought there would be a "breakthrough" in this area.
 8. whether any discussions with the UK Government on general data sharing has taken place, including clarification as to whether the Welsh Government has made further data requests to the UK Government since June 2024, and whether this information has been provided.
 9. any discussions on improvements to EUSS data have taken place between Welsh Government and UK Government, including the lack of Wales-specific data.

Late applications and no applications

In relation to late applications and no applications the Committee requests that the Welsh Government:

10. provide an update in relation to issues relating to late applications or no applications, including working with the Home Office to monitor and respond to issues.
11. provide its view on whether it considers issues relating to late applications or no applications will develop in future.
12. confirm future plans to provide support to EU citizens in Wales.

Home Office review

The Committee welcomes the Welsh Government's commitment to share minutes of the EU Citizens' Rights Forum, most recently dated 27 March 2025. Following the developments outlined by the Forum the Committee requests that the Welsh Government:

13. provides an update on the Home Office's review of settled citizens who may no longer meet the requirements of settled status.
14. provides clarification on what 'appropriate action', referred to in the Forum's meeting minutes, means for settled citizens who no longer meet the requirements.
15. shares its view on whether the review of settled citizens complies with the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement, considering the Welsh Ministers' obligation to implement and observe international obligations as required by the Government of Wales Act 2006.
16. clarifies whether it has any concerns relating to the review of settled citizens.

Your update will provide further clarity as we continue to monitor the EU Settlement Scheme. We would appreciate a response to this letter by 30 June.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jenny Rathbone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'J'.

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English