

Jane Hutt MS
Minister for Social Justice

May 17 2023

Dear Jane

EU Settlement Scheme: monitoring report

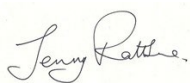
At our meeting on 24 April we considered the latest available statistics on EUSS applications from European citizens living in Wales and subsequently published our most recent [monitoring report](#). We are pleased that the Welsh Government has extended its free advice and support beyond the end of March 2023 and an additional £200k to organisations including Citizens Advice and Settled for the next financial year so they can continue to support EU citizens in Wales.

While we are pleased this additional funding will help support European citizens, we have heard concerns about how advice organisations are reaching those from Roma communities, many of whom are unable to speak English, have low levels of literacy and have complex needs which require additional and ongoing support which is provided face-to-face and in their first language. For all these reasons, Travelling Ahead has alerted us to the possibility that many European Roma have not applied for the Right to Remain in the UK, leaving them open to exploitation or otherwise being charged for services they are entitled to.

Travelling Ahead, is not receiving any funding from the Welsh Government to deliver this support, and is only getting a diminishing sum of money from the UK Government. For your information, I have written to Citizens Advice to ask them how they plan to reach the EU Roma community and their ability to communicate with them in their language.

- Could you outline what steps, if any, are being taken to ensure advice and support is reaching the Roma community.
- We would also be grateful to receive any additional information relating to the ethnicity of those who have received support and advice, and how this is being monitored to ensure it reaches the Roma community.

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee