The information in this guide is in line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement, and relates to the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Key Dates**

**The EU exit process**
- **23 June 2016**: EU referendum
- **29 March 2017**: Article 50 triggered
- **13 November 2018**: Draft withdrawal deal agreed with EU
- **29 March 2019**: Original deadline for UK to leave EU
- **31 October 2019**: New deadline for UK to leave the EU

**EU Settlement Scheme**
- **30 March 2019**: UK Government’s EU Settlement Scheme fully open
- **31 December 2020**: Deadline for applying to EU Settlement Scheme (leaving with a deal)
- **30 June 2021**: Date by which EU citizens must be resident to apply to EU Settlement Scheme

*Some of these dates may change if a deal is reached between the UK and the EU.

**UK Government’s EU Settlement Scheme**

EU citizens** and their families will have to apply to the UK Government’s EU Settlement Scheme by 30 June 2021 in order to continue living, working and studying in the UK after that date. The Scottish Government doesn’t believe it’s fair that EU citizens are being required to apply to this scheme but because of Brexit this is unfortunately the case.

The EU Settlement Scheme will be open until 30 June 2021 if the UK leaves the EU with a deal. It will only be open until December 2020 if there is no deal.

EU citizens who have been in the UK for five continuous years will be able to apply for ‘settled status’. EU citizens who have been in the UK less than five years can apply for ‘pre-settled status’. After five years continuous residency they can then apply for ‘settled status’.

** EU citizens is used throughout this document to also refer to EEA and Swiss nationals, who are eligible to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Who is eligible/who should apply?**

- EU citizens and their non-EU family members, including those with permanent residence documents.
- Citizens of Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein and Switzerland.
- Irish citizens do not need to apply, but can if they wish. There are separate arrangements for Irish citizens under the Common Travel Area. Non-Irish family members will need to apply.
- EU citizens with indefinite leave to remain or enter the UK will not need to apply.
While we know there is a lot of uncertainty, if you're an EU citizen living in Scotland, be sure of this: whatever happens, we promise to do all we can to help you stay. The Scottish Government has produced a package of support to help EU citizens stay in Scotland. The package includes:

- £250,000 of dedicated resource for community based support across Scotland.
- Citizens Advice Scotland are delivering a support and advice service for all citizens affected by the UK Government’s EU Settlement Scheme, resident in Scotland with more complex needs or particular challenges. Part of the service is a full-time national helpline available on: 0800 916 9847. Lines are open:
  
  ❖ Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm

More information is available at: www.cas.org.uk/brexit.

- A toolkit for employers to support their EU staff to Stay in Scotland including posters, leaflets, factsheets, digital content and guides.

How will the EU Settlement Scheme application process work?

The application process is online, accessible via a computer, tablet or mobile phone. Applicants will need to verify their identity and show that they have been resident in the UK. You will also have to declare any criminal history.

Where/how do I apply?

The UK Government’s EU Settlement Scheme opened in full on 30 March 2019. To find out more about the EU Settlement Scheme, visit https://www.gov.uk/staying-uk-eu-citizen

What support will be available?

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More information

We would urge all EU citizens looking for more information to visit the Scottish Government’s EU Exit website https://www.mygov.scot/brexit/. There are a number of other sites you can check for more information:

- GOV.UK - 'Continue to live in the UK after it leaves the EU' - A tool that asks for your personal situation and can help you know if you need to apply, and when.
- GOV.UK – EU citizens' rights and Settlement Scheme campaign page
- UK Government policy paper on EU citizens' rights if there is no deal
- European Commission – EU citizens’ rights and Brexit
- Law Society of Scotland – If you need to find a private solicitor who specialises in immigration.
- Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner – Find an immigration adviser near you.