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### **SETTLED STATUS FOR EU CITIZENS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

- The UK Government Home Office has launched a test service allowing registration to a new 'settled status' scheme of EU citizens and their families.
- Registrations for the test scheme can be done online or via a smartphone app, downloadable from the Home Office website. Details of how to apply to the test scheme, including a link to download the app, is available here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/eusetledstatus>
- The Rules will apply to any EU citizen currently living in the UK who wishes to stay on after June 2021 and who does not already have 'settled status'. The Rules will not apply to Irish citizens or EU citizens who have indefinite leave to remain.
- This test phase will run to 30 March 2019, after which point the scheme will be fully open. The deadline for applying will be 30 June 2021.
- The Home Office has published a toolkit for employers of EU citizens targeted at helping employers to assist their employees apply for settled status. The toolkit can be viewed online here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-employer-toolkit>

### **Summary**

EU citizens living in the UK and their family members after March 2019 will need to apply under the new settlement scheme to obtain their new UK immigration status.

To be eligible for settled status, applicants need to:

- Be an EU citizen, or a family member of an EU citizen

- Have started living in the UK by 31 December 2020
- Have been living in the UK continuously for 5 years ('continuous residence')

Applicants will need to prove their identity, show that they live in the UK, and declare that they have no serious criminal convictions.

The planned fee for people applying under the scheme will be £65 and £32.50 for a child under 16. For those who already have valid permanent residence or indefinite leave to remain documentation, they will be able to exchange it for settled status for free.

Settled status ensures that applicants can stay in the UK indefinitely, and can also go on to work in the UK, travel in and out of the UK, use the NHS, enrol in education or continue studying, and apply for British citizenship (if eligible).

The scheme will be fully open by March 2019. The deadline for applying will be 30 June 2021.