

EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)

The British Home Office sent recently the following message to foreigners living in the UK who hold pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), and may now be eligible for settled status, as described below.

The message said:

You can ignore this message, and there is no need to contact us, if you have:

- already applied for settled status under the EUSS (any outstanding application will not be affected), or
- been granted settled status under the EUSS, or
- become a British citizen.

Settled status remains the easiest way to prove your right to remain in the UK indefinitely. If you are an EU, other EEA or Swiss citizen and have now been living continuously in the UK for at least 5 years, you are encouraged to apply for settled status under the EUSS at <https://www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme>. It is free to apply.

Likewise, if you remain the family member of an EU, other EEA or Swiss citizen (or have retained rights) and you have now been living continuously in the UK for at least 5 years, you are encouraged to apply for settled status under the EUSS at <https://www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme>. It is free to apply.

If you have family (including children) or friends who have been granted pre-settled status under the EUSS and they have been living continuously in the UK for at least 5 years, then they may also be eligible to apply for settled status.

If you do not obtain settled status, your pre-settled status will be automatically extended by 2 years before it expires if you continue to meet the requirements for it, including maintaining your continuous residence in the UK. The extension will be applied automatically to your digital status so there is no need to contact the Home Office about this extension. You will be notified that this extension has been applied.

Why apply for settled status?

- You will have secure evidence of your right to live in the UK permanently (unless you are then absent from the UK for more than 5 consecutive years – more than 4 consecutive years if you are a Swiss citizen or their family member).
- It ensures that you continue to have a straightforward way of demonstrating status at the UK border when travelling internationally. Visa nationals with pre-settled or

settled status should always continue to travel with their in-date biometric residence card.

- You will be able to continue to use your eVisa (digital status) as the easiest means of demonstrating your up-to-date immigration status. You can view and prove your EUSS status online at <https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status>.
- If you have a child who is born to you in the UK when you have settled status, they will automatically be a British citizen.
- Once you have settled status, you may be eligible to apply for British citizenship.

Further information on how you can apply for settled status is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/switch-from-presettled-status-to-settled-status>

Help and support is available if you require assistance in applying for settled status – details are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme>.

You can also find details of a wide range of organisations offering support at: <https://www.gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme>.

If you have been issued with a new passport or (if you are an EU, other EEA or Swiss citizen) a new national identity card since you originally applied to the EUSS, then please update the Home Office with the details of this new document. You must also update your personal contact details, including your email address, if any of these details have changed, in case we need to contact you. You can do this online by going to <https://www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details>.

In July 2023, the Home Office announced that it is intending to take steps to automate the process of switching from pre-settled to settled status without the need for an application, with the aim of implementing this in the second half of 2024. We will provide further information on this change in due course.