

## EU Nationals in Brighton & Hove & the EU Settlement Scheme

Figures from the ONS in December 2018 estimated that there were 19,000 residents in Brighton & Hove who were born in the EU. This figure was presented with confident intervals that could mean up to 7,000 more or less actually live in the city but these are presently the best estimates the council have.

It is important to note that some EU residents may have been granted citizenship in the past and we do not know the number of residents who may have left the city since the ONS estimate or who may have chosen not to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

### EU Settlement Scheme Quarterly Statistics

**August 2020 Update:** 20,280 EU citizens from Brighton & Hove have now applied to the scheme. 1,590 EU citizens applied to the scheme in the 3 months between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

This is the lowest number of applicants recorded in the quarterly statistic release since the scheme began. We can assume the low number of applications has been due to Covid impacts in April, May and June.

In relation to Covid, at the beginning of April the Home Office announced that application processes for the EUSS would now be longer than usual owing to social distancing guidance, however this is expected to change as capacity returns to pre-Covid levels for processing applications. Support services and application routes have reopened where possible in line with public health guidance. This includes the [EU Settlement Resolution Centre](#) and the postal route for submitting identity documents for applicants who are unable to use the [EU Exit: ID Document Check app](#) to verify their identity. The deadline for applying for EU nationals resident in the UK before the end of the Transition Period remains 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Those entering the country from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 will be subject to the new points-based immigration system.

Although the 'grace period' allows EU nationals to apply to the scheme up to 30 June 2021, it is unclear at present how landlords and employers can distinguish between EU nationals resident in the UK before 31 December 2020 and new arrivals within that period. They may therefore refuse to accept EU passports as the only proof of eligibility to work and rent. The council will be messaging local private landlord associations through the Housing Partnership to highlight this issue and working with Brighton Chamber and the Economic Partnership to ensure messaging is relayed to local businesses in regards to the rights of EU nationals.

A breakdown of the latest figures can be found below. The next release of statistics is expected in November 2020 and will be shared through an updated briefing. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

### Home Office EU Settlement Scheme [Quarterly Statistics](#) Brighton & Hove

	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2018 – 30 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019 (Released 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019)	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2018 – 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2019 (Released 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2020)	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2018 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020 (Released 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2020)	28 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2018 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 (Released 27 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2020)
Applications to the scheme	9750	14970	18690	20280
Granted Settled Status	4860	7550	9430	10380
Granted Pre-Settled Status	3140	5960	7640	8410

Other outcome*	70	120	220	280
Applications still in process	1680	1340	1410	1210
Nationality				
Austria	60	80	100	110
Belgium	90	120	150	160
Bulgaria	310	430	520	570
Croatia	30	30	60	60
Cyprus	50	100	140	150
Czech. Rep.	180	330	410	440
Denmark	60	90	110	140
Estonia	40	50	80	80
Finland	80	130	160	170
France	650	1020	1290	1380
Germany	520	730	890	960
Greece	460	710	880	950
Hungary	530	810	980	1060
Iceland	20	30	40	40
Ireland (Irish nationals not required to apply but can if they wish)	20	30	40	40
Italy	1720	2680	3280	3510
Latvia	180	270	320	340
Lichtenstein	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	310	430	530	580
Luxembourg	Between 1-9	10	20	20
Malta	20	30	30	40
Netherlands	220	300	380	420
Norway	50	80	110	110
Poland	1030	1540	1950	2110
Portugal	510	780	930	990
Romania	600	900	1140	1340
Slovakia	210	320	420	450
Slovenia	20	30	40	40
Spain	1190	1980	2480	2660
Sweden	250	370	460	490
Switzerland	40	90	120	130
Non - EAA	320	480	650	740
Age Group				
Under 18	660	1050	1320	1450
18 to 64	8840	13550	16890	18330
65+	240	360	480	510

\*Other outcome refers to 'refused applications, withdrawn or void applications & invalid applications'.

## EUSS - Local Support & Awareness Raising

The council continues to signpost to the EUSS application process through its [website](#), social media and local advertising and provide details of related local and national advice including support for local vulnerable EU nationals. Signposting information will be shared through a maildrop to the city in September.

The council does not directly provide EUSS advice to EU nationals in the city but options are currently being explored to provide immigration advice to rough sleepers through a funding bid to MHCLG. The council are also exploring ways to develop instructional/Q&A sessions that could be delivered by remote means or in consideration of current social distancing measures.

## ID Verification Service

Due to Government guidance released on 16<sup>th</sup> March related to Covid further drop-in sessions at Brighton Town Hall Register Office were suspended for the foreseeable future. ID verification services have since been suspended across the UK.

The reintroduction of this service is now being sought through other appropriate customer focussed council services with relevant fraud awareness training, although delays to this are anticipated depending on current social distancing measures and officer capacity.

## EUSS Advice & Support for Vulnerable EEA migrants

[Migrant Help](#) are continuing to provide advice in Brighton & Hove for vulnerable EEA migrants who need help to register under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Migrant Help adviser Charlotte Cheeseman continues to provide remote advice and application support across East Sussex & Surrey. The ID postal submissions service was suspended in March but has now been reinstated. This had caused delays to applications.

The Home Office announced in March that the funding for advice for vulnerable EU nationals would be continued with a new procurement process launched at the end of May. Migrant Help have declined to apply for the continued funding so will cease local support at the end of September 2020.

The council expects a Government decision to be made on successful applications in the coming month.

For Brexit related enquiries please contact:

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# Applying to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)

The UK left the EU on 31st January 2020 and is currently in a Transition Period where all EU rules and regulations will continue to apply until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

The EU Settlement Scheme was introduced to ensure all EU nationals resident in the UK are able to remain here after the end of the Transition Period if they so wish.

**Applying to the scheme will mean as well as being able to live and work here you will be able to continue to claim any benefits you are eligible for and access health services.**

If you're an EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland citizen, you and your family must apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK.

**It is free to apply and the deadline to complete the application is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 new arrivals to the UK from the EU will be subject to new immigration rules. Further details on the new system are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-immigration-system-what-you-need-to-know>

It is an online application available here: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>

The website provides details on how to apply and what evidence you will need to provide.

The first part of the EU Settlement Scheme application asks you to verify your identity using your European identity document, such as your passport or ID card. You can do this by downloading the '**EU Exit: ID Document Check**' on a compatible Android phone or iPhone 8 and above or posting documents to the EU Settlement Resolution Centre.

Further information on using the phone app is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/using-the-eu-exit-id-document-check-app>

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Not everyone has access to the internet so if you need digital support with your application please contact: **We Are Digital** - [visa@we-are-digital.co.uk](mailto:visa@we-are-digital.co.uk) - Telephone: 03333 445 675

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For general information and assistance with your application and supplying documents by post please contact the **EU Settlement Resolution Centre** - Telephone: 0300 123 7379 Further information on the service is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-ukvi-inside-outside-uk/y/inside-the-uk/eu-settlement-scheme-settled-and-pre-settled-status>

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**Migrant Help** is providing advice to **vulnerable migrants** who need help to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Charlotte Cheeseman can offer advice and assistance with completing applications remotely and can be contacted at [Charlotte.Cheeseman@migranhelpuk.org](mailto:Charlotte.Cheeseman@migranhelpuk.org) or on 07483 090 715.

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**Translations** in European languages of EUSS guidance is available for EU citizens and their families: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/settled-status-for-eu-citizens-and-their-families-translations>

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Further advice for EU nationals is available from **Citizens' Advice**: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/immigration/staying-in-the-uk-after-brexite/applying-for-settled-status/>

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**For further information and updates** on how Brighton & Hove is preparing for the end of the Transition Period and what residents & businesses may need to do to prepare please visit the council website at: <https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/brexit-brighton-hove> or go directly to the UK Government's website to get a personalised list of actions for you, your family, and your business and to sign up for emails to get updates when things change: <https://www.gov.uk/transition>