

Brexit: What It Might Mean For You

The UK left the EU on 31 January 2020, although there are some steps to be taken before the deal is final. The UK and EU will then have until 31 December 2020 to agree the new rules of how they work together. This means your rights will stay the same until 31 December 2020 - there are no immediate changes. New advice will be published to help you understand any changes when they're announced and existing advice will be updated. If you're an EU citizen, you need to apply for an immigration status to continue living in the UK.

You need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to keep living, working, studying, getting benefits and using NHS services in the UK after 31 December 2020. It's free to apply. Your family members should apply too, if they're not British or Irish citizens.

If you're a citizen of the EU, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland or Liechtenstein, you will need to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme. It's worth applying for the settlement scheme now - it can take time for your application to be processed.

You'll need to apply even if:

- you've been living in the UK for a while - it doesn't matter how long you've been here, you'll still need to apply
- you already have a right to reside in the UK and a document proving this, for example a permanent residence document
- you were born in the UK but are not a British citizen - sometimes being born here doesn't mean you automatically have citizenship

You don't need to apply if you're also a British citizen.

You may be asked to prove your right to live and/or work in the UK. If you're doing things like applying for a job or renting a home, you can continue to use your passport or national ID card. You can also use your passport or national ID card to enter and re-enter the UK. It doesn't matter if you haven't applied for the EU Settlement Scheme yet. If you are challenged on your right to work in the UK, this may be discrimination. For further information on this issue, please consult one of the contact avenues listed below.

If you want to bring your family to the UK, your family members need to be in the UK by 31 December 2020 to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme. If they're not in the UK by that date they can only join you if both the following apply:

- you have 'pre-settled' or 'settled status' under the EU Settlement Scheme
- your relationship began before 31 December 2020

You and your family can carry on using the NHS if you normally live in the UK. You need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to keep using the NHS for free after 31 December 2020. You don't need to prove your status to get treatment until after 31 December 2020. If you're challenged on your rights to use the NHS, it could be discrimination. To check if this is the case, please consult one of the

contact points below. If you have family or friends visiting from the EU, their European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) will be valid for health cover until 31 December 2020.

If you are a British Citizen living in, or planning on moving to the EU, please consult the advice on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

For further information on this matter, or anything related to it (including the EU Settlement Scheme), contact your nearest Citizens Advice to speak to a trained assessor/adviser. Alternatively, you can call Adviceline on 03444 111 444, or use either the Citizens Advice email or webchat services.