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A positive future for EU citizens in the UK

20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear non-EEA citizen with pre-settled or settled status,

Settled is a charitable organization dedicated to helping EEA and Swiss citizens and their non-EEA family members living in the UK whose rights were affected by Brexit. We worked hard to ensure as many as possible secured their immigration status before the deadline in June 2021. We now continue to provide information, advice and support to EEA, Swiss and non-EEA citizens, including people who struggle to prove their immigration status.

With this letter, Settled would like to inform you of some **changes that will affect you** and provide tools for self-help in case of issues when travelling back to the UK.

You may already know that the majority of Biometric Residence Cards (BRCs) is going to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. This is because the Home Office is going to use an entirely digital system for non-EEA citizens as well. **The expiry of your BRC will not affect the validity of your pre-settled/settled status.**

**You DO NOT need to apply for an e-visa.** The only action you need to take is to link a valid passport to your immigration status. Information on e-visas and who needs them, can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/online-immigration-status-evisa>

The full digitalisation of the Home Office immigration system has been postponed until at least 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. They have decided to allow carriers to accept BRPs or EUSS BRCs expiring on or after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 as valid evidence of permission to travel until at least 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and this date will be kept under review: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2024-12-04/hcws283>

If you are travelling abroad and are planning to come back to the UK after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, you will need to have a valid passport linked to your immigration status. To link your passport to your immigration status, use this link: <https://www.gov.uk/update-uk-visas-immigration-account-details/update-your-ukvi-account>

It may happen that the carrier or border force will ask you to prove your immigration status. You can do so by accessing your UKVI account: <https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status>

When travelling, make sure to take with you:

- A printed copy of your status approval letter;
- Your expired BRC;
- A screenshot of your “view and prove” page;
- A share code generated before departing;
- A copy of this letter to show in case needed.

Please save the links above somewhere on your phone so that you can use them if needed and show their content to the foreign border officers/carriers.

In case you experience issues, do not panic, try to explain your circumstances clearly and provide the documentation required. From 9am GMT on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the Home Office will operate a 24/7 passenger support helpline for people that are travelling shortly. The advisers operating this service will be unable to fix technical issues or contact carriers on your behalf. The helpline can be reached on 0800 876 6921 free of charge. If it is impossible to contact it, there is an alternative number you may call: 0203 337 0927, which may result in charges.

Please note that this information is accurate as of 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

Best wishes,

# Settled

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