



To:  
Justin Tomlinson MP

Cc.:  
Christine Jardine MP

Work and Pensions Select Committee

Date: 12 October 2020

Dear Minister,

### **Non-issuing of National Insurance Numbers ('NINO') to EEA nationals**

I write to you on behalf of the3million, the largest campaign group representing EU citizens in the UK. We understand that since March 2020 EU citizens have been unable to apply for a NINO owing to the pandemic. I am sure you will be aware that the consequences of this are significant.

We have received numerous reports from organisations and individuals about people being denied work and support owing to a lack of NINO. We, of course, understand that a NINO is not required to commence work and an Emergency Tax Code can be relied on instead. However, despite this, we have received increased reports that some employers are refusing to employ someone on the basis that they do not have a NINO. This has forced some, particularly vulnerable people, into irregular work where they risk exploitation.

Those who are able to acquire employment using an Emergency Tax Code pay a higher rate of tax. This over a prolonged period (in some instances over 6 months) has a significant impact on their net income. In these challenging times, it has caused hardship.

We note in response to a question from Christine Jardine MP, you stated that a digital solution was being developed which was due to be in place by the end of September 2020.<sup>1</sup> Please can you confirm what progress has been made and when the digital scheme will be launched?

The matter is becoming more desperate and the reports sent to us are increasing. We hope that you can consider this matter urgently.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Piper  
Head of Policy  
The3million.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-20/76859>