



the3million
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Bristol BS6 5PT

By email:

DWP
The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP office
Home Office SUG team
Minister Kevin Foster MP

18 August 2021

Dear Sirs,

EU Settlement Scheme update on future access to benefits following the End of the Grace Period

I write further to the letter from Luke Piper, Head of Policy and Advocacy at the3million, dated 6 August 2021.

For the reasons set out in that letter, we remain deeply concerned about the impacts of the Government's proposals to suspend/terminate benefits for EU citizens (which we mean in this letter to include EEA/Swiss nationals, non-EEA/Swiss nationals who are family members of EEA/Swiss nationals, and other EU right recipients) who have not applied to the EU Settlement Scheme ('EUSS').

The EU citizens in this cohort have not applied despite extensive publicity around the EUSS. It is inevitable that a substantial proportion of this cohort will have disabilities, including impaired mental capacity, which mean that they are unable to apply to the EUSS without substantial assistance. The Government needs to do far more than write letters to these individuals. We are concerned that if reasonable adjustments are not made to your communications strategy, it will discriminate against individuals with disabilities.

We would ask that the Government grant this cohort an interim status on a declaratory basis, and that far more is done for this cohort including telephoning individuals, visiting them, working through local community organisations to reach them, and helping them to submit an application to the EUSS.



In addition to responding to the questions set out in our previous letter on this issue, please disclose the Equality Impact Assessments that have been completed in relation to the Government's communications strategy, and wider decision-making regarding suspension/termination of benefits for EU citizens who have not applied to the EUSS.

Given the urgency of this situation, please respond by 4pm Tuesday 31 August.

Kind regards,

Monique Hawkins
Policy and Research Officer, **the3million**