



the3million
28 Broad Street
Bristol BS1 2HG

By email: Minister Robert Jenrick MP

13 December 2022

Dear Robert Jenrick MP,

We are writing to you about the Public and Commercial Service (PCS) union industrial action that will impact Border Force services.

At <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/strike-action-to-affect-travellers-entering-the-uk> you state that *“Military personnel, civil servants and volunteers from across government are being trained to support Border Force at airports and ports across the UK in the event of potential strike action. Border Force are ready to deploy resource to meet critical demand and support flow travellers through the border, however those entering the UK should be prepared for potential disruption.”*

We are seeking reassurance that the training of the locum border force agents includes an awareness of the digital-only nature of proof of rights under the EU Settlement Scheme. EU citizens and their families who have status under the scheme must not be detained or refused entry through lack of physical documentation.

As an organisation that represents EU citizens in the UK, we are aware of many cases of problems at the border during normal service¹ and therefore are concerned that during strike action there is the potential for even more error.

Kind regards,

Monique Hawkins
Policy and Research Officer, the3million

¹ See Chapter 4 of our recent report to the Independent Monitoring Authority on the impact of digital borders on travel, available at <https://the3million.org.uk/ima-report-nov-22>