

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee
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13 April 2022

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter of 31 March.

I welcome the monitoring reports the Equality and Social Justice Committee produces and the information you provide to EU citizens across Wales. It is vital that both EU citizens and the wider community are aware of the current situation in terms of applications and the support available so that we can all work collectively to ensure that EU citizens are given the best possible opportunity to secure their status and, more importantly, their futures here in Wales.

Welsh Government officials regularly review reports and publications regarding the EU Settlement scheme and will continue to do so to ensure that support aligns with need. You may already be aware of the recent publication by the Migration Observatory '[How Secure is Pre-Settled Status for EU Citizens After Brexit? - Migration Observatory - The Migration Observatory \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)' which Welsh Government policy officials will be reviewing over coming weeks to ensure that ongoing support for holders of Pre-settled Status wishing to convert to Settled Status continues to be specific to the needs of those individuals and provides for the needs of vulnerable citizens in particular.

In regard to your concern around the extension of the EUSS Family Permit scheme I can confirm that the First Minister wrote to the Prime Minister on 28 February on this topic and a response was provided by the Home Secretary on 4 March 2022. The response outlined that there are reasonable grounds for late return to the UK written in to the EUSS Family Permit scheme guidance and the circumstances of Ukrainian family members would be considered reasonable grounds for a late application, but to date no extension to this route has been granted.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Early on in the crisis response to the situation in Ukraine the Welsh Government made a call to the UK Government to take a more strengthened humanitarian approach. More recently, the UK Government has made the visa concessions for the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine scheme more flexible and have provided greater resource to respond to the influx in visa applications from Ukrainian citizens.

The Welsh Government will be providing provision for Ukrainian citizens as a 'super sponsor' under the Homes for Ukraine scheme and will continue to monitor the practicality of all routes into the UK as necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice

Jane Hutt MS
Minister for Social Justice

1 April 2022

Dear Jane

EU Settlement Scheme

Thank you for your letter of 22 February 2022, which included the minutes of the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) Co-ordination Group meeting. We welcomed this information and your commitment to share the minutes of the Group's meetings to help inform our work for as long as it meets..

At our meeting on 21 March we considered the latest available statistics on EUSS applications from European citizens living in Wales and subsequently published our most recent [monitoring report](#). We are particularly mindful of the current situation in Ukraine as a result of the Russian invasion and note the First Minister's statement in Plenary on 1 March, where he advised that he has asked the Prime Minister to extend the deadline for EUSS family permits in order to assist those fleeing Ukraine. We would be grateful if you could provide an update as to whether the UK Government will be extending this scheme's deadline beyond 29 March and what, if any, further exchanges the Welsh Government has had with the UK Government on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee