



By email:

Minister Kevin Foster MP
Copied: Home Office SUG team

28 October 2021

Dear Sirs,

EU Settlement Scheme: identification of individuals

I am writing to ask how individuals are identified across digital immigration applications and across Government departments.

1. Linking multiple EUSS applications for one individual

Insofar as we are aware, when people make an EUSS application, they are not asked for the UAN-numbers of any previous applications such as:

- a previous successful pre-settled application when applying for settled status
- a previous unsuccessful application when applying again for status

We understand that this approach means it was not straightforward to provide data on the number of EUSS *applicants* rather than the number of EUSS *applications*, or data on repeat applications. We also understand that estimates of the above have now been produced by probabilistic methods, with resulting data held in a separate database rather than attaching linking references to the applications themselves.

Q1. Can you confirm whether there are any plans to update the EUSS application process so that in future the user is asked to provide the reference number(s) of any previous applications?

Q2. Can you confirm whether the lack of such data linking on the application is a cause of the problem reported by us¹ and in the media² where *“if an individual holds pre-settled status and has since applied for settled status, the certificate of application for settled status will show in their account. They can ring the settlement resolution centre to request their account shows their pre-settled status if they would prefer this.”*?

¹ <https://www.the3million.org.uk/library>, July 2021, “Letter to Home Office about View and Prove helpline charges”, also paragraphs 62 and 66 of our report to the IMA <https://www.the3million.org.uk/IMA-report-Aug-21>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/sep/09/brexit-pre-settled-status-eu-nationals-in-uk-face-losing-out-on-jobs-and-housing>



Q3. Can you confirm whether the lack of such linking data on the application is a cause of the problem reported by us³ where those who were refused (pre-)settled status but later applied for, or were granted, (pre-)settled status still see a refusal when logging into View & Prove?

Q4. Would you agree a lack of such data linking on the application might cause a problem where HMRC or DWP will not recognise a future upgrade from pre-settled to settled status, and will potentially terminate benefits for those they believe to have expired pre-settled status?

2. Linking EUSS applications across Government departments

We have seen cases where someone:

- obtained settled status without needing to supply any additional residence evidence, i.e. the automated check with DWP/HMRC using just their national insurance number was sufficient to evidence five years of residence; and
- nevertheless received the August and September letters from DWP stating that the DWP did not consider them to have status under the EU Settlement Scheme

We consider that it must have been possible to conclude from this individual's national insurance number that the person *did* have status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Q5. Why are DWP and HMRC not able to see that someone with a national insurance number that led to settled status by automated check has status under the EU Settlement Scheme?

Kind regards,

Monique Hawkins
Policy and Research Officer
the3million

³ Paragraphs 63 and 65 of our report to the IMA <https://www.the3million.org.uk/IMA-report-Aug-21>