

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport  
Jeane Freeman MSP

COSLA Interim Health & Social Care  
Spokesperson  
Councillor Stuart Currie

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

T: 0131 474 9200  
E: info@cosla.gov.uk

EU and EEA citizens working in  
Social Care in Scotland

20 December 2018



#### EU AND EEA CITIZENS WORKING IN SOCIAL CARE IN SCOTLAND

As we move ever closer to the date of the UK's exit from the EU, we wanted to take this opportunity to write directly to EU/EEA staff working in the Social Care sector in Scotland.

Even at this late stage, almost two and a half years after the date of the EU referendum, the outcome of the negotiations between the UK Government and the EU remains uncertain. We know this must be a very unsettling time for all of you. That is why we wanted to write this joint letter to emphasise how much we value the contribution of everyone working in the sector, regardless of their nationality. Colleagues from across the EU, and beyond, bring valuable experience and skills that benefit the patients and communities we serve. Scotland is your home and we very much want you to stay.

After months of uncertainty, the UK Government published a policy paper on Citizens' Rights on 6 December, which provides some welcome reassurance about the protection of EU citizens' rights in the UK, in the event of a no deal outcome. Both the Scottish Government and COSLA share a commitment to do what we can to ensure that your rights and place in Scotland are genuinely protected, as well as offering you the information and assistance you need at this time. This includes a new advice and support service for EU citizens, which the Scottish Government is establishing, to provide information and support on a range of issues, including the new Home Office 'EU Settlement Scheme'.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



COSLA (Edinburgh), Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards,  
Edinburgh, EH12 5BH, [www.cosla.gov.uk](http://www.cosla.gov.uk)

In addition, the First Minister has made a clear commitment to EU citizens working in our devolved public services. The Scottish Government is looking to prioritise resources to meet the cost of settled status applications for those delivering frontline public services. Further details of how the reimbursement arrangements will operate will be announced in the near future. Both the Scottish Government and COSLA are clear that EU citizens should not be asked to apply to retain the rights that they already have. The Scottish Government has consistently raised this issue with the UK Government, and will continue to argue that there should be no fee for any EU citizen.

We know that EU Exit is causing uncertainty and anxiety for a whole number of reasons, including in relation to the ongoing supply of medicines and medical devices, workforce issues, continuity of reciprocal healthcare and medical research. We would like to take this opportunity to assure you that, alongside work being led by the UK Government on a UK-wide basis, the Scottish Government is working closely with local authorities, health boards, and other key partners and service providers in in detailed civil contingencies planning around many aspects of an EU Exit which might have an immediate and direct effect on our citizens.

We hope this letter provides reassurance about how much we value your contribution and are working to protect your interests. We will aim to keep you updated and informed about this issue over the coming months.



**JEANE FREEMAN**



**COUNCILLOR STUART CURRIE**

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)



COSLA (Edinburgh), Verity House, 19 Haymarket Yards,  
Edinburgh, EH12 5BH, [www.cosla.gov.uk](http://www.cosla.gov.uk)