

By email: Mike Tapp MP, Minister for Migration and Citizenship of the United Kingdom

CC: Delivery Director, Future Borders & Immigration System Programme (FBIS)
FBIS ETA Engagement team
Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreements

29 April 2026

Dear Mike Tapp MP,

British dual nationals who previously had EUSS - impact of 25 February 2026 ETA Enforcement

We write further to the Home Office policy change of 10 March 2026, which is set out on the Dual citizenship guidance page <https://www.gov.uk/dual-citizenship>. On 10 March 2026 this page was changed to include the following section:

When you can travel with another passport or national identity card

If you got British citizenship after settling in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme, you can travel to the UK using a valid:

- *passport of your other nationality*
- *national identity card from the EU, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Switzerland*

Before you travel, you'll need to:

- *check that your pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme is still valid - you can [view your eVisa to check](#)*
- *[update your UKVI account](#) if your passport or identity card has changed*

This is an extremely important and welcome concession which, for the specific cohort of those dual British nationals who were granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme, will make a considerable difference.

In our [letter to the Home Office of 17 February 2026](#)¹, Annex A listed several cases under “Logistics after naturalisation ceremony”. This concession will fully address the problems faced by the people in those examples.

While it is not possible to put an exact number on the size of the cohort that can benefit from this concession, we estimate that this could be as high as a quarter of a million people - see Annex A for our calculation of this estimate.

A Home Office policy such as this one needs to be communicated correctly and effectively if it is to enable people to access this concession and thereby their Withdrawal Agreement right. We are receiving reports from people with EUSS status who have just naturalised as dual British citizens, and they are being told incorrectly that they must obtain a British passport or a Certificates of Entitlement to the Right of Abode (CoE) in order to travel.

One EU citizen who became a dual EU British citizen at a naturalisation ceremony this week told us that:

- He needed to travel for work within two weeks of the naturalisation ceremony.

¹ <https://the3million.org.uk/publication/2026021701>

- He had understood that he needed to have a British passport or CoE in order to be able to travel, due to all the publicity and original Home Office guidance relating to the 25 February ETA enforcement (without this concession added 2 weeks later on 10 March).
- In advance of the ceremony - but *after* 10 March 2026 - he contacted the [Passport Adviceline](#)² because he was worried that he would not be able to get a passport in such a short period of time. The Advice Line said they could not comment on border entry or travel documentation requirements, but across two calls with two separate requirements he was told that the law was the same for everyone (in that he would have to enter the UK with a British passport or a CoE), and that the Home Office would not be able to help him with his issue (needing to travel at short notice). One staff member suggested he contacted his MP if he wanted the law changed. They were clearly unaware of the EUSS concession and gave information that directly contradicted the existence of that concession. They were unable to provide practical guidance beyond referring to the Home Office guidance - see [ETA factsheet - April 2026](#)³ which says on the face of the policy that British citizens must present either a British passport or have a CoE.
- He tried but failed to speak to anyone at the Home Office with the telephone number that was provided to him by the Advice Line, meaning that the Advice Line had been the only reachable official advisors available to him.
- On 27 April, he reached out to the3million because of the media work we have done on the problems of dual British citizens. We were able to tell him about the concession, and it was the first time he had been made aware of it.
- On 28 April, he attended his citizenship ceremony, and received written information which includes (our highlights):

Travelling to and from the UK after naturalising

Once you have become a British citizen, you cannot use an eVisa or citizenship certificate to enter the UK. British citizens cannot get an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) or a new visa. To travel, you must have either a British citizen passport or a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode. Carry this with you when travelling and be ready to show it. Without one of these, you may face serious delays when returning or travelling to the UK.

Please refer to [GOV.UK](#) for information on how long it may take to get a British passport or how long it may take to get a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode.

Right of abode in the United Kingdom - note for British citizens

All British citizens have the right of abode in the United Kingdom. If, as a British citizen, you do not wish to travel to the UK using a British passport you must have a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode. Otherwise, you might experience difficulty proving your right to enter to the United Kingdom. Certificates of entitlement can only be issued to someone who does not have a British passport describing them as a British citizen or British subject with right of abode.

Certificates of entitlement to the right of abode will be issued in digital format. A fee is payable for the first application, and after that you can link a new passport to your digital certificate for free. See [Gov.UK](#) for more information: www.gov.uk/right-of-abode.

² <https://www.gov.uk/passport-advice-line>

³ <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/electronic-travel-authorisation-eta-factsheet-april-2026/>

It is clear that this printed information has been recently updated because it contains reference to CoEs being digital only, and we note that CoE's became digital-only on 25 February 2026.

The individual told us, *"My overall experience has been one of confusion and frustration, with unclear or contradictory information coming from official sources, whether helplines, ceremony documentation, or government webpages that do not always present the full picture clearly; while becoming a UK citizen is supposed to be celebrated and a happy/pride achievement."*

We note that some Home Office guidance does make explicit reference to the EUSS concession, which we welcome. For example,

- ["When you do not need an ETA"](#)⁴ contains *"You may be able to travel to the UK using another type of permission, for example if you settled in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme. Find out more about [travelling to the UK as a dual citizen](#)."*
- ["Apply for a certificate of entitlement"](#)⁵ mentions *"If you're a dual citizen travelling to the UK. You may be able to travel to the UK using another type of permission, for example if you settled in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme. Find out more about travelling to the UK if you are a dual citizen."*
- Right of abode guidance, [Form ROA: guidance](#)⁶, contains a section on Withdrawal Agreement Rights and makes clear that people with EUSS status do not need to travel to the UK with a CoE or British passport unless they choose to do so.

However, there are other crucial pieces of guidance that do not, and there are clearly staff members working for the Passport Office and for Town Halls conducting naturalisation ceremonies who are not aware of this concession.

We would therefore be grateful for your urgent attention to the following questions:

- Q1. Will you undertake a thorough review of all Home Office guidance and ensure that all places that refer to British citizens requiring either a British passport or a CoE to travel to the UK will make **clear and direct** reference to this concession? In particular we note several places that we have found which do not do so (this is not an exhaustive list):
- a. [Before you leave for the UK](#)⁷ - makes a hyperlinked reference to dual citizenship but mentions only the temporary concession to travel with an expired UK passport or emergency travel document. Dual citizens with EUSS status would only find out about the permanent concession if they were to click into the hyperlink to the dual citizen guidance but they have no particular reason to do so if they know what a dual citizen is.
 - b. [Electronic Travel Authorisation \(ETA\) factsheet - April 2026](#)⁸ contains factually incorrect statements namely:

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/eta/when-not-need-eta>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/right-of-abode/apply-for-a-certificate-of-entitlement>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/form-roa-guidance>

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control/before-you-leave-for-the-uk>

⁸ <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/electronic-travel-authorisation-eta-factsheet-april-2026/>

- i. *“Dual British citizens are exempt from needing an ETA and are expected to present either a valid British passport or Certificate of Entitlement when travelling to the UK.”* Again, there is the option to follow a hyperlink to dual citizenship but people who know what a dual citizen is do not have a particular reason to follow it in the expectation of finding guidance contradicting what is stated on the current page.
 - ii. In the section *“Can dual British citizens use alternative documents as proof of citizenship?”* there is no mention of this permanent concession. Rather it contains only mention of the temporary concession to use expired UK passports.
- c. Guidance from British embassies including for example this page from the British Embassy in Prague on [“ETA and British-Czech dual nationality: frequently asked questions”](#)⁹ which contains the same factually incorrect information that a Brit with Czech citizenship must travel to the UK with a valid British passport or a CoE.
 - d. News story of 25 February [“UK enforces digital permission to travel”](#)¹⁰ states that British dual nationals will need to present either a valid British passport or a CoE. We are aware that this is a news story as at 25 February, but given that within two weeks of this announcement there was a policy change affecting potentially up to 250,000 people, we would ask that this news story be updated to include clear reference to those with EUSS status.
 - e. Whereas, as noted earlier, the guidance for applying for a CoE includes reference to the concession, we note that [guidance for applying for a passport](#)¹¹ does not.
- Q2. Will you revise all materials, electronic and printed, that are given to people who register or naturalise as British citizens, to ensure they are informed that they need not apply for a British passport or CoE if they have status under the EU Settlement Scheme? Some examples of materials include:
- a. In the Naturalisation guidance, [“Form AN: guidance”](#) we welcome that Section 14.15 clearly refers to the EUSS concession. However, we would ask that Section 2.6 also be updated as it incorrectly states that *“To travel outside the UK after getting British citizenship, you’ll need to apply for a British passport or a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode. You cannot use your naturalisation certificate to travel.”*
 - b. The Registration guidance for children under 18 years old, [“Form MN1: guidance”](#)¹² incorrectly states *“Once an individual becomes a British citizen, they will no longer be able to enter the UK using their [...] digital status [...]. For travel purposes, an individual can apply for a British passport or for a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode.”* There will be many children born to people with pre-settled status over the last few years who acquired pre-settled status themselves before later becoming eligible to register as a British citizen as their parents obtained settled status or naturalised as British citizens. These children with EUSS status are therefore also covered by the EUSS concession and this guidance should make that clear.

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eta-and-british-czech-dual-nationality-frequently-asked-questions>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-enforces-digital-permission-to-travel>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/apply-first-adult-passport>

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/form-mn1-guidance>

- c. We have had sight of the physical paper handed to people at their naturalisation ceremony on 28 April 2026, entitled “*Some information for British Nationals*” and labelled with the code “UKBAC013_BRITNAT_0126”. This contains a section “*Travelling to and from the UK after naturalising*” containing the incomplete information highlighted on page 2 of this letter.
- Q3. Will you undertake to communicate with all local authorities to ensure that staff are made aware of the fact that people with status under EUSS who naturalise do not need to obtain a British passport or CoE if they do not wish to do so, and to ensure that staff expressly pass this information onto citizens for as long as the printed information does not do so?
- Q4. Will you ensure that Home Office members of staff who work on Passport Advice lines are fully aware of the EUSS concession?
- Q5. Will you write to or email all people who have naturalised in recent years to inform them of this policy change, in view of the fact that the Immigration Minister Mike Tapp MP told Parliament on 25 February 2026 “*Since the start of the year, we have also emailed people who have registered or naturalised in the last 10 years where we hold usable contact details.*”¹³ This will be essential to correct the earlier communication, referred to by the minister, that they must obtain a British passport or CoE in order to travel to the UK.
- Q6. Will you enable people who could have benefitted from the EUSS concession between 25 February 2026 and 10 March 2026, yet were compelled to apply for a British passport or CoE before 10 March 2026 and are still waiting for the passport or CoE to be issued, to withdraw their application and obtain a full refund?
- Q7. Will you offer compensation to anyone who could have benefitted from the EUSS concession from 25 February 2026 but was denied boarding back to the UK for not having a British passport or CoE?
- Q8. Given that it is not clear to us what the legal basis is for using an eVisa when someone is a British citizen, would the Home Office consider amending EUSS accounts to ‘Right of Abode / Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiary’ when someone naturalises, to ensure that the correct lawful basis is shown? We feel it is important that the words ‘Withdrawal Agreement Beneficiary’ are added to make clear why they are entitled to continue using their non-British identity document.

Yours sincerely,

Monique Hawkins, Head of Policy and Advocacy, the3million

Andrea Als, Chair, Immigration Law Practitioners’ Association (ILPA)

¹³ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2026-02-25/debates/450D9EF4-B139-42EA-90DE-8B882039BC34/ElectronicTravelAuthorisationDualNationals>

Annex A - Estimated cohort with EUSS status before naturalising as dual British citizens

Using latest published Home Office [citizenship statistics to December 2025](#)¹⁴, we used the dataset “Citizenship detailed datasets, year ending December 2025”.

In tab Cit_D02: Grants of British citizenship, 2005 Q1 to 2025 Q4, we selected:

- We considered the years 2019 onwards, as the EU Settlement Scheme became available from late 2018.
- We restricted our results to the 27 EU member states except Ireland, the EEA EFTA states and Switzerland, because even though other citizens with EUSS status can also benefit from this concession, it is only for EEA/Swiss citizens that we can make the reasonable assumption that they would have applied to the EUSS before naturalising. We excluded Ireland because Irish citizens can travel on their Irish passport anyway.
- We selected only Naturalisation, rather than Registration - as many people who become dual nationals through Registration may not have EUSS status before doing so.

We obtained the result that 254,679 EEA/Swiss (ex-Ireland) citizens became British citizens through naturalisation between 2019 and 2025.

It is not possible to say this is the size of the cohort who had EUSS status before naturalising as a dual British citizen, because:

- (overestimation) Some of these people may have naturalised having obtained ILR, or an EEA Permanent Residence card, without going through the EUSS, who therefore cannot benefit from this concession.
- (overestimation) Some may have given up their EU citizenship and therefore are not dual EU/British nationals and therefore cannot benefit from this concession.
- (underestimation) There will be non-EEA/Swiss family members of EEA/Swiss citizens who have EUSS status and have naturalisation as dual British citizens and can benefit from this concession.

However, overall, we consider a figure of 250,000 people a reasonable estimate for the size of the cohort.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Naturalisation	36,619	29,866	50,485	32,184	30,740	39,406	35,379	254,679
Austria	61	62	74	44	48	49	24	362
Belgium	325	253	459	310	274	416	383	2,420
Bulgaria	2,374	1,996	3,237	2,036	1,930	2,204	1,913	15,690
Croatia	84	138	202	125	148	199	192	1,088
Cyprus	347	300	600	455	444	692	520	3,358
Czechia	534	406	633	408	365	474	422	3,242

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-data-tables#citizenship>

Denmark	317	258	351	214	229	257	258	1,884
Estonia	98	77	105	77	67	88	98	610
Finland	219	185	262	173	194	236	218	1,487
France	3,015	2,333	3,941	2,767	2,526	3,260	2,779	20,621
Germany	3,296	2,461	2,938	274	289	1,144	1,902	12,304
Greece	1,746	1,493	2,836	1,988	1,967	2,645	2,342	15,017
Hungary	1,852	1,445	2,274	1,515	1,456	1,699	1,381	11,622
Iceland	12	19	19	12	12	26	20	120
Italy	4,400	4,238	7,992	5,842	5,711	7,391	6,618	42,192
Latvia	936	703	1,033	580	634	690	589	5,165
Liechtenstein	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	4
Lithuania	386	283	375	221	240	293	228	2,026
Luxembourg	11	5	27	17	17	18	24	119
Malta	164	164	239	109	119	131	132	1,058
Netherlands	480	528	730	437	375	487	417	3,454
Norway	34	133	205	123	186	276	225	1,182
Poland	6,996	4,164	7,547	4,155	3,798	4,669	4,140	35,469
Portugal	1,521	1,355	2,133	1,639	1,645	2,165	1,794	12,252
Romania	4,396	4,148	7,365	4,959	4,536	5,449	4,682	35,535
Slovakia	302	272	443	450	465	553	493	2,978
Slovenia	71	50	142	71	82	112	110	638
Spain	1974	1824	3446	2471	2249	2793	2586	17,343
Sweden	524	456	695	556	578	800	677	4,286
Switzerland	143	117	181	156	156	189	211	1,153
Grand Total	36,619	29,866	50,485	32,184	30,740	39,406	35,379	254,679