the3million newsletter

Join our webinar

LOSS OF EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME STATUS Q&A



Dear EU citizen,

In our latest newsletter we spotlight a section of our website that covers EU Settlement Scheme statistics, including some shocking recent data on EUSS administrative reviews, and we remind you of our upcoming webinar into the concerning situation of people losing their status, including through the Home Office's "grants in error policy", as highlighted in the Guardian last week.

Loss of EU Settlement Scheme Status Q&A webinar

On Thursday August 13th we will be hosting a webinar, between 6 and 7:30pm, discussing the different ways in which the Home Office can take away your pre-settled status or Withdrawal Agreement rights, and what you can do about it.

Join us to hear from the3million's Acting CEO and Head of Policy, Monique Hawkins, the3million's Research and Policy Manager, Kaelynn Narita, and solicitor Mala Savjani, from Wilsons Solicitors, who will be discussing the latest developments and discussing situations where people are told their status was granted in error. Immigration expert Chris Benn, from Seraphus, will be joining us to take your specific questions.

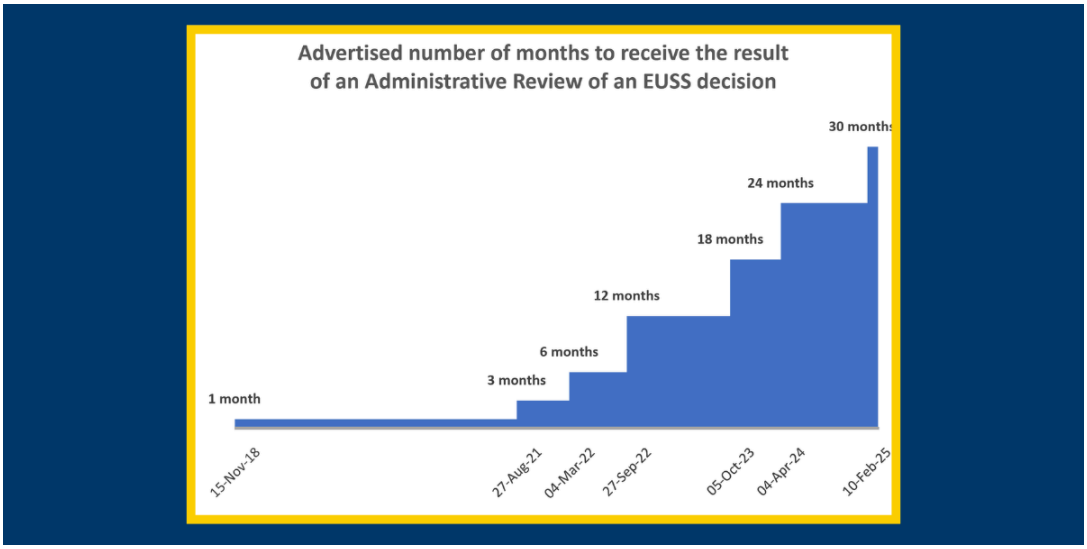
This is part of our EU Voice programme of activities, which are being held in partnership with Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini, and co-funded by the EU.

Register for webinar

Thousands of EU citizens left waiting for years for 'administrative reviews' on their status

As part of our research and policy work into identifying the challenges facing EU citizens in the UK we analyse Home Office statistics, submit freedom of information requests, and publish the results on our website, here. Our webpage contains sections not only on how many EU citizens there are in the UK and how many grants of EUSS status have been made, but also on waiting times, size of the EUSS backlog, and data on challenging EUSS refusals through administrative reviews and the appeals process.

When someone applies for EUSS status but wrongly receives a refusal, an administrative review (AR) was intended to be a quick and affordable way of requesting that the Home Office check the refusal decision for a casework error, rather than having to go through a lengthy and costly appeal process involving the immigration tribunal system. When the EUSS was opened in 2019, the Home Office said such ARs would be completed within 28 days.However this promise did not last long - as the chart below shows:



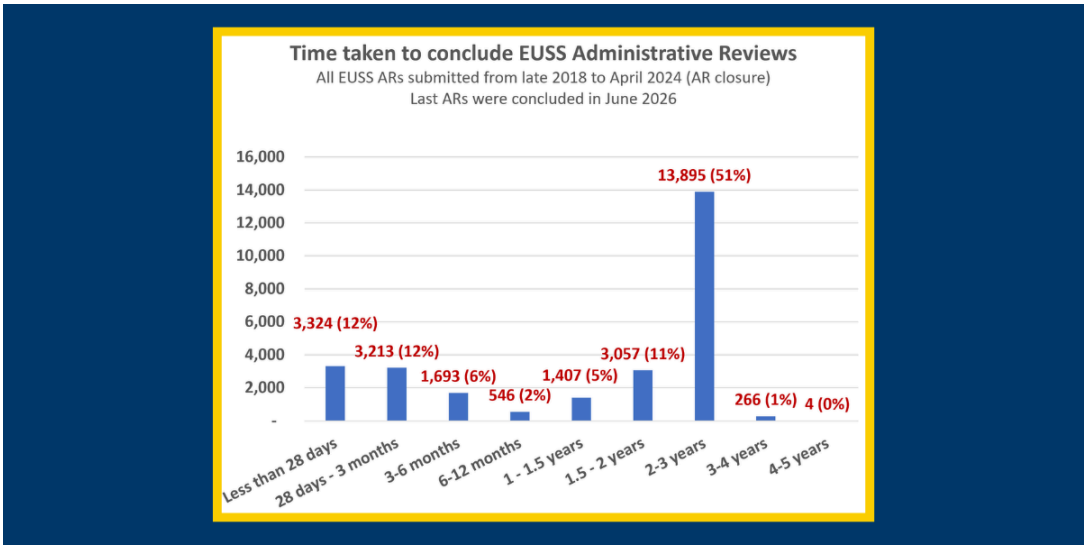
This chart is particularly shocking since the Home Office announced in September 2023 that it would no longer be possible to request an AR on any refusals made after 5 October 2023, and stopped accepting any ARs altogether after 4 April 2024. Yet the waiting times continued to go up.

Only in June this year was the backlog finally cleared - ***more than two years*** since the AR route was closed. No-one should now be waiting for the outcome of an EUSS AR anymore.

Once we knew all ARs had been processed, we submitted a freedom of information request to find out just how long ARs had taken to process.

The result is devastating - over half of all ARs took between 2 and 3 years to complete.

This means that 13,895 people had been left in limbo for up to 36 months. During this agonising wait, they not only lacked certainty over their future in the UK, making it harder to work, rent, study or get support from the state, but they were also effectively trapped in the UK - since travelling abroad, even to attend a family funeral, would risk being refused re-entry back to the UK.



Although of course not all ARs resulted in the original refusal being overturned, we know nearly 4,000 ARs did result in a successful grant of EUSS status.

For more information, bookmark our EUSS statistics page which we update every quarter.

View our EUSS statistics page

In solidarity,
Monique

Monique Hawkins is the Head of Policy and Advocacy and Acting CEO at the3million

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Report your issues



Our reports are entirely informed by you raising your issues with us.

If you or your family and friends experience any issues in applying for EUSS family permits, pre-settled or settled status, or in using a digital status, report it:

Report it

Get help with the EU Settlement Scheme



Become a supporter today

Thank you for reading our newsletter.

Did you know the3million is the leading grassroots organisation of EU citizens in the UK?

We are grateful for your support, as we simply couldn't have campaigned for citizens' rights since 2016 without you.

If you can afford it, please donate today to enable the3million to continue to uphold the Government to account and inform EU citizens of their rights:

Donate today

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- Join the conversation with over 45,000 fellow EU citizens in the Facebook Forum for EU citizens: www.facebook.com/groups/Forum4EUcitizens/
- Forward this newsletter to your friends and relatives, who can sign up to receive the newsletter in their inbox at https://www.the3million.org.uk/subscribe

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