

10 December 2020

Alice Matthews
Head of the Single Competent Authority
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Alice,

Victims of modern slavery and the EU Settlement Scheme

I look forward to our next meeting on 16 December 2020. In advance of this, I wanted to write to you in relation to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) and support for potential victims of modern slavery to apply.

The EUSS allows EU, EEA and Swiss citizens, and their non-EU family members, to be granted the immigration status that they require in order to continue living, working or studying in the UK beyond 30 June 2021. As this is a significant change to the UK's Immigration Rules, I understand that in 2019 the Home Office put in place a Vulnerability Strategy for the EUSS with £9 million of grant funding provided to 57 organisations across the UK to 'reach and give practical support to vulnerable individuals and their families'¹. More widely, I am aware that there have also been a variety of campaigns² designed to raise awareness of the EUSS across EU and EEA communities living in the UK.

Last week I met with a range of colleagues from the NGO sector where concerns were raised about the risk that survivors of modern slavery would not be registering for the EUSS. Nobody at the meeting was aware of the approach that has been taken by sub-contractors within the Victim Care Contract (VCC) to raise awareness of the EUSS among their clients. Indeed, my response³ to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's inspection on how the EUSS is working for vulnerable groups also highlighted some of the specific challenges faced by victims of modern slavery, including the difficulties experienced by those without access to identity documents and those who are unable to provide evidence of their time spent in the UK which continue to cause concern within the sector.

As we move towards the deadline for applications, I therefore wish to seek assurance that sub-contractors are actively communicating with their clients about the EUSS and that they are signposting them for the appropriate legal advice and support required to apply.

¹ House of Commons (2020) [EU Settlement Scheme Briefing Paper Number 8584](#)

² UK Government (2019) [Home Office launches £1 million advertising campaign for EU Settlement Scheme](#)

³ Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (2020) [Letter to David Bolt – EU Settlement Scheme \(July 2020\)](#)

I would also like to request any data that the Home Office may hold on the following:

- the number of survivors currently in the NRM who are EU/EEA nationals;
- the number of survivors currently in the NRM who have applied to the EUSS;
- the number of survivors currently in the NRM who have been granted pre-settled status;
- the number of survivors currently in the NRM who have been granted settled status;
- the number of survivors currently in the NRM who have had their application to the EUSS refused;
- the number of survivors currently in the NRM who have had their application to the EUSS withdrawn, void or classed as invalid.

In the interests of transparency, I request that you respond in a way that enables me to publish your letter on my website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Yuen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner



Home Office

OFFICIAL

Alice Matthews
Head of the Single
Competent Authority
Home Office

Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM
Independent Anti-Slavery
Commissioner
(by email)

29 January 2021

Dear Dame Sara,

Thank you for your letter of 10 December 2020 regarding the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) and victims of modern slavery.

Regarding communication with victims in Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC) support in relation to the EUSS, I can confirm that the Home Office has developed an information pack to be used by support workers. This will be used by The Salvation Army (TSA) and their sub-contractors to ensure that victims receiving support through the Contract are aware of the EUSS and how to apply. In line with the requirements of the Contract, this pack will be translated and proactively promoted by support workers at their appointments over the coming weeks.

We are also proactively seeking feedback from TSA and their sub-contractors to understand progress on the dissemination of this information and to be made aware of any further questions that arise from their interactions with victims regarding the EUSS. We will continue to monitor this through our regular meetings with TSA.

I hope this assures you that we are taking active steps to ensure victims are provided with the information they need to access the EUSS.

Unfortunately, I am not able to provide the data you requested in your letter at this classification. Some elements of the data will be provided separately.

Kind regards,

Alice Matthews
Head of the Single Competent Authority

OFFICIAL