



By email:

Minister Kevin Foster MP  
Copied: Home Office SUG team

3 September 2021

Dear Sirs,

**Extended Family Members - Family Permits**

We write in relation to Extended Family Members of EU citizens who are not being issued with family permits to join their family in the UK. This issue has been previously raised during the most recent SUG meeting on 27 July 2021. Please can you confirm when people will be issued with their family permits so they can be reunited with their families in the UK?

We understand a number of organisations, including ourselves, have written to the Home Office about Extended Family Members who are granted their applications for a family permit under the EEA Regulations 2016 or win their appeal against refusal of such an application made before 31 December 2020.

A number of organisations, individuals and lawyers have informed the3million that Extended Family Members have been sent emails stating that family permits would no longer be issued under the EEA Regulations 2016 following their repeal and that the person is also not eligible under Appendix EU (Family Permit) and Appendix EU of the Immigration Rules.

In some instances applicants have been told to pursue alternative routes to the UK, despite in almost all of these cases there being no existing alternative routes. This has resulted in hundreds of family members separated from their loved ones with no options for them to come to the UK.

Despite this issue being raised during the most recent SUG meeting in July we are unaware of any further action being taken.

We are aware of potentially hundreds of people (we suspect the numbers will be in the thousands) who have applied in good faith to join their families in the UK and relied on rules available to them. The Government's current position is to deny them rights they are entitled to, keeping hundreds of families separated.



We note the UK's obligations under articles 10(3) and 14(3) of the Withdrawal Agreement. We have serious concerns that keeping these families separated undermines the Withdrawal Agreement and is against the UK's commitments.

You will be aware that in a lot of instances Extended Family Members are often family members of EU citizens in very vulnerable situations. Children who are in the care of uncles/aunts because their parents have passed away, disabled and dependent adults, etc. We are aware that in some of these cases they have been separated from their families for months, in some instances over 12 months.

Please confirm what action is being taken to remedy this issue and reunite these families.

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible given the urgency of the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Piper, Head of Policy and Advocacy  
the3million