



Global Immigration alert

January 2025

United Kingdom

Government confirms upcoming automatic conversion of pre-settled status to settled status

Executive summary

On 17 January 2025, the UK government published a policy paper on the [automation](#) of the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) status process, following amendments introduced by the [Statement of Changes](#) to the Immigration Rules (HC 217). The policy provides further guidance regarding the automatic process for converting pre-settled status to settled status for qualifying individuals.

Background

Pre-settled status confers limited leave to enter or remain. This status is usually granted if the applicant has been residing in the UK for less than five years. Settled status confers indefinite leave to enter or remain. This status is usually granted if the applicant has been residing in the UK for at least five years.

Currently, pre-settled status holders who seek to convert to settled status must file an application under the EUSS after completing the required period of residence in the UK. For qualifying pre-settled status holders who are approaching expiry of their status but do not file an application, the government automatically extends the pre-settled status for five years to ensure they do not lose their rights.

Key developments

The policy paper confirms that the UK government will introduce a new process to automatically convert the pre-settled status for eligible individuals to settled status, without the need for them to file an application. This change aims to make the process of acquiring settled status more streamlined and straightforward for qualifying individuals. The UK government will conduct

automatic checks on pre-settled status holders to ensure they comply with relevant criteria and do not present any evidence of criminal conduct. The authorities will email eligible pre-settled status holders to confirm they may be considered for an automatic conversion to settled status. The government expects to issue the first grants of settled status under this new automatic process in late January 2025.

Pre-settled status holders will continue to be able to apply for settled status as soon as they become eligible, and will not be required to wait to be contacted by the government for automatic conversion.

The Home Office [announced](#) that it is considering the appropriate next steps in cases where pre-settled status holders have ceased to meet the conditions of their status. The authorities are expected to provide further information in due course.

Impact on employers

Organizations that employ eligible individuals will benefit as they will be able to more easily retain these individuals, who will gain further evidence of their right to work and reside permanently in the UK.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.



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