



**ZJEDNOCZENIE POLSKIE W WIELKIEJ BRYTANII.
FEDERATION OF POLES IN GREAT BRITAIN C.I.O.**

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Rt. Hon. Suella Braverman KC MP,
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13 September 2022

Dear Home Secretary,

We would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Home Secretary and trust that you will be able to look with fresh eyes at some of the challenges faced by the United Kingdom.

The settled status scheme has been in many ways a success. However, to conclude the settled status scheme successfully and to ensure that Polish and other EU citizens are not left without a clear immigration status in the United Kingdom, we feel three issues still need to be addressed.

The first issue is to extend beyond September 30th the current financial support for those organizations which are providing an invaluable service to vulnerable applicants with language or IT technical difficulties, in order to obtain the eventual settled status to which they are entitled by the Citizens' Rights Agreement. Without the support organizations' help many would have been unable to apply at all or would be at the mercy of rogue advice companies charging extortionate prices for their supposed services. As you are no doubt aware, the work of these support organizations will increase considerably in the next two years as many Polish and other EU citizens, who have received pre settled status, approach their likely deadline for having to make a new application for settled status.

The second issue is to make the pathway easier for applicants who have already been granted pre settled status but now need to obtain the permanent settled status to which many of them would have been entitled to in the first place, if only their documentation had been presented properly. Many are not aware that they have to apply afresh as their current status would not be extended automatically. It can be very difficult to obtain the relevant evidence covering a 5 year period for eligibility to stay. Ideally the Home Office could provide pre settled status holders with an automatic update warning them of their deadline to renew an application for settled status, like the warning on booster covid jabs issued by the NHS.

The third issue is the continued difficulties for Polish and other EU citizens with settled status in having their status recognized by employers, landlords, airline officials or UK border guards, due to a lack of printed documents confirming their status and their rights. The View and Prove platform is not understood by all, as the status details are "flashed" in front of them on a mobile phone.

We are sure that you would share our wish to have this difficult transitional post Brexit period for Polish and other EU citizens concluded positively, as it would also assist the Home Office in clarifying the legal status of all EU citizens remaining in this country. The last thing we would all want is to have disheartened EU citizens failing to apply for settled status in the proper way and statistically increasing the number of people living in the UK without proper immigration status.

The Federation of Poles in Great Britain is an umbrella group representing the main Polish social and cultural organizations in Great Britain since 1947. Our members share with you an appreciation of the potential that first and second generation immigrants can bring to the economy and to the social and cultural fabric of this country. We look forward to your positive response to our proposals.

Yours sincerely

Tadeusz K. Stenzel,
Secretary