



Committee on Exiting the European Union

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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De Damian

As you may know, the Committee on Exiting the European Union is carrying out a broad inquiry into the negotiating objectives of the UK Government in leaving the EU. One issue that has emerged in our evidence is the uncertain situation faced by the nearly three million people born in another EU member state who are living in the UK. The Government has encouraged EU nationals to apply for a permanent residence card to demonstrate their eligibility to remain and their entitlement to certain rights. The application process is overseen by the Home Office and is, understandably, receiving an increased number of applications.

It has been suggested to our Committee that the application process places an unreasonable burden of evidence on the applicant to justify their right to live in the UK, and that the application form asks for information, often going back several years, that is already possessed by either the Department for Work and Pensions or the HMRC. This came up in our evidence session with EU nationals on 18 January 2017, HC 815 Q622.

I would be grateful if the Department of Work and Pensions could provide the Committee with answers to the following.

- What information does the Department of Work and Pensions possess that could assist in identifying EU citizens in the UK?
- How far back would the Department of Pensions hold this data on an individual?
- What barriers are there, legal or otherwise, that stops the Department of Work and Pensions from sharing data with the Home Office in identifying EU nationals?
- What work is the Department of Work and Pensions actively doing in co-ordination with the Home Office to identify EU nationals living in the UK?

What are the current arrangements in relation to pensions for:

- UK nationals who have made contributions in one or more EU member state and then retired to another EU member state?

- For EU nationals who have made contributions in the UK and retired to another EU member state?
- And for EU nationals who have made contributions in another EU member state and retired to the UK?

The Committee would welcome a response by Wednesday 15 February

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilary Benn', written in a cursive style.

THE RT HON HILARY BENN MP

cc. Frank Field MP, Chair of the Work and Pensions Committee
Yvette Cooper MP, Chair of the Home Affairs Committee
Andrew Tyrie MP, Chair of the Treasury Committee
Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, Chair of the Health Committee