



Committee on Exiting the European Union

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D - Mr Thompson

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 facing 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. This 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 residence in the UK, and that the application form asks for information, often going back several years, that is already possessed by either HMRC or the Department for Work and Pensions. This came up in our evidence session with EU nationals on 18 January 2017, HC 815 Q622.

I would be grateful if the HMRC could provide the Committee with answers to the following.

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

The Committee would welcome a response by Wednesday 15 February.

to the *Hilary Benn*

RT HON HILARY BENN MP

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