

[REDACTED]

From: Immigration
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Immigration
Subject: RE: Immigration rules feedback

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 April 2019 13:23
To: Immigration <Immigration@lawcommission.gov.uk>
Subject: Immigration rules feedback

Good afternoon,

I just wanted to get in touch as per your campaign on making immigration rules easier to understand.

I'm an EU citizen and have found the rules very confusing even prior to the EU referendum.

I have come here in 2011 as an undergraduate student, and it has always been my intention to apply for British citizenship. Prior to moving to the UK, I wanted to make sure that I followed rules, which included looking at accessing healthcare. I called my university prior to arriving to enquire about this, and was told that as an EU citizen I did not need health insurance – I would just need to sign up with the local GP. Since arriving here, I was also never asked about my insurance status by any GP practice.

Fast-forwarding to 2016, I started making an application for Permanent Residence, feeling quite confident as I have been religiously collecting all relevant documents from day 1. I was quite shocked when, half-way through the application, a notification popped up informing me that I was not eligible for PR as I did not have comprehensive health insurance (CSI) during my time as a student. I then contacted a solicitor who explained that this is a common issue: EU citizens are not aware of this requirement and many find themselves unable to apply for permanent residence because of this.

The introduction of Settled Status removes this specific problem, but I feel that this is a good example of residents being expected to follow rules that they have no way of knowing about, especially when some institutions are also unaware of what the rules are. This continues with the introduction of Settled Status, as many workplaces suddenly start asking their existing EU employees to provide proof of residency (some do not have it yet), similarly to landlords, banks, etc. Citizens themselves are also largely confused as to what it is that they need to do, why, when, etc.

It's great to see that a review is taking place, because I strongly feel that it is very much needed.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]