



Council of the European Union

General Secretariat

Directorate-General Communication and Information - COMM

Directorate Information and Outreach

Information Services Unit / Transparency

Head of Unit

Brussels, 22 September 2021

Mr Giffy Broadstone

Email: ask+request-9843-47db4d59@asktheeu.org

Ref. 21/1417-rh/ns

Request made on: 11.08.2021

Deadline extension: 01.09.2021

Dear Mr Broadstone,

Thank you for your request for access to documents of the Council of the European Union.¹

Please find attached the **Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (2019/C 384 I/01)**.

This document is dedicated, among other things, to the protection of citizen's rights and life choices of over 3 million EU citizens in the United Kingdom, and over 1 million United Kingdom nationals in EU countries. The Withdrawal Agreement protects those EU citizens residing in the United Kingdom, and UK nationals residing in one of the 27 EU Member States at the end of the transition period, where such residence is in accordance with EU law on free movement.

The Withdrawal Agreement enables both EU citizens and UK nationals, as well as their respective family members, to continue to exercise their rights derived from Union law in each other's territories, for the rest of their lives, where those rights are based on life choices made before the end of the transition period.

European Union citizens and UK nationals, as well as their respective family members, can continue to live, work or study in the host state as they currently do under the same

¹ The General Secretariat of the Council has examined your request on the basis of the applicable rules: Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43) and the specific provisions concerning public access to Council documents set out in Annex II to the Council's Rules of Procedure (Council Decision No 2009/937/EU, OJ L 325, 11.12.2009, p. 35).

substantive conditions as under Union law, benefiting in full from the application of the prohibition of any discrimination on grounds of nationality and of the right to equal treatment compared to host state nationals.

The text of the Withdrawal Agreement on citizens' rights is very precise, so that it can be relied upon directly by EU citizens in British courts, and by UK nationals in the courts of the Member States. Any national law provisions that are not consistent with the provisions of the Withdrawal Agreement will have to be disapplied.

Please also find attached **Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime**, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA.

The purpose of this Directive is to ensure that victims of crime receive appropriate information, support and protection and are able to participate in criminal proceedings.

Member States ensure that victims are recognised and treated in a respectful, sensitive, tailored, professional and non-discriminatory manner, in all contacts with victim support or restorative justice services or a competent authority, operating within the context of criminal proceedings. The rights set out in this Directive apply to victims in a non-discriminatory manner, including with respect to their residence status.

For more information about the EU's legal and policy framework for protecting victims' rights and assisting victims of crime, please consult a specialised website of the [European Commission](#). Relevant documents are public and available for downloading.

Yours sincerely,

Fernando FLORINDO

Enclosures: 2.