

Mark Drakeford AC / AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid
Cabinet Secretary for Finance

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00285/18

Councillor Annwen Hughes
Chairman of the Council
Gwynedd Council

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20 June 2018

Dear Councillor Hughes,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 May about Associate European Union (EU) Citizenship.

We place great value on the freedom and access that EU citizenship grants. Retaining full and unencumbered access to the Single Market, including ensuring the ability of Welsh citizens to work in Europe, is integral to our future prosperity. In our *Brexit and Fair Movement of People* document, we outline a flexible yet controlled method of looking at migration, creating a closer association between migration and work <http://beta.llyw.cymru/brexit>.

After leaving the EU, ensuring the rights and status of European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and Swiss citizens in Wales, and Welsh citizens in the EEA, is vitally important. Safeguarding the same rights for UK citizens, and therefore Welsh people, is something we continue to implore the UK Government to ensure as part of the Brexit negotiations.

Shortly after the referendum in June 2016, the First Minister appointed an External Advisory Group. In July last year, he was presented with a paper on *The Feasibility of Associate EU Citizenship for UK Citizens*, commissioned by Jill Evans MEP, and this is the paper to which the proposal refers. Another meeting was recently held between Jill Evans and the Welsh Government European Union Office in Brussels.

Of course, since the UK Government is fully responsible for policy on citizenship and immigration, we have also been focusing on ensuring that EU citizens in the UK, and UK citizens in the EU, have as much assurance as possible in respect of their future rights and status. We will continue to work in a

constructive way with the UK Government, including through the Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations), to this end.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Drakeford AC/AM

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