

Stormont Castle  
BELFAST  
BT4 3TT

**Michael Potter**  
**Committee for TEO**  
**Parliament Buildings**  
**Ballymiscaw**  
**Stormont**  
**BELFAST**  
**BT4 3SR**

**10 August 2021**

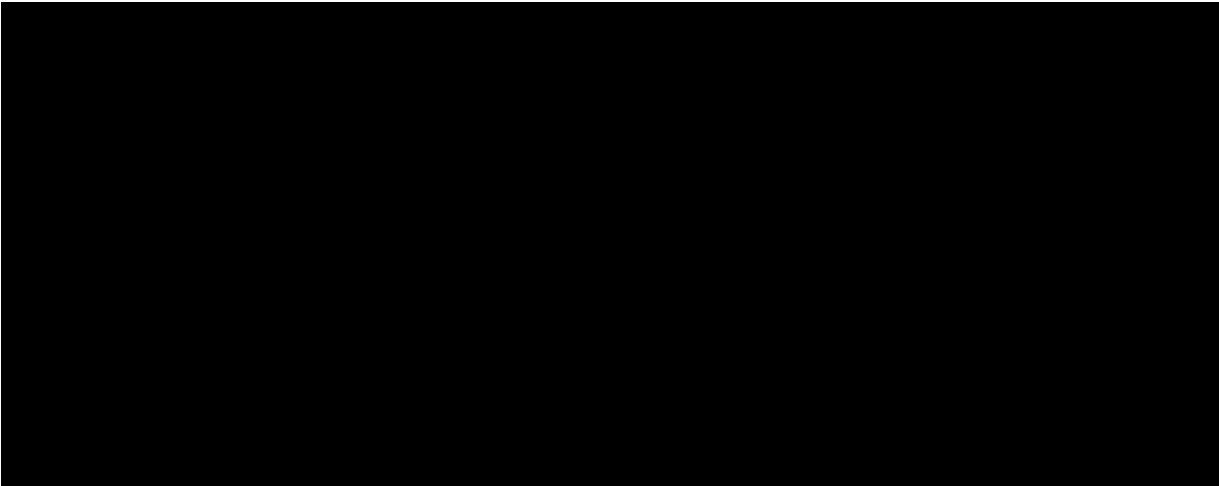
**Dear Michael**

Thank you for your letter of 2 July 2021, asking how Committee members can raise queries, surrounding the Settlement Scheme, with the Home Office and for an update on the Travel Agent Scheme payments.

## **THE EUROPEAN UNION SETTLEMENT SCHEME**

While Immigration including the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS) is not a devolved matter, Ministers acknowledge the valuable contribution EEA and Swiss citizens living here make not only to the local economy but also to its culture and wider society. Given this, TEO officials continue to liaise with the Home Office on the impacts of the EUSS; the rights of EEA and Swiss citizens; and protections for those without confirmed status. The Committee has been updated on key aspects of this work through the Junior Ministers' briefings.

You have asked how Committee Members can raise any issues about the Scheme with the Home Office directly. This may be done by writing to the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP or the Minister with responsibility for the EUSS, Kevin Foster MP.



I trust this is helpful. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely





## **Committee for the Executive Office**

David McCreedy  
Communications and Executive Support  
SD20  
Stormont Castle  
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Belfast  
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2 July 2021

Dear David,

### **JUNIOR MINISTERS - EU EXIT ISSUES ORAL EVIDENCE SESSION**

At its meeting on 30 June 2021, the Committee for the Executive Office received an update on the most recent developments in relation to EU Exit from junior Minister Middleton and junior Minister Kearney.

The Committee agreed that I write to you to request the following information.

### **THE EUROPEAN UNION SETTLEMENT SCHEME**

Junior Ministers updated Members in relation to the EU Settlement Scheme and how officials continue to engage with the Home Office to encourage an appropriate and flexible approach in terms of those missing the deadline and needing to make a late application.

The Committee agreed that I write to you to request how Members can raise their concerns to the Home Office directly in relation to queries surrounding the Settlement Scheme.

## **TRAVEL AGENTS (CORONAVIRUS, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2021**

Following the junior Ministers' oral evidence session in relation to EU issues, Members then asked questions in relation to the Travel Agents (Coronavirus, Financial Assistance) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021. The Executive decided on the 11 March 2021 that The Executive Office would bring forward a scheme for the benefit of travel agents.

The Executive Office laid the Statutory Rule under powers conferred by sections 1(2), 3 and 4 of the Financial Assistance Act (Northern Ireland) 2009 on the 18th March 2021, which came into operation on 19th March 2021. However, to date the travel Industry has not received any assistance.

The Committee agreed that I write to you to request further information on reasons for the delay and to ask what date this financial assistance will be available to the travel industry.

I would appreciate a response by **20 July 2021**.

Yours sincerely

*Michael Potter*

**Michael Potter Clerk, Committee for the Executive Office**

**Committee for the Executive Office**

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