**EU Rights and Brexit Hub: Public Policy and Engagement**

**Information sheet for participants**

*York Politics Department*

The EU Rights and Brexit Hub is a UKRI funded legal action research project investigating and challenging obstacles to justice for EU and EEA nationals throughout the UK in the aftermath of Brexit.

**The aims of the research**

This research project forms part of a larger programme of work at The EU Rights and Brexit Hub offering a second tier advice service to advisers on specialist EU issues, and conducting analysis to uncover what obstacles to justice EU and EEA nationals face over the coming years.

This project focusses on the role of Home Office funded organisations in supporting EU and EEA nationals in asserting their rights. These organisation are seen as key as they provide direct support to EU and EEA nationals. The core aims of this project are as follows:

1. To identify the key issues and problems that EU and EEA nationals and their representatives are facing.
2. To identify the administrative and information barriers that MP’s offices, Local Authorities, and other advocacy groups face when liaising with government departments on behalf of EU and EEA nationals.
3. To identify the implications of these issues and barriers for the development of national policy debates and processes.
4. To provide information and support to MPs offices, policy makers and NGOs through information sharing and coordinated responses to key policy concerns.

**Who is doing the research?**

This project is led by Professor Simon Parker of the Politics Department at the University of York. Simon’s research centres on the politics of asylum and immigration, urban studies, and comparative European politics. Simon is Co-Chair of the University of York Migration Network and has published widely including the journals of *British Politics, Territory, Politics, Governance, Theory, Culture & Society,* and *Electoral Studies*.

Simon is supported by Dr John Evemy. John is a Research Fellow at the Politics Department at the University of York. John’s research centres on the broad fields of British Politics and UK policy making. John previously worked on projects on the Bank of England and the UK’s Productivity crisis.

**What will I be asked to do?**

You are invited to take part in a research interview about your role, the issues you face supporting EU and EEA nationals access the EUSS and the implications this has for the rights of EU and EEA nationals after Brexit. This should take no longer than 45 minutes and will be conducted at a time convenient to you either by telephone or via a secure online platform such as Zoom.

**Why should I take part?**

This project will help to identify key problems faced by EU and EEA nationals, or third country national family members, or in some cases, British nationals when accessing key services after Brexit. We aim to provide nationwide advice and drafting support to organisations supporting EU and EEA nationals after Brexit via the [EU Rights and Brexit Hub](https://www.eurightshub.york.ac.uk/referral). We will also help with the further training of advisers, including the production of a Brexit advice guide, so they can better help EU national clients. Any insight you will feed into this project and improve our ability to provide support.

**Do I have to take part?**

Taking part in the study is entirely voluntary. We will describe the study and go through the information sheet, which we will give to you. We will then ask you to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part. If you sign the form, you can still withdraw consent or refrain from answering specific questions if you wish. If you wish to withdraw consent for the use of your interview for research purposes, you are free to do this before/during or at any point after the interview up to the end of September 2023.

**Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

Your confidentiality will be safeguarded during and after the study. The only exception to this is if you disclose that you or another person is at risk of harm. In such rare and unexpected cases, the researcher will need to report this to an appropriate authority. Any data that you provide through this research will be treated in confidence and any research outputs will be anonymised so that individuals will not be directly identifiable.

We may however make reference to contextual information, such as your relevant responsibilities, or key demographic or political factors in your constituency or sector. This means there is a limited risk that you may be indirectly identifiable. In order to limit this risk we will only make reference to contextual information if it is necessary for the analysis and is sufficiently vague to minimise any risk of identification. If you have any concerns please raise them with the interviewer.

Any personal information that you provide will be held and used in accordance with the General Data Protection Act (2018) and the UK Data Protection Act (2018) and only for the purposes for which it was collected.

**What will happen to the information?**

The interview details and audio recordings will be stored on University of York’s cloud storage solution (Google Drive), in accordance with the [Research Data Management Policy](https://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/information-services/information-policy/index/research-data-management-policy/), for six years and then destroyed. An anonymised version of the audio recording of the interview will be shared with a transcription company which the University has a confidentiality agreement with for transcription. The anonymised transcripts will be stored, password protected on the University of York’s Google Drive Storage solution until the end of this project.

The University’s cloud storage solution is provided by Google which means that data can be located at any of Google’s globally spread data centres. The University has data protection compliant arrangements in place with this provider. For further information see <https://www.york.ac.uk/it-services/google/policy/privacy> .

A requirement of Economic and Social Research Council Funding is that where possible research data should be uploaded to the UK Data Service [UKDS] upon completion of the project. This is to facilitate research transparency and support future studies in the field. If you give additional consent we will upload a redacted version of any transcript produced from this interview to the UKDS. The transcript will be redacted to remove any potentially identifying information and marked as ‘Controlled Data’. Controlled data can only be accessed by trained and certified researchers, under secure conditions and with our permission. More information on the UK Data service and Controlled Data Access can be found here: <https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/get-data/data-access-policy/controlled-data.aspx>.

**Can I access and change the information I provide?**

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. You have the right to request access to a copy of our notes from the interviews and any transcripts that are produced. If you want to withdraw from the study or wish part of the notes or transcript to be redacted please notify us within 10 working days of the interview and the information will be destroyed. If you withdraw from the study after that point, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained but will make no direct reference to you or the information you provide in any subsequent publications or research outputs.

**What happens next?**

If you consent to participate, then please complete and return the attached consent form. If you have any questions at any other point, you can contact Simon Parker at [simon.parker@york.ac.uk](mailto:simon.parker@york.ac.uk) . You can follow the progress of our research, and read the results, at: [www.eurightshub.york.ac.uk](http://www.eurightshub.york.ac.uk)

If you have concerns about any aspect of the management of this project you can contact Professor Nina Caspersen, Head of Department of Politics [nina.caspersen@york.ac.uk](mailto:nina.caspersen@york.ac.uk) , or if you have any ethical concerns you may contact the ELMPS ethics committee at [elmps@york.ac.uk](mailto:elmps@york.ac.uk)

**Thank you for considering taking part in this project.**