

# IMA

For the Citizens'  
Rights Agreements

Examples of your rights include equal  
treatment in the context of:

- Access to the NHS
- Access to work
- Access to housing
- Access to benefits
- Travel in and out of the UK
- Student fees and support



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## The Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreements



### IMA

Independent Monitoring Authority  
For the Citizens' Rights Agreements

## About us

The Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreements (IMA) was established by the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 and protects the rights of EU and EEA EFTA citizens, and their family members:

- living in the UK and Gibraltar since before December 2020 (or are eligible joining family members after this date) and;
- have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

We have two main duties:

1. Monitoring how public bodies in the UK and Gibraltar are protecting the rights of citizens. This means that we actively seek information that will help us to identify where things are going well and where things are not.
2. Promoting the effective implementation of rights. This means that we help citizens to understand their rights and we help public bodies to understand where things are going wrong so that they can put them right.

We review complaints from citizens and have powers to launch inquiries and take legal action when needed. Our aim is to ensure citizens can continue to live and work in the UK and Gibraltar, raising their families and accessing healthcare, education and benefits as they did before the UK left the EU.

## Your rights explained

The IMA's remit largely relates to the rights set out in Part 2 of the Withdrawal and Separation Agreements (the Agreements):

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### Social Security

Individuals who have lived in both the UK and the EU before the end of the transition period can continue to access pensions, benefits and other forms of social security.

### Residency

People have the right to continue to live in the UK or Gibraltar, and also the right to enter and exit the UK. In the UK, citizens have to apply to the EUSS to have residency rights. Those with applications not yet determined also have the same rights. In Gibraltar, citizens did not need to apply to a scheme, so any EU or EEA EFTA citizen and their family members living there by 31 December 2020 have the right to reside there.



## Work

This means the right to work, including self-employed work. It also applies to frontier workers; citizens who are employed or self-employed in the UK but live elsewhere. The right to work is based on the principle that workers cannot be discriminated against because of their nationality.

### Qualifications

Mutual recognition of professional qualifications means the right for qualifications which have already been recognised before 31 December 2020 (or were in the process of being recognised at that time), to continue to be recognised in the UK.

### Equal Treatment

EU and EEA EFTA citizens and their family members must be treated the same as UK and Gibraltarian citizens when it comes to accessing certain public services and some benefits. This includes education and healthcare and some benefits. There is also a general right not to be treated less favourably on the grounds of nationality where there is no specific protection.