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Mario Ferelli

By Email:

request-454217-8ee244a8@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: 46695

Date: 26 January 2018

Dear Mr Ferelli,

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 December 2017, in which you ask for:

- ***copies of any notes, e-mail exchanges, minutes of meetings or written instructions produced between the 7 November 2017 and the 18th December pertaining to the decision to remove note 2 from the published guidance 'Status of EU Citizens in the UK: what you need to know'***
- ***an explanation why the clarification relating to CSI was removed from note 2 of the published guidance "Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know"***

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

On 18 December 2017, the published guidance "*Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know*" was updated following agreement with the European Union (EU) on citizens' rights.

As part of that update, the footnote to which you refer and which appears below, was removed in error:

'Note 2: In some circumstances, comprehensive sickness insurance is still required for the purposes of accessing the healthcare system in the UK, but will no longer be considered as a requirement for acquiring settled status.'

The removal of the footnote was not as a result of a conscious decision that could be evidenced in the form of notes, email exchanges, meetings or written instructions, nor should it be taken as indicative of any change in policy position with regard to comprehensive sickness insurance (CSI).

It remains the Government's intention not to require evidence that economically inactive EU citizens have previously held comprehensive sickness insurance in applications for settled status. This continues to be communicated in the section entitled '*Applying for settled status*' within the published guidance "*Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know*".

However, it also remains the case that, in some circumstances, comprehensive sickness insurance is still required for the purposes of accessing the healthcare system in the UK. To ensure that this policy position is communicated clearly, the footnote has been reinstated into the published guidance.

In response to your other enquiry, I can provide the following information outside of the FOIA:

- ***confirmation whether EU students who at some time during their residence in the UK didn't have CSI will be excused from the CSI requirement, or will having had CSI now still be required, but no longer subject to proof requirements at the time of application.***

I can confirm that we will not require students and self-sufficient people living here to prove that they have held comprehensive sickness insurance when they apply for settled status in the UK. Students and self-sufficient people living here can still be granted settled status even if they have never held this.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference 46695. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely

S Bakewell

Border, Immigration and Citizenship System Policy and Strategy Group