

Settled status: what you need to know if you are an EU citizen and have a criminal record

The EU Settlement Scheme protects the rights you currently have in the UK through the process of applying for settled or pre-settled status. As part of the applications process, there are questions about criminal records and checks are carried out by the Home Office. Many people with a criminal record feel nervous about applying and are worried they will be refused.

Having a criminal record should not put you off applying

If you have not applied for settled or pre-settled status by 30 June 2021, you will not be able to continue living and working in the UK.

You must make an application if you want to continue living in the UK

It's important to apply as soon as you can

The deadline is 30 June 2021, but you should apply as soon as possible

After 31 December 2020 you might be asked to prove your right to do things like get a job or use the NHS

If you have lived in the UK for 5+ years and have no unspent convictions:

Your criminal record is unlikely to be a barrier to settled or pre-settled status.

Spent convictions do not need to be declared. There appear to be no obvious downsides to declaring a conviction that didn't need to be declared

If you have unspent convictions, or you have lived in the UK for less than 5 years:

You are asked to declare unspent convictions and overseas convictions as part of the application process.

You should get specialist advice to support you with your application

Find out more

We have published information about the EU Settlement Scheme for applicants with a criminal record. This has more details on the key points above, as well as details of organisations that can provide specialist advice. You can read the information online at hub.unlock.org.uk/settledstatus

About Unlock

Unlock is a charity for people with criminal records. We have been working to help secure the rights of EU nationals to settled status in the UK by ensuring that a criminal record does not unfairly exclude them.