# Brexit: implications for EEA nationals

@jamiejkerr 15 December 2016





#### The Scene



### The Vote



"Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?"

UK voted to <u>leave</u> on 23 June 2016



## The Question

So, what does Brexit mean?



#### The UK Answer

"Brexit means Brexit" – Prime Minister



#### The Scottish Answer

Brexit does not mean Brexit – FM



#### What does it mean?



## Implications?

- Uncertainty for Europeans in UK?
- Uncertainty for UK nationals in Europe?
- Restrictions on working for Europeans?
- Rights of Residence denied?
- Labour shortages?
- End of Free Movement of People?
- Border Closed (temporarily)?



#### Reassurances

"My message today – to EU citizens and to their representatives in Scotland - remains simple. Scotland is your home, you are welcome and your contribution to our economy, our society and our culture is valued...A strong starting point is a clear message from me to EU citizens that wherever they live and whatever they do, they are welcome here, now and in the future."

- First Minister, July 2016



#### Reassurances

- "It will, as I say, be a feature of any future negotiation to determine the status of EU citizens within the United Kingdom and of British citizens within the EU'
  - Lord Keen of Elie (Advocate General for Scotland), June 2016

#### **EEA** nationals in UK

 EEA nationals <u>only</u> have a right to reside in the UK as long as they are a 'qualified person':-

- Employed (including job seeking)
- Self-Employed
- Studying
- Financially Self-Sufficient



#### **EEA Nationals in UK**

 Home Office require those studying or financially self-sufficient to have comprehensive sickness insurance in place

 Most do not have, leading to complications at permanent residence stage

## Why register?

- "I've lived here for years"
- "But I have a job here and pay tax"
- "We own properties here"
- "We own a business"
- "I have British children"
- "Why would I be asked to leave?"
- "Why should I pay to register?"



## Register Now

- Certify a right of residence by applying for an EEA Residence Card
  - £65
- Apply for Permanent Residence (5 Years)
  - £65
  - Complexities regarding sickness insurance
- Apply for British nationality (6 years)
  - £1,236
  - Need a PR Card first (apparently)



#### Practicalities

- Apply for "highest" category possible
- Confirms your status in the UK
- Avoid delays with sudden surge of applications to the Home Office e.g. when Article 50 triggered
  - Currently up to 6 8 months for each type of application
- Beware of absences
  - 6 months total in any year loss of continued residence
  - 2 years continuous absence loss of permanent residence
  - 450 days over 5 years (qualifying period) not eligible for naturalisation



## **Application Forms**

- Residence Card/ Registration Certificate
  - Form EEA (QP) EEA national
  - Form EEA (FM) Direct family members
  - Form EEA (EFM) Extended family members
- Permanent Residence Card (5 years min)
  - Form EEA (PR)
- British citizenship (6 years minimum)
  - Form AN Adults
  - Form MN1 Children



### Future solutions?

- European Economic Area
  - Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein
  - Continued free movement of people, goods and services
  - Membership of single market but not member of EU – similar to status quo
- European Free Trade Area
  - Switzerland
  - Free movement of people and some goods
  - Separate agreements



## Future solutions?

- Customs Union
  - Turkey, Andorra, Monaco, and San Marino
  - Covers industrial and manufactured goods
  - Access to single market for certain products
  - No free movement of persons
- World Trade Organisation Model
  - Pay tariff to export to EU countries and subject to restrictions
  - No free movement of persons



# Future solutions? (continued)

- Free Trade Agreement
  - Third party access to EU (Korea/Canada etc)
  - Many years of negotiation due to complexities
  - Comprehensive (but not complete) tariff free trade in goods
  - No free movement of persons



## Questions





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