



Home Office

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP  
Minister of State for Immigration

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Neil O'Brien MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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*Dear Neil*

Thank you for your letter of 16 October on behalf of Mr Mike Oliver of Brooke House College, Market Harborough, LE16 7AU about the rights of EU citizens studying in the UK after the UK leaves the European Union (EU).

As your constituent is aware, the UK and EU have reached an agreement regarding the terms of the planned implementation period from when the UK leaves the EU on 29 March 2019, to 31 December 2020. The agreement will give citizens the time they need to put in place the new arrangements required, as the terms of our future partnership become clearer. During the implementation period, those who come to the UK will be covered by the Withdrawal Agreement, meaning they will be able to live, work and study in the UK as they can now.

Regarding the specific concerns of students returning to schools after the school holidays, education law does not permit a child to be removed from the roll of his or her state-funded or independent school when going home for the Easter holiday (they could only be removed for disciplinary reasons following formal procedures). We understand the importance of education for both UK and EU citizens, and this is not something we wish to interrupt.

I also understand your constituent's concern at the possible event of a no deal scenario, but I would like to reiterate that the Government has always been clear that citizens' rights is a top priority. EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and to our society. The Prime Minister and Home Secretary have been clear that – while we are all working hard towards achieving a deal – in the event of no deal, all EU citizens resident in the UK by 29 March 2019 will be able to stay, their rights will be protected and they will be able to live their lives broadly as they do now.

We are considering a number of options for the unlikely event that we reach March 2019 without a deal and will set out more information shortly.

If your constituent would like to read more about the UK's future relationship with the EU they can do so here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-future-relationship-between-the-united-kingdom-and-the-european-union>.

I hope this information is of assistance to your constituent.

*Yours ever*  
*Caroline*

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