

## Agenda – Y Pwyllgor Materion Allanol a Deddfwriaeth Ychwanegol

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Lleoliad:	I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch a:
Fideo Gynadledda via Zoom	Alun Davidson
Dyddiad: Dydd Llun, 1 Chwefror 2021	Clerc y Pwyllgor
Amser: 14.00	0300 200 6565
	<a href="mailto:SeneddMADY@senedd.cymru">SeneddMADY@senedd.cymru</a>

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Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 34.19, dywedodd y Cadeirydd ei fod wedi penderfynu gwahardd y cyhoedd o gyfarfod y Pwyllgor er mwyn diogelu iechyd y cyhoedd.

Bydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei ddarlledu'n fyw ar [www.senedd.tv](http://www.senedd.tv)

### Cyfnod cofrestru

(13.30–14.00)

- 1 Cyflwyniad, ymddiheuriadau, dirprwyon a datgan buddiannau**  
(14.00)
- 2 Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog 17.42(vi) i benderfynu gwahardd y cyhoedd o eitem 3 ac eitemau 6 i 9**  
(14.00)
- 3 Fframwaith cyffredin dros dro ar hylendid a diogelwch bwyd a bwyd anifeiliaid – briffio technegol**  
(14.00–14.30) (Tudalennau 1 – 35)  
Emily Miles – Yr Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd  
Nathan Barnhouse – Yr Asiantaeth Safonau Bwyd

### Egwyl

(14.30–14.40)



- 4 Cymru yn y Deyrnas Unedig – trafodaeth bord gron gydag academyddion**  
(14.40–16–10) (Tudalennau 36 – 50)  
Yr Athro Nicola McEwen – Prifysgol Caeredin  
Akash Paun – Institute for Government  
Yr Athro Daniel Wincott – Prifysgol Caerdydd
- 5 Papurau i’w nodi**  
(16.10–16.15)
- 5.1 Papur i’w nodi 1: Papur briffio Cyngor ar Bopeth Cymru: newidiadau i ryddid i symud ar ôl Brexit**  
(Tudalennau 51 – 68)
- 5.2 Papur i’w nodi 2: Gohebiaeth gan Lywydd Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau Ewropeaidd a Llywydd Grŵp Cyswllt Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau y DU â Llywydd y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd ynghylch y Cytundeb Masnach a Chydweithrediad.**  
(Tudalennau 69 – 71)
- 6 Cymru yn y Deyrnas Unedig – trafod y dystiolaeth**  
(16.15–16.30)
- 7 Cytundebau rhyngwladol**  
(16.30–16.40) (Tudalennau 72 – 78)
- 8 Trafod y dogfennau cryno ar y Fframweithiau Cyffredin a ddaeth i law**  
(16.40–16.50) (Tudalennau 79 – 80)
- 9 Y berthynas â'r UE yn y dyfodol**  
(16.50–17.00) (Tudalennau 81 – 85)

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

# Eitem 4

Yn rhinwedd paragraff(au) vi o Reol Sefydlog 17.42

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

**cyngor ar  
bopeth**

**citizens  
advice**

# EALC Changes to freedom of movement after Brexit

Item 5.1  
January 2021

Citizens Advice Cymru are pleased to provide an update briefing for the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee's review of the Inquiry Freedom of Movement after Brexit.

We would like to provide evidence to members of the Committee from the perspective of our Welsh Government funded EU Citizens Rights project which is geared towards providing information, guidance, advice to EU/EEA/Swiss nationals and their families with EU Settlement Scheme applications (OISC Level 1 casework) and also specialist advice to ensure they understand their workplace rights and are able to challenge exploitation. Please see the [service homepage](#) for further details.

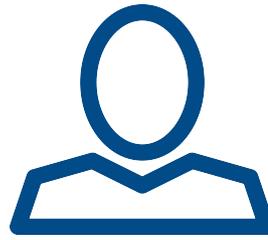
We have participated in both rounds of focus groups, the initial round in 2019 and the most recent on the 13 January 2021 to support the committees final deliberations on the inquiry. We hope this briefing will provide an useful addition to the input to these sessions on the basis of our client's experiences.

**The EU Citizens Rights Service is available on 0300 3309 059 between 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday**

***If you have questions or would like more information on the content of this briefing, please contact:***  
[\*\*\*policy.cymru@citizensadvice.org.uk\*\*\*](mailto:policy.cymru@citizensadvice.org.uk)

## Project Statistics

Since the project's inception:



**We have supported over 2,000 clients**

**With 8,263 issues**



**Including 4,230 immigration and asylum cases**  
(which also involves EUSS applications)

**And, 3,300 employment issues**



The majority of these cases are to deal with issues around settled and pre-settled status and linked issues, including the immediate challenges of completing applications through a digital process and the required documentation to achieve this; access to benefits and housing, along with fair employment practices.

# Common Issues

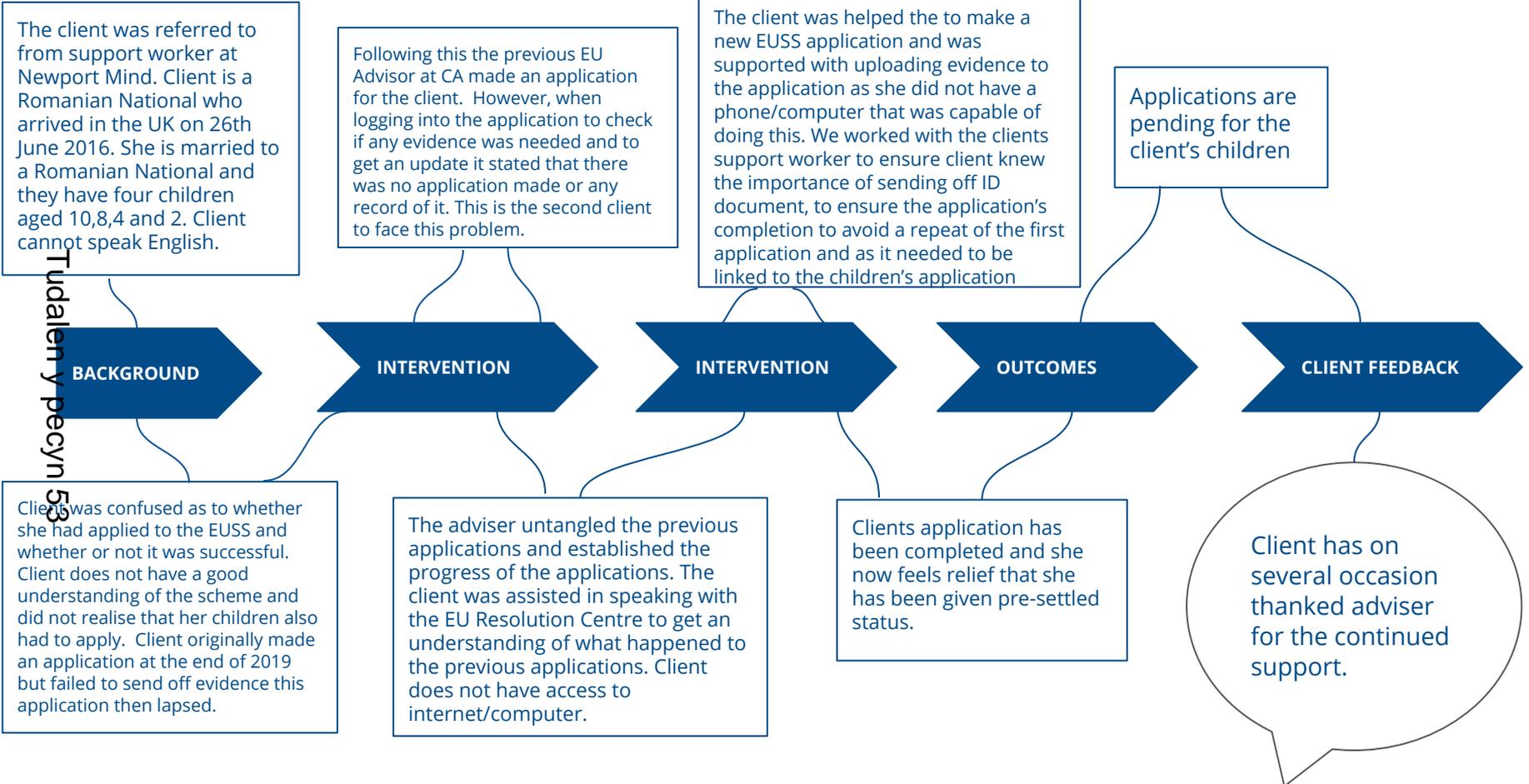
We have appended a **selection of case studies** that bring to life these common issues and can be listed below, most of which are related to UK government policy and procedures but have a significant effect on our clients.

- **I.T:** Many clients don't have access to the right smartphone, are not confident in sending of documentation (especially national ID cards, passports or birth certificates) to the Home Office
- **Facial recognition technology:** On these apps have been discriminatory for BAME in the fact it can take several takes/photos to be accepted.
- **Accessing benefits:** EEA nationals living in the UK have to prove that they are eligible to receive benefits. If an EEA national has been living in the UK for 5 years or more, they can apply for settled status. This automatically means they have a right to reside and should be able to access benefits. However, our evidence forms show that clients with settled status are still regularly being rejected for benefits in error by the DWP. We are also seeing an increasing number of people who are refused Universal Credit who can demonstrate their pre-settled status but are struggling to evidence their "right to reside" and often find themselves in a situation without recourse to public funds if they cannot access our support. Our recent report [Nowhere to Turn](#) (Section 2) provides further detail of this evidence on the issue of "Right to reside and the HRT for EEA migrants" and makes the recommendation that the Habitual Residence Test should be temporarily suspended from the application process for benefits such as Universal Credit.
- **Problems with accessing an NI number:** and therefore gaining employment. Employers should be accepting an EU passport as evidence of right to work, but some employers are refusing jobs for clients without NI numbers, causing more problems around integration, especially around benefit eligibility and the need to obtain worker status on pre-settled status to be eligible for the means tested benefits.
- **Further Information:** They have also seen an increase in EU citizens being asked to provide further identification at job interviews when passports have been provided, which has continued to pose a problem and causes concern for future employment practice being directly or indirectly discriminatory.
- **Long Waiting Times:** Clients have experienced long waiting times to try and get an appointment with embassies to renew national ID cards or passports that have expired in order to be able to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme online. Multiple embassies are not answering calls, or responding to our clients' emails when individuals try to make direct contact with their Embassy.
- **Evidence:** The fact that Settled or Pre-Settled status can only be evidenced by a Home Office email/correspondence without a physical "status" or "identity" card is likely to cause problems for many citizens (particularly those who are digitally excluded or illiterate) wanting to upgrade their status from pre-settled to settled in the future, and/or to access public services and jobs.

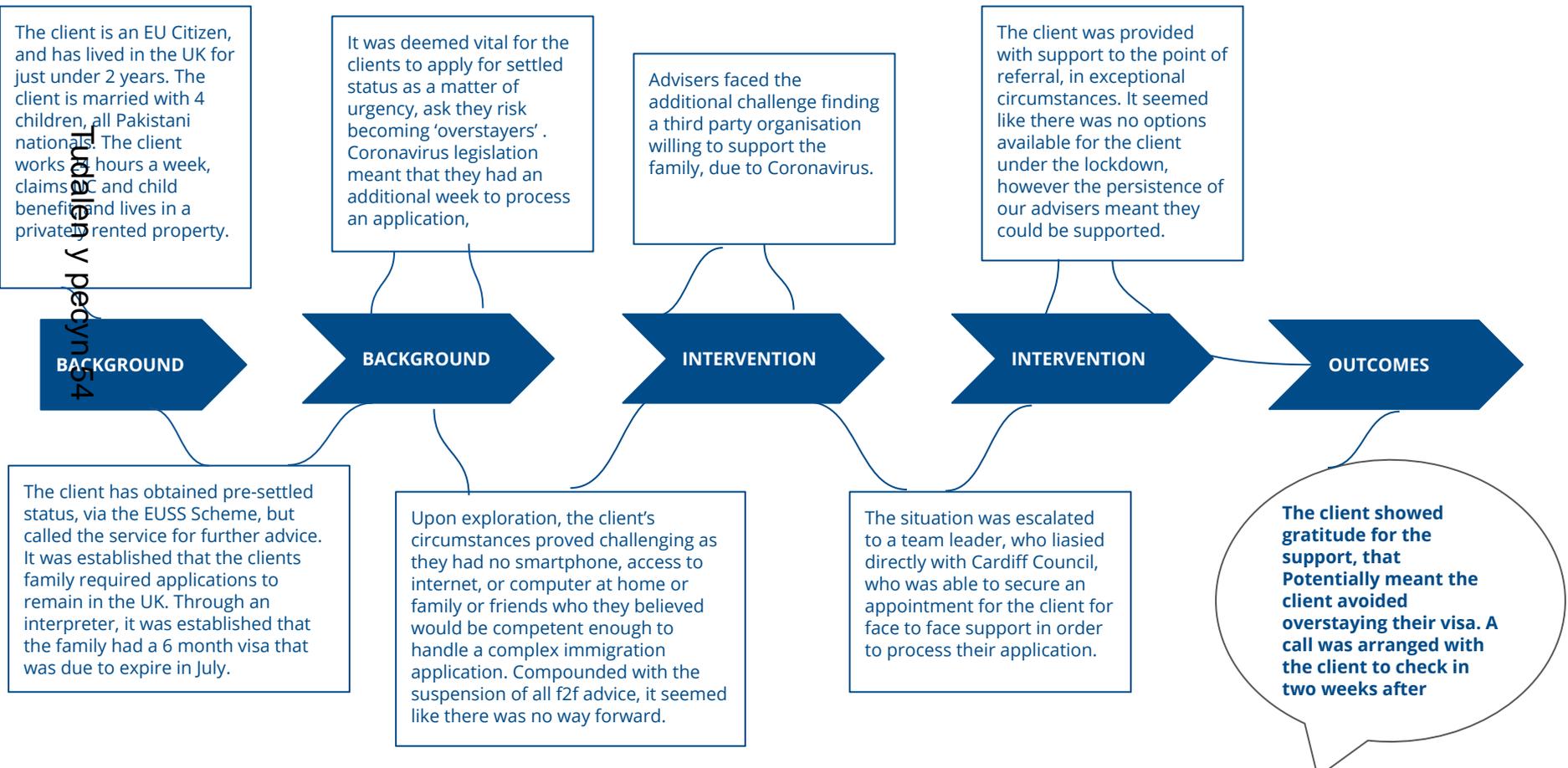
# Recommendations

- ① The Welsh Government should seek to fund a sustainable and accessible immigration advice services to enable that non UK citizens (including those who would have qualified for the EUSS) to have continued support around their immigration status, accessing public services and general citizenship support post the grace period, especially in light of the approach taken with the Nation of Sanctuary Plan, the investment made to support EU citizens with their EUSS applications under the banner "We want you to stay in Wales" and the right to vote in local and Senedd elections for Qualifying Foreign Citizens.
- ② We would suggest that all Government departments review their facial recognition technology for the public so that it is non-discriminatory and look to introduce UK identity Cards for those with settled and pre-settled status.
- ③ Habitual Residence Test should be temporarily suspended from the application process for benefits such as Universal Credit.

# Digital Exclusion and issues with EUSS updates/outcomes



# Family of 5 supported with third country applications despite lockdown challenges



# Assisting family with EUSS & UC applications during Covid 19

The family are EU Nationals and have one child who is 18 months old. The family contacted the service through the EUSS Helpline. The father had been laid off work before the Covid 19 lockdown and mum was at home looking after the baby. The family were struggling financially, felt isolated with nowhere to turn for help.

The clients were given an EU Settlement WhatsApp appointment within 48 hours and in meantime were sent the "How to Make and Application for Settlement" in their preferred language of Romanian familiarise themselves with the process of making an application.

The Child had a temporary passport and at a distance it was not possible to get this through the system

The clients were also provided with additional information on making a Mandatory Reconsideration on their UC outcome, and were referred to the Help to Claim team for additional support.

**The family really appreciated the help and they felt they were not alone with their problems. They now understand how to get help and what to expect from the service.**



The Dad did not know how to check the status of his application and had done all he could, and also needed to make an application for his wife and infant child. There was additional urgency to this as the family were refused Universal Credit under the habitual residence test in February.

On exploration it became apparent that the Dad's EU Application for pre-settlement was complete but client need to send his non-biometric ID to EU Settlement Resolution Centre. The Mum was also supported with an application and had to follow the same steps to finalise her application.

It was explained to the clients that they would receive a text to confirm when they can send their ID's to the Settlement Centre, and in the meantime their applications will remain open, and Newport CA offered a follow up call to check if they needed further support with the child's application.

The clients were provided with a direct line number to the Newport CA for support. Despite the challenges of lockdown, the clients were offered a holistic service that tackled both their Settled Status and UC issue,

# Immigration rules creating conflict within EU Nationals' families.

Tudalen y pecyn 56

The client is an EU national and her partner is a UK Citizen who have lived together for 25 years. They have two children both born in the UK. The parent's research suggests their youngest child is automatically a UK citizen.

At an EU Event the client is supported to apply for settled status, and supported with their questions regarding the status of their child. They called the Citizens Advice immigration Helpline at the event to confirm their child's status .

The client is supported with their own Settled Status application and referred to MIND to complete an application for sponsored settlement for their eldest child, while one of our own volunteers researches alternative ways to secure the child's status.

The family were supported with settled status for the EU National parent and given a way forward for their child, who now had the tools and information to seek full UK citizenship.

## BACKGROUND

## INTERVENTION

## INTERVENTION

## OUTCOMES

## OUTCOMES

They suspected that the older child is not, simply by the fact that their parents are not married and the child was born before 2006. The client is really distressed and the situation causes conflict between the two siblings, as the older child would wish to identify as a UK Citizen.

It was confirmed that the youngest child was automatically a UK citizen, due to being born after 30th April 2006, but the oldest was not as their parents weren't married and the child was born between 1983 and 2006.

Our research finds a possible affordable and way that the client can apply for citizenship on behalf of their child on the basis of their father's status as a UK National, potentially saving time and money for the client.

**The family now has clarity on their status and can now go on to resolve the 'inequality' between their children that had divided their family for a number of years.**

# Victim of domestic abuse supported with Settled Status application

The client is an EU National with young children and not working, due to childcare. The client is living with an abusive partner.

The client is referred by a the Domestic Abuse and Safety unit, and made an appointment with the project to support her with a Settled Status application.

The client has lived in the UK for over 5 years therefore is granted settled status, which means she can prove her right to reside in order to claim benefits.

The client expressed her relief and confidence that she could return to Citizens Advice for further support in future.

Tudalen y pecyn 5

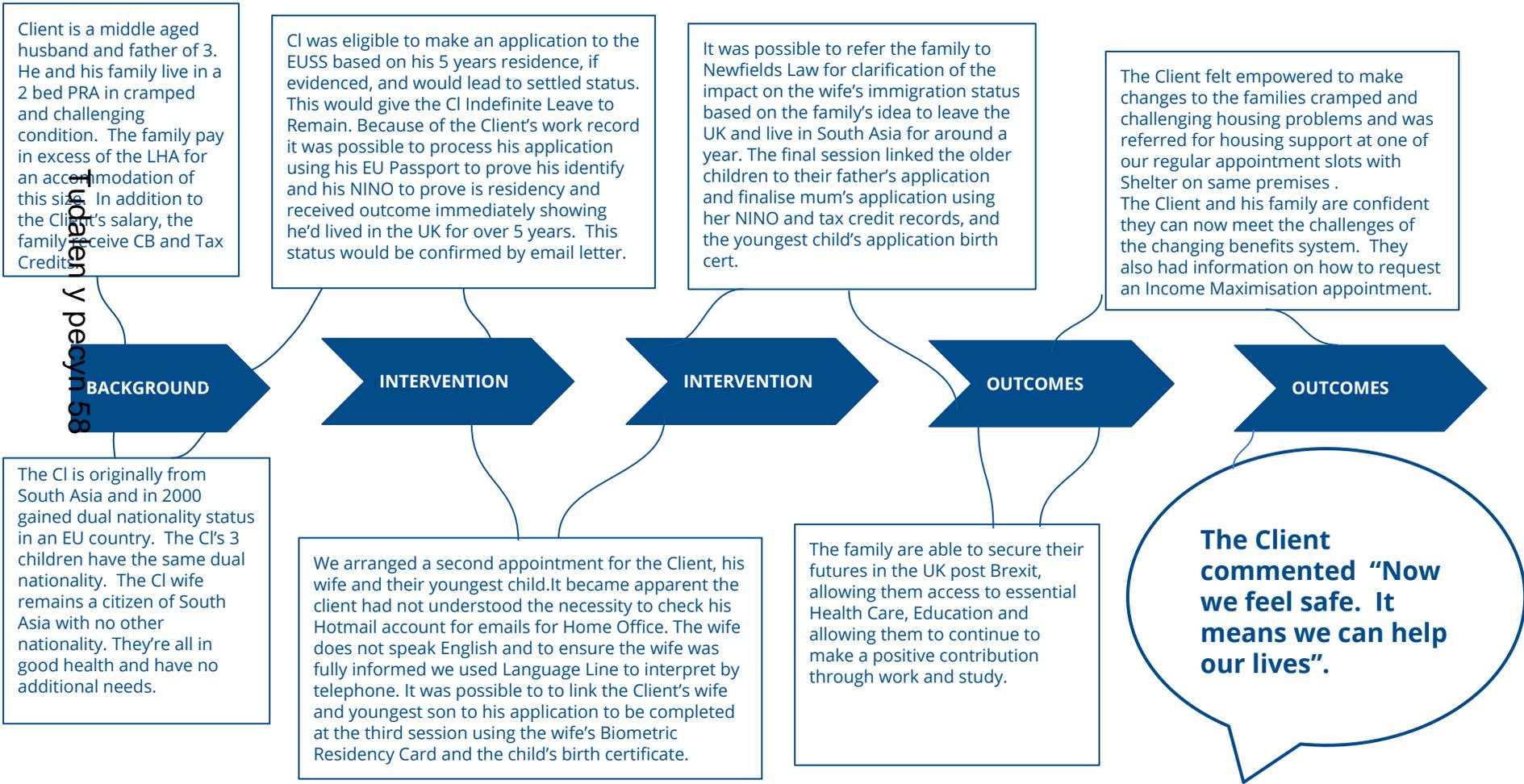


The client is considering leaving her partner but fears she will not be able to claim benefits and said she would struggle to prove her right to reside in order to claim benefits.

The client requires further evidence for her application and is supported to gather this in order to submit the application.

The client can now be confident that she will be supported when the time is right for her to leave her partner.

# Securing the future of a South Asian man with EU passport and his family



# Helping Spanish national recover 121 hours of salary and enable him to stay in the UK

CL is Spanish and has been staying in the UK since 26th July 2019. CL had just finished his Master's degree and has come to the UK to improve his English and work a bit. He spoke English but not fully fluent. Translation was needed at times.

By the time CL came to Citizens Advice he had been dismissed from his job and had worked around 121 hours but not received any payment. CL was struggling with his income and could not get a response from his former employer.

The manager was also informed that CL has got NI ref number so there was no issue with HMRC.  
The manager then agreed that if CL went to the restaurant after service had finished on Sunday he would receive his pay.

CL said he was very happy and grateful for all the help he had received.  
CL seemed more positive with his situation and time living in the UK.



CL had been working at a restaurant in Cardiff Bay at the start of August. He was told he would be paid weekly however he was never paid though he kept chasing this up. As CL was living at a hostel in Cardiff he had to use up his personal savings to cover the cost of his time in the UK even though he was working.

CL provided the names of the owner and manager at the restaurants. Checked the numbers online and contacted the manager at the restaurant. It was explained that CL had worked over 120 hours and had not been paid and they were in breach of contract for this. The breaches came from no payslips, not sticking to pay dates and most importantly not providing the payment for work done.

CL went to the restaurant on Sunday before the August Bank Holiday and was provided with a cheque of all the monies that he owed and was paid £800 after tax. This meant CL could pay his rent and also pay back into his savings that he had lost. As CL could pay rent he could stay in the UK and not have to return to Spain.



Tudalen 59

# Bulgarian national granted settled status within 24 hours with LCA help

Client was from Bulgaria. And has lived in the UK since July 2013. Client lives here with her 12 year old daughter and had been self-employed doing hair/beauty work. Client wanted to remain in the UK on a long term basis.

## BACKGROUND

Client attended an appointment as she was concerned that she was going to be asked to leave the UK when Brexit happens. Client was unsure of the process and needed help as she has heard lots of conflicting information.

We assisted client with applying via the Android app so that she did not need to post her documents off. An initial check was done on client's NI number which showed she had been living in the UK for over 5 years and therefore did not need to provide any further evidence.

## INTERVENTION

Client was granted settled status. within 24 hours.

## OUTCOMES

Client was so relieved to have been granted settled status & that the process was simple in her case as she did not have to provide any evidence & heard back within 24 hours.

## OUTCOMES

# Misinformation leads to client (and his friends) being unaware of the need to apply for EUSS

Tudalen y pecyn 61

The client is from Lithuania and has lived in the UK for around 10 years, and lives with his partner in a privately rented property.

The client and his partner attended a welfare benefits appointment in Flintshire, at which, the client was asked if he had applied for Settled Status. The client explained that his partner had applied for pre-settled status, as she had been in the UK for less than 5 years.

We were able to explain the EU Settlement Scheme to the client and make sure that he had the correct information, and clarify any misleading messages they had received.

The client could then share the correct information with his community and friends, who had misunderstood the information they had heard in the news.

BACKGROUND

INTERVENTION

INTERVENTION

OUTCOMES

OUTCOMES

The client's partner has health conditions so he cares for her around his job, he works full time via an agency.

The client explained that he and several of his friends were under the impression that they didn't need to apply if they had been in the country more than 5 years.

We completed an EU Settlement Scheme application, and based on his NI Number, they were also able to see that the client had been living in the UK for more than 5 years and therefore was granted settled status (rather than pre-settled status).

**Client said he would have had no idea that he needed to do anything if we had not informed him and he could now make sure his friends do the same thing.**

# EU Citizen supported with numerous issues raised by his application

Client is an EU National. He is a husband and father of three children all under the age of 12. The Client arrived in the UK in 2014 and did not speak any English and immediately found work through word of mouth.

Tudalen y pecyn 62

The client attended an EU Settlement appointment for himself and his family members and was supported with an application. The client was asked to provide additional evidence because his residence could not be evidenced through his National Insurance Record as the record his incomplete.

The client was very anxious about his situation and felt he could not trust what he was being told. The adviser was able to refer him internally to Newport Citizens Advice Debt Specialist Team, which provided him with a seamless in house support on several of his issues.

Client's well-being has improved because he does not feel he is alone with his problem and feels more confident about dealing with it because he felt he was believed.



The client like many of his fellow nationals, had worked in a car-wash and was paid in cash and told the "Accountant" was dealing with NI and Tax payments. The client explained this "Accountant" is now serving a prison sentence and the car wash business no longer exists.

During the course of the appointment the Client disclosed he has been asked to repay over £20K in Working Tax Credits. This repayment is being claimed because the client had been deemed not to have been working due to being paid cash in hand from his employer, and having no records.

The experience of in house debt advice means he had a real chance of managing this debt and moving forward in his and his family's life in the UK. With ongoing support, it's hoped that the client can properly evidence his rights to stay in the UK.

# Dismissal during notice period leaves Polish client underpaid

The client is Polish and had been living in the UK since 2007. He is married with a 3 year old son. The client had been working for a company for 11 years in quality control.

However, the client received a letter on 8th August stating as of 17th July he was no longer employed, but the client did not give his notice until 22nd July.

**Client visits Citizens Advice Cardiff and Vale for support**

We wrote a letter and spoke to the employer regarding the money owed. They stated the issue was with their solicitor. Due to being close to the deadline, after a week of no answer, the client was assisted in ACAS early conciliation.

**The client was very happy with the help and grateful with the help and grateful to get the money he wanted**



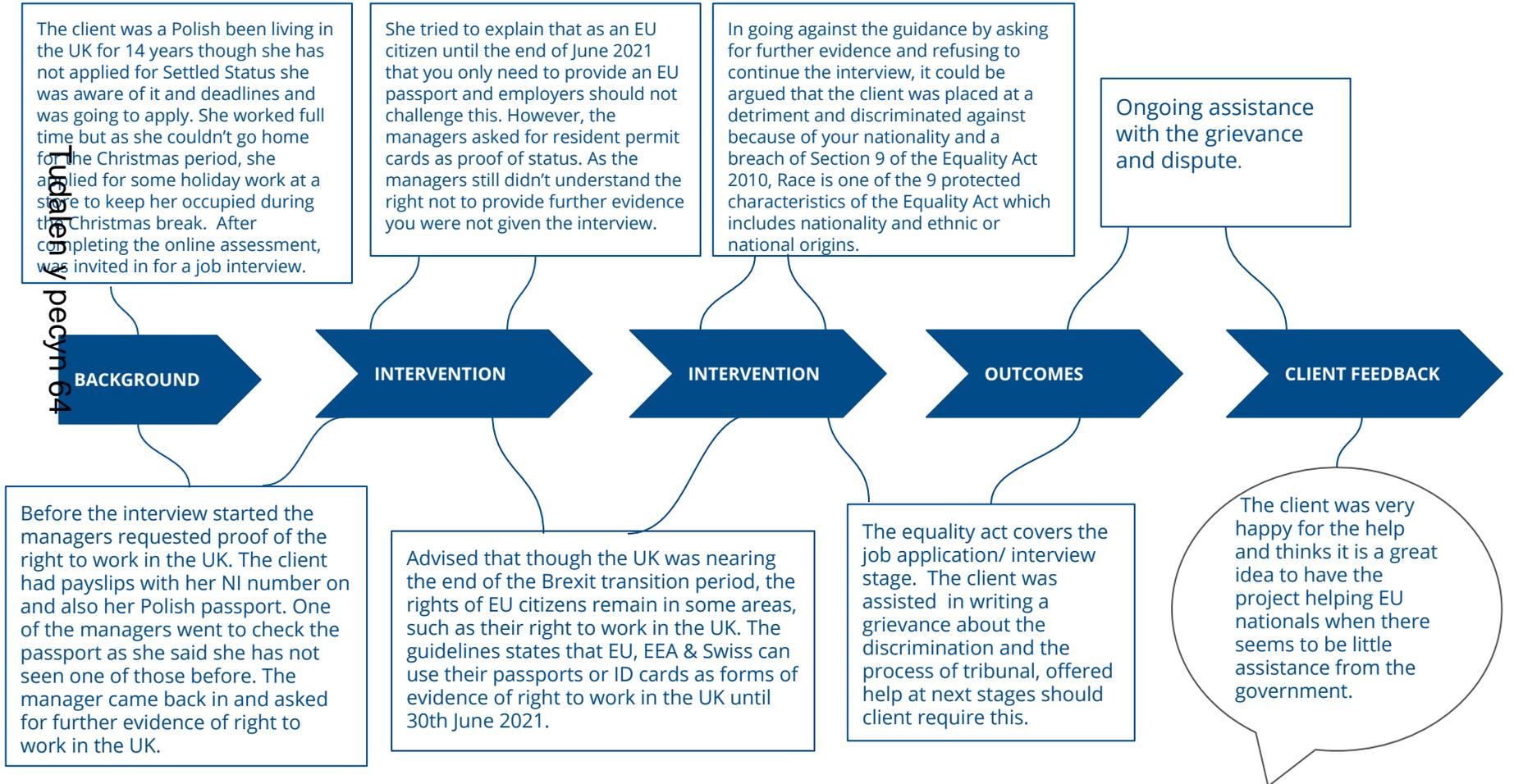
The client was signed off sick for a total of 4 weeks and provided his manager with sick notes. As the client was struggling with a bad back he decided he would hand in his notice with his final sick note taking him up to the end date. Notice was handed to HR and his boss accepted.

In his final pay, money was deducted for holidays owed, and no other payment was made. The client did not hear from his employer bar the letter, and no meeting was held. The client wanted £94.25 and £400 for a weeks notice of pay.

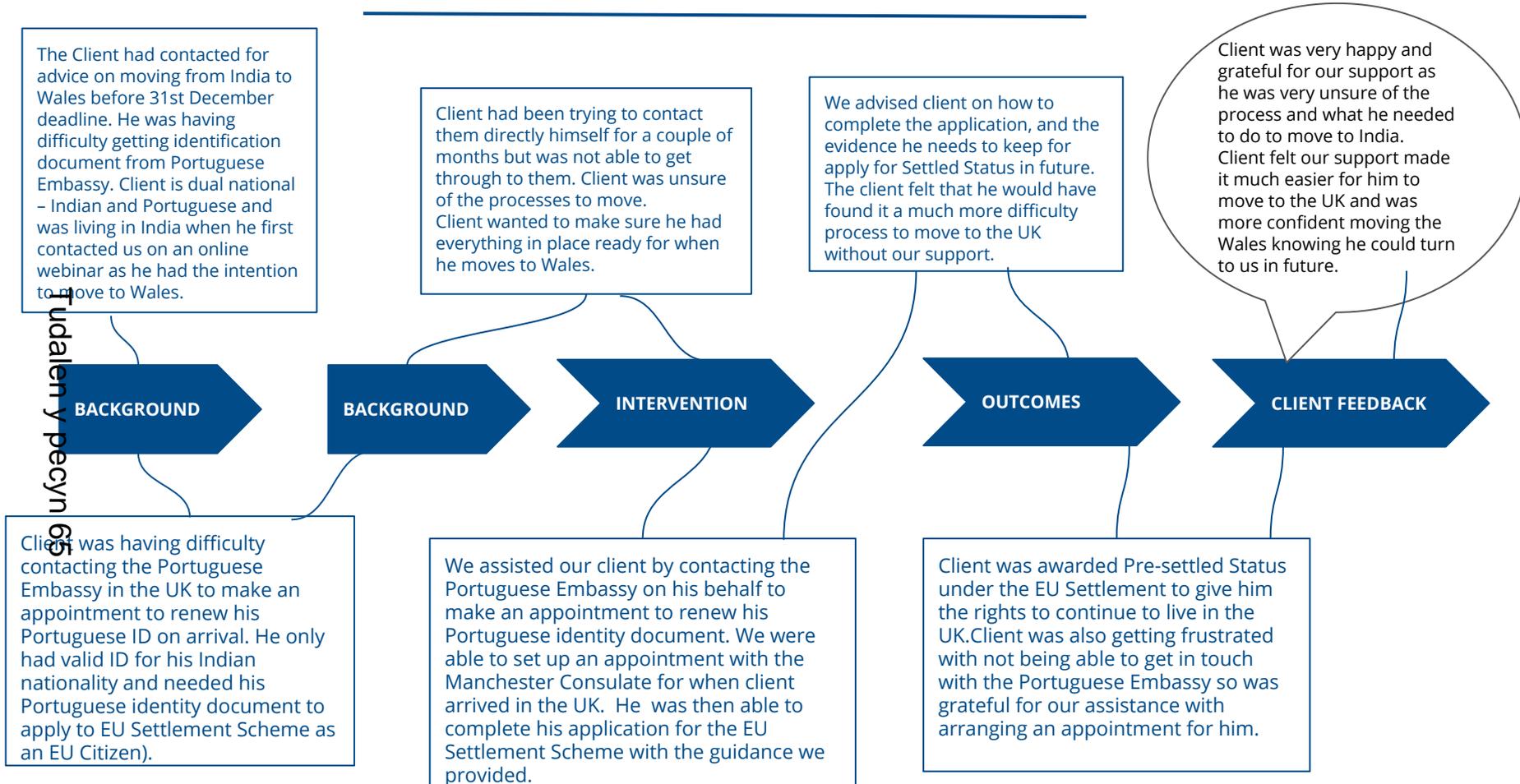
The client was advised that the employer didn't follow a fair procedure for dismissal, so would have grounds to challenge this. As the client gave two weeks' notice and the employer cut the notice period short that would be classed as the employer terminating the contract, meaning they would not have to pay for the week in lieu of notice.

The client was empowered by Citizens Advice, and after an early conciliation call from ACAS and the client received the £494.25 that he wanted and gained an understanding of his rights.

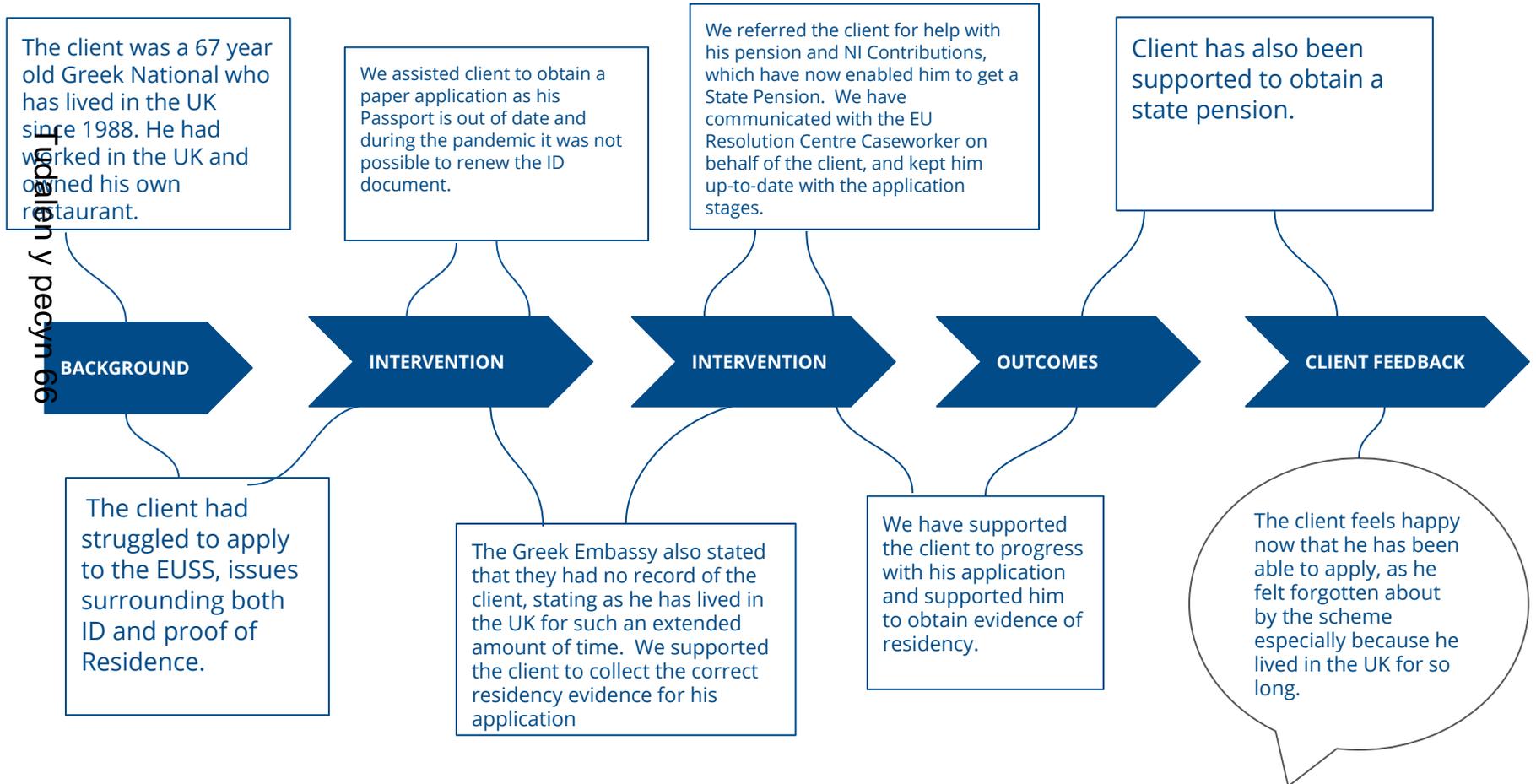
# Polish national wrongly requested proof of right to work in the UK



# Dual Nationality



# Greek national who has lived in the UK since 1988



# Surrinder Singh case law EUSS application

Client stated that she was a Swiss national, formerly Iraqi. She had been in the UK since January, formerly living in Sweden and Switzerland.

The client had telephoned with her partner and enquired about her obligations to apply to the EUSS. She and her partner stated they had begun a paper form application and wanted some clarification while going through the form. She was also advised she would be ineligible for means-tested benefits until she can show she has obtained worker status, by doing significant work within the UK for a consistent period.

After inspecting the documents provided by the client face to face, a Swedish residence card was provided along with evidence of residency. It was also established that his partner stated that she is an Iraqi national and not Swiss.

The client was also advised that this type of application would fall into the OISC Level 2 grouping, referral to Newfield's law.

Client consented and accepted referral to Newfield's Law.

Tudalen y pecyn 67

BACKGROUND

Client wasn't claiming benefits and was not working. She was living with her husband (British) in privately rented property. The client didn't have children and was married.

INTERVENTION

After being told of her nationality as a Swiss citizen, the client was advised under the normal EUSS process for pre-settled status as client stated she has been here from Jan 2020. The client and her partner, who were frustrated and confused with the paper-form process, were advised that for a simple application within the rules should be completed online, and the relevant ID to be scanned with the EU Exit app.

INTERVENTION

Client advised that a Surrinder Singh application is where a non-EEA national exercised treaty rights in an EU country with an EU or British national. So as there are periods spent living in Switzerland and Sweden, she could be eligible under this route.

OUTCOMES

CLIENT FEEDBACK

Client was satisfied that we identified the error and didn't complete and ineligible application. The client was happy to be offered a referral for free specialist advice.

# Pregnancy Discrimination

The client had been working as dental nurse from 11 June 2018 and was dismissed on 8th November 2019 as the dentist/owner said it was not working for him. The client returned from holiday on 17th August and the boss gave her a hug and said it was good to have her back.

Hydaden y pecyn 68

BACKGROUND

The client was rushed to hospital for bleeding and was signed off by the doctor for two weeks. The client states a nurse said they over heard that the owner complaining that CL taking another week off.

BACKGROUND

The client went into work the day of her dismissal and was made aware that other staff were aware that she was going to be dismissed and were aware of her pay out.

BACKGROUND

Client was assisted in raising an appeal and ACAS Early Conciliation. Neither were successful so a claim to an Employment Tribunal was submitted. The Client was assisted and represented on this case along with the settlement negotiations. A settlement of £1,000 was initially offered as a good will gesture. However, a final settlement of £6,500 (tax free) was along with a reference.

INTERVENTION

OUTCOMES

That night, the client found out that she was pregnant and told her boss the next day due to safety reasons as she couldn't use the dental practice X-ray machine. He then stormed off and told the receptionist. CL has had 12 miscarriages previously so sensitive about telling people.

There was no risk assessment done and he asked the client to undertake cleaning, which involved climbing.

Client feels since she told the owner that she was pregnant that his attitude changed and he became very rude to her, bullying and belittling.

Client thinks the only reason she was dismissed was the timing as she became pregnant when two other nurses were already pregnant and would be going on a maternity at the same time as the other two.

The client has been very grateful for all the help over a very stressful time and appreciated the support on the claim itself. She is also very happy with the settlement outcome.

Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

As you know, the European Committee of the Regions intends to play an active role in fostering relations with the UK through the political work of the CoR-UK Contact Group which I have the honor of chairing. We aim to ensure the continuation of dialogue between EU and UK local and regional authorities, devolved parliaments and assemblies, representing their interests and contributing to the development of the new relationship with the UK.

At our recent CoR-UK Contact group meeting on 11 January, we assessed the Trade and Cooperation Agreement concluded between the EU and the UK from the local and regional perspective. Members regretted in particular the lack of recognition of the important role of local and regional authorities in the implementation of the agreement and in the future EU-UK relations. They called for the participation of local and regional authorities (LRAs) in the structural bodies created under the agreement, or within a new specific body that would enable LRAs to be heard on a structural basis on issues of regional and local relevance.

In this regard, I would like to inform you about a letter we have recently sent to the President of the European Commission, Ms Ursula Von der Leyen, which I co-signed together with the President of the Committee of the Regions Mr Apostolos TZITZIKOSTAS. In this letter, a copy of which I attach for your information, we propose the structured involvement of local and regional authorities and our institution within the EU delegation to the Joint Partnership Council as a possible pragmatic approach. We have also sent similar letters to Mr McAllister, Chair of the European Parliament-UK Coordination Group and to Mr Michel, President of the European Council.

This letter may be of interest to you in your internal discussions on the role and participation of UK local government, devolved parliaments and assemblies in the future implementation of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

I look forward to meeting you at our next Contact Group meeting in July.

Kind regards,

Loïg CHESNAIS-GIRARD  
Chair of the CoR-UK Contact Group  
(President of the Regional Council of Brittany, France)



**European Committee  
of the Regions**

Brussels, 21 January 2021

PCAB/FT (2021) D123

Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission  
Rue de la Loi, 200  
1040 Brussels

Dear President,

The Trade and Cooperation Agreement agreed on 24 December 2020 between the EU and the UK marks the end of a period of uncertainty. We would therefore like to thank you and Mr Barnier for reaching an agreement that is in the interests of the European Union and its citizens. It sets the basis for future relations between the UK and the EU, provides guarantees on fair competition and to some extent appeases the concerns of those regions most exposed to the negative consequences of the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

However, the agreement does not solve all the problems resulting from the UK's withdrawal. The EU has lost an important Member in these trying times, when we instead need closer European solidarity and cooperation. It is our duty to rebuild trust in creating a new partnership with the UK, needed to tackle the major societal challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, most notably the post-Covid economic recovery. Local and regional authorities can help to foster this vital cooperation and mutual trust, building on the strong foundations of our long-existing cooperation with our counterparts in UK local government, devolved parliaments and assemblies.

It is therefore most regrettable that the Agreement does not foresee any specific or structured perspective for local and regional authorities, despite their important role in developing the new partnership, not only in economic and political terms, but also having regard to their competences. Indeed, local and regional authorities are only mentioned when it comes to adapting some points of the Agreement to regional conditions, or on very specific issues, such as fiscal provisions. In particular, the Agreement omits the participation of local and regional authorities in any of the codified governance structures. As the EU's political assembly of local and regional governments, we therefore ask that the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) be given the facility to formally represent local and regional authorities in the new partnership in a structured manner under the Agreement.

In this regard, we would like to propose the involvement of our institution within the EU delegation to the Joint Partnership Council as a possible pragmatic solution.

Our institutions will continue to play an active role in relations with the UK through the political work of our CoR-UK Contact Group (chaired by Loïg Chesnais-Girard) and through the consultative work of the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (chaired by Mark Speich) and Commission for Economic Policy (chaired by Michael Murphy). These political bodies will ensure the continuation of dialogue between EU and UK local and regional authorities, representing their interests and contributing to the development of the new relationship with the UK. We will monitor and analyse the territorial impact of Brexit, as well as the impact of the financial instruments designed to mitigate the consequences of the withdrawal, seeking to ensure the Brexit Adjustment Reserve matches the needs of local and regional authorities and that they are properly involved in the shaping of its implementing measures.

We believe that a strong cohesion policy, reinforced European territorial cooperation programmes such as Interreg, the PEACE programme and other instruments such as the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, should be further developed and promoted within the new relationship. In this context, our CoR-UK Contact Group will reflect on ways to ensure the continuity of our cooperation with UK's devolved administrations and local governance, including through the implementation of new tools of partnership, such as a possible future macro-regional strategy including the UK.

We look forward to our continued cooperation in this most important area.

Yours sincerely,



Apostolos TZITZIKOSTAS  
President of the European Committee of the Regions  
(Governor of Central Macedonia Region, Greece)



Loïg CHESNAIS-GIRARD  
President of the CoR-UK Contact Group  
(President of the Regional Council of Brittany, France)

Copy to: Mr Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission

# Eitem 7

Yn rhinwedd paragraff(au) vi o Reol Sefydlog 17.42

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