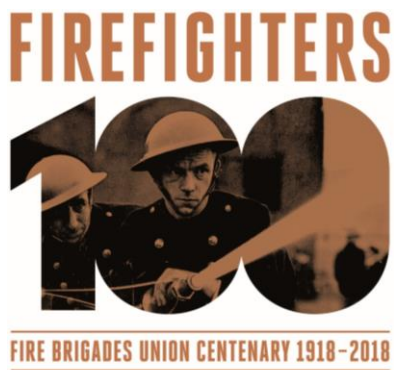




Matt Wrack General Secretary

Fire Brigades Union

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Our Ref: MW/sll

26 February 2018

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

Firefighters, former firefighters and the European Union

As the principal trade union for firefighters we are immensely proud of the work and commitment of all our members, those who are currently employees of fire and rescue services and those who have since retired from service duties following long careers protecting the public from fire and other dangers.

As a union we always understood that the series of discussions and negotiations to both ascertain whether a 'Brexit deal' was viable and to determine the detailed arrangements would not be a swift process. Following the European Union membership referendum in 2016, and despatch of the letter triggering Article 50 we noted with alarm the tit-for-tat exchange of comments between both parties at the negotiating table in respect of EU and EEA member-state nationals. Our members and officials alike expressed the view that it was distasteful that all the affected people, including our members, were being treated not as citizens but merely as a bargaining chip.

We have since noted the time-limited protections contained within the joint report on negotiations published on 8 December 2017. Whilst it is a small step-forward it does not provide sufficient or satisfactory guarantees or reassurance for our members - whether they be EU/EEA citizens resident in the UK or UK residents living in the UK/EEA. Our members require certainty that their right to remain and work in their chosen country are life-long for themselves and their families and not limited to a five year period from any cut-off date, currently 29 March 2019, with or without any extended transition period.

Contd/2...

We write to urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure that our members will be able to remain in the country they choose to call home and to remain working in the UK fire and rescue service.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Wrack', with a stylized, cursive script.

Matt Wrack
General Secretary

cc: The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP – Home Secretary

The Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP - Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service

The Rt Hon David Davis MP - Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP - Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

The Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP - Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade