**END OF FREE MOVEMENT TO THE UNITED KINGDOM**

On 31st December 2020 the EEA Regulations were revoked and EU free movement ended. As a result, EEA nationals and their family members will require permission to enter and remain in the UK.

* When will the changes come into effect?

From 1st July 2021 the changes will come into effect which brings EEA nationals into the referral scheme. This will be consistent with wider changes to treat EEA and non-EEA nationals equally within the UK’s future immigration system.

* Will there be any exemptions?

People with an immigration status granted under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) or with a pending application to the EUSS will be exempt from the referral scheme. Irish citizens will continue to be exempt from the referral scheme.

* What is the EUSS and what do EEA nationals need to do?

All EEA nationals and their family members lawfully resident in the UK before 31st December 2020 must regularise their immigration status by making an application to the EU Settlement Scheme before the deadline of 30th June 2021. If a couple approaches you to marry in your church before 30th June 2021 and one or both of them is an EEA national please ensure that they are referred to [www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families](http://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families) for further information.

* Where can a couple give notice?

All Register Offices in England and Wales will be designated for the purpose of giving notice and a couple within the scope of the referral scheme will be required to give notice together at a designated Register Office in the district where one or both of the parties reside.

* Who will this affect?

EEA nationals wishing to marry in an Anglican church who are neither British, Irish nor hold EUSS status will be required to give notice at a Register Office and will no longer be able to have banns read.

They may still marry in church once authority to marry is granted through civil preliminaries and they are issued with a Superintendent Registrar’s Certificate.

From 1st July 2021 a non-EEA national with EUSS status who marries another relevant national may have banns read.

* Evidence of nationality

EEA nationals will no longer be able to use their national identity cards as evidence of their nationality when giving notice to marry.

* What happens before 1st July 2021 when the changes come into force?

The current rules remain up to and including 30th June 2021. EEA nationals can continue to use their EEA passport or national identification card as evidence of their nationality during marriage preliminaries i.e. giving notice for banns, and will remain exempt from the referral scheme if they are seeking to marry another exempt person.

* Where can the couple and the minister find more guidance?

There will be guidance on GOV.UK and the Church of England will issue further guidance which will be available on the Church of England website. There will also be guidance on the diocesan website.

* Does it give couples enough notice to take these changes into account?

Five months’ notice will have been given which generally will be sufficient for couples to make the necessary arrangements bearing in mind those couple who are giving notice or having banns read before 1st July 2021 will continue their arrangements under the current system.