

[COVID-19 vaccine surveillance report published](#)

National coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine surveillance report, including estimated number of hospitalisations and deaths prevented.

[Weekly national flu and COVID-19 surveillance reports published](#)

National influenza and COVID-19 report, monitoring coronavirus (COVID-19) activity, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses.

[Thousands more citizens granted status through Settlement Scheme](#)

News story

The UK government continues to secure the rights of EU citizens through the EU Settlement Scheme as it urges those eligible to apply to make an application.



[Statistics released today](#) (Thursday 12 August) shows a further 144,100 applications were concluded in July. By 31 July 2021, 6,073,600 applications were received to the hugely successful scheme, with 58,200 applications received in the last month.

Preliminary nationality data shows the number of applications made by Polish and Romanian nationals before the 30 June deadline both topped one million while applications from Italian nationals hit more than 545,000.

The Home Office is continuing to encourage those who are eligible to [make a late application to the EU Settlement Scheme](#). Last week the [Home Office announced](#) those who make a late application will be granted temporary protection until their application is concluded.

Minister for Future Borders and Immigration Kevin Foster said:

I'm delighted thousands more EU citizens have had their status secured through our hugely successful EU Settlement Scheme and we continue to work as quickly as possible to conclude all applications received.

EU citizens in the UK can still make a late application to secure their rights and join the millions who have already been granted status under the EUSS.

Following a surge in applications ahead of the 30 June deadline, the government has taken steps to conclude applications as quickly as possible.

The Home Office has increased the number of caseworkers and Settlement Resolution Centre agents to help conclude applications and respond to queries as quickly as possible. Most non-complex applications are still being decided within five working days.

Late applications can still be made where there are reasonable grounds for missing the deadline. The Home Office will take a flexible and pragmatic approach when considering late applications and will continue to look for reasons to grant status rather than refuse.

The Home Office continues to reach out to and support those who may be eligible to apply. This includes:

- providing up to £22 million in grant funding to a network of 72 organisations across the UK to help the most vulnerable and hard to reach applicants secure their rights
- assisted digital support for those who are not confident with the online application process or do not have the technology to apply online
- the Home Office is also working with the Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs to reach out to people who may not realise that they need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

[Cracking down on criminals who target self-storage industry](#)

The Intellectual Property Office (IPO), National Trading Standards, London Trading Standards and the Self-Storage Association UK (SSAUK), have teamed up to launch a new code of practice. The initiative's aim is to reduce the appeal of self-storage facilities to criminals who deal in counterfeit and other illicit goods.

[‘The Tick Box: Keep it Real Keep it Legal’](#) code of practice sets out a few simple procedures. The aim is to prevent the fraudulent storage of counterfeit and other illicit or unsafe goods. It also helps self-storage facility owners be sure of who is really using their premises. Counterfeit goods are often seized in self-storage facilities, or on their way to them. This scheme helps self-storage facilities to identify the individuals behind the crimes. It also helps enforcement authorities recover the goods before they enter the marketplace.

The scheme is already yielding results. Targeted enforcement action has disrupted criminal networks. This has resulted in the seizure of thousands of counterfeit items. These are estimated to be worth millions of pounds to criminals.

Storage facilities that participate in the scheme are provided with the ‘Tick Box’ logo. Posters are displayed within the premises. These act as an assurance to legitimate customers and a deterrent to anyone attempting to store counterfeit goods.

Forty-five local and national self-storage providers have already signed up to the first phase of the code of practice. More than 1,200 self-storage facility staff have received additional training under the scheme. The next phase will see the scheme continue to be rolled out across the UK.

Trading Standards will be promoting the scheme to self-storage operators at the European Self-Storage Conference and Trade Show. It is being held in Birmingham on 20 and 21 September 2021.

IPO CEO, Tim Moss said:

Unsafe and illicit goods, such as counterfeits, create real social and environmental harms in our communities and criminals have used self-storage units as part of their activities. Self-storage providers signing up to the code of practice will now have absolute

confidence they are doing everything possible to deter criminals who target them in this way, while reassuring legitimate customers that their belongings are in safe hands.

I am delighted that the new code of practice is being co-delivered through an effective partnership between self-storage providers, government and local enforcement, complementing our comprehensive approach to disrupting IP crime.

SSA UK CEO, Rennie Schafer said:

The self-storage industry welcomes the opportunity to work with Trading Standards and local enforcement agencies to identify and deter criminals looking to use the industry for storage of unsafe and illicit goods. Many of these goods can cause real damage to the local communities that the self-storage businesses are part of. As an industry we want to do all we can to eliminate such activity from our stores and the community as a whole.

Lord Toby Harris, Chair, National Trading Standards, said:

Trading Standards officers are finding counterfeit goods in, or on route to, self-storage facilities. By supporting self-storage facilities to prevent the storage of illicit goods on their premises, we can help clamp down on the sale of counterfeit goods that continue to deceive consumers and undermine legitimate businesses. We encourage all responsible self-storage providers to [sign up to the Tick Box scheme](#) – it's free to join and easy to implement and will provide peace of mind to facility owners about what is being stored on their premises.

Notes to editors

The scheme is already yielding results; in April 2021, three self-storage units were raided and 5000+ illegal and counterfeit items were seized in a joint Trading Standards, Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (North West) and the Anti-Counterfeiting Group, which represents brands, with participation from the self-storage store.

In April 2021, 22 self-storage units were raided in Southall by Ealing Trading Standards and the Met Police, netting fake goods valued at millions of pounds and offering valuable intelligence about their supply. In June 2021, five more containers were raided in Glasgow, housing thousands of counterfeit goods

Within the initial rollout, there are 343 UK-wide premises signed up, with approximately 1,200 staff, all of whom are receiving training to deliver against the code of practice. The second phase will see the scheme continue

to be rolled out across the UK.

The IPO is the official UK government body responsible for intellectual property rights including patents, designs, trade marks and copyright. The IPO, Trading Standards and the SSA partnered to introduce the Tick Box scheme to reduce the appeal of self-storage facilities for counterfeit and illicit goods. The scheme focusses on building stronger relationships between self-storage owners and their local Trading Standards enforcement partners, and aims to combat the social economic and social harms to communities that this type of crime can cause.

Updated opening hours for the DBS contact centre



Please note, the contact centre will now also be closed on Saturday 21 August.

Due to higher than usual levels of staff absence, the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) contact centre will be closed on Saturday 14 August 2021.

Online services and services across GOV.UK remain unaffected.

You can track your DBS check application online:

- Track your Basic DBS check [here](#)
- Track your Standard or Enhanced DBS check [here](#)

Registered Bodies can also track multiple applications online, [here](#).

If you have a general enquiry, you can still contact DBS via the following:

We are also able to answer general enquiries via social media, however these channels are not monitored over the weekend:

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1. 19 August 2021

News story updated to advise that the DBS contact centre will now be closed on Saturday 21 August 2021.

2. 12 August 2021

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