



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department  
Home Office  
Direct Communications Unit  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

1<sup>st</sup> June 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

**Re: EU citizens refused entry to UK**

I am writing to you after reading reports of a significant rise in EU citizens being prevented from entering the UK in the past three months.

Reports of 3,294 EU citizens being prevented from entering the UK compared to 493 in the first quarter of last year when there were very limited travel restrictions. Whilst I understand that the rules at the border have changed since the end of the transition period.

This sharp rise is very worrying and will damage both the labour market and looking to the future tourism. It is also worrying that there have been reports of EU citizens being held in detention for a number of days before being sent home.

What additional training has been given to staff at the border to ensure that the new rules are enforced fairly? What assurances can you give to those travelling into the country from Europe that they will not be held in captivity for honest mistakes? Any further information you have about this matter would be greatly appreciated.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Alyn Smith MP