

Benefit Entitlement (Restriction) Bill

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Make provision to restrict the entitlement of non-UK Citizens from the European Union and the European Economic Area to taxpayer-funded benefits.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Declaration of nationality

- (1) From the date of the coming into force of this Act no national insurance number shall be issued unless the applicant provides a declaration of nationality.
- (2) From the date of the coming into force of this Act no application shall be made for a taxpayer-funded benefit unless the applicant provides a declaration of nationality. 5

2 Dependants

Notwithstanding the provisions of the European Communities Act 1972, no non-UK citizen who is a national of a member country of the European Union or the European Economic Area shall be eligible for housing benefit or council tax benefit in England and Wales unless the benefit entitlement arises by reason of having the status of a spouse or dependant of a UK citizen. 10

3 Amount of benefit

Notwithstanding the provisions of the European Communities Act 1972, no UK taxpayer-funded benefit shall be paid to a citizen of another country in membership of the European Union or the European Economic Area at a rate which exceeds in cash terms the equivalent benefit which would be payable to such a person if that person were resident in the country of his nationality. 15

4 Claimant's contribution

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of the European Communities Act 1972, no UK taxpayer-funded benefit shall be paid to a citizen of another country in membership of the European Union or the European Economic Area unless the entitlement to that benefit arises from an insurance-based contribution which the claimant has made and the conditions in section 4(2) are satisfied. 5
- (2) The conditions referred to in section 4(1) are—
 - (a) that the relevant contributions have been in payment for at least two years, and
 - (b) that no period of payment of taxpayer-funded benefit shall exceed six months in any two years. 10

5 Information

From the date of the coming into force of this Act, it shall be the duty of the Government to collect and publish information about the number of non-UK citizens from the European Union and the European Economic Area in receipt of taxpayer-funded benefits and the cost of such benefits. 15

6 Short title, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Benefit Entitlement (Restriction) Act 2015.
- (2) The provisions of this Act shall come into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed. 20
- (3) This Act extends to the whole of the United Kingdom.

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*Presented by Mr Christopher Chope,
supported by
Mr Philip Hollobone, Mr Peter Bone,
Mr David Nuttall, Philip Davies,
Mr Douglas Carswell, Dr Julian Lewis,
Adam Afriyie and Mr Stewart Jackson.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
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