

From Chief of Defence People, Lt Gen Richard Nugee CVO CBE



Ministry
of Defence

8 February 2019

CHIEF OF DEFENCE PEOPLE EU EXIT UPDATE

Over recent weeks you will have seen a lot in the news about the UK leaving the EU. I thought it best to provide an update for our people. The Government is confident it can secure a majority in Parliament for leaving the EU with a deal. This remains a priority. A majority of MPs have said they would support a deal with changes to the backstop, and efforts are being made to secure legally binding changes to the Withdrawal Agreement. The Government continues to accelerate no deal preparations to ensure the country is prepared for every eventuality as a sensible approach to this emergent possibility. It is the responsible thing to do. There is a lot of information and advice on the government website about preparing for the UK to leave the EU, with regular advice published on www.gov.uk/Brexit. A summary of some of the relevant advice is provided with this note. We are also working on bespoke advice to our Defence people who may be affected. It is acknowledged that this advice is not comprehensive, but we have tried to include areas of particular interest.

To those of you that have asked questions about what the UK leaving the EU will mean for you, thank you. Please keep asking. My team look at these issues and are working hard to resolve them to provide you, and many others who will be in the same position, with an answer. To give a flavour of some of the work they are exploring, a lot of the questions have been about driving licences, the EU Settlement Scheme and whether you and your families will be able to stay in the UK, whether you will need a visa to live in the EU after the UK leaves, and what happens when you go to or return from a posting. We have initiated some prudent contingent planning measures to ensure you can continue to live your life broadly as you do now, and we will continue to work on resolving the issues and give you answers as soon as we can.

I know that this is a difficult and uncertain time for you and your families, and the continued lack of clarity on the things that worry you can't be helpful. But we are doing all we can. Thank you for your patience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Nugee'.