



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

In 2018 we advised and supported around 1000 people; this is a slight decrease to 2017. However, we have noticed over the recent years that most cases are more complex than a decade ago and that we spend more time with clients in order to help with and/or resolve their problem.

In the reporting year we covered a wide range of matters within the German and British Social Security systems. Circa 40% of clients were seeking pension advice; nearly half of these were in connection with the German- British Double T taxation agreement that affects more and more pensioners in the UK.

Another 40% of our clients had enquiries and questions around Brexit, topics varied from moving to Germany or to UK and its advantages before Brexit, questions to the new settled status scheme (please see back) or concerns for changes within the social security systems such as pensions and health insurance.

In collaboration with the German YMCA and the German Embassy we offered six Brexit talks in 2018 where people were informed about the changes and could ask questions. More than 430 people attended, and we raised £260. In the due course we noticed a raise in membership applications and support in donations.

WE OFFER:

- Pension Advice - help and advice with German and UK pension applications and matters surrounding pensions
- EU Advice – moving between Germany and UK, health insurance and security systems
- General Social Advice – benefits and health insurance in Germany and the UK
- Support for vulnerable people

PATRON

His Excellence the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

COMMITTEE

Mr U. Bauer – Chairman

Mrs K. Groombridge

Mr U. Maynard

Mrs U. Tottmann
(resigned in September)

Mr J. Rhys

Ms V. Gronewold

Ms B. von Alten

EMPLOYEES

Mrs D. Scording (full-time qualified Social Worker)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Leigh Saxton Green Chartered Accountants

6th Floor, Mutual House
70 Conduit St, London W1S 2GF

BANK:

HSBC sort code: 40 04 07
Account number: 31055909

Registered Charity Number 288538

Brexit and changes

As of March 2019, we still do not know if the UK will be leaving the EU with or without a deal. In our daily work this makes a big difference as if the UK leaves the EU without a deal we do not know yet, how our clients will apply for pensions or how health insurance matters for people moving between the UK and Germany will be affected in the day to day life.

We have noticed that clients who have been for years or decades without a passport now have to apply for one, this effects especially people living far away from London or consulates badly, some not even able to travel. We hope that soon we can advise these clients on how they can make their Settled status application via post.



Dear Mr Scardig,
Thank you for the hearing
grant of £150.00.
Please convey our grateful thanks
to the German Charity involved.
We are grateful.
Kindest regards to all in
the German Welfare Council.
Yours sincerely

OUR GRATITUDE GOES TO

Charities administered
by the Kaiser Wilhelm
II Fund

The German YMCA

The German Embassy

Our corporate
members and members

Blick Rothenberg

The old and young
volunteers

The German parishes
in England

All organisations
and individuals, not
specially mentioned

INFORMATION TO SETTLED STATUS AND PRE SETTLED STATUS FOR EU CITIZENS

The British government worked on this scheme to register all EU citizen. People who lived more than 5 years in the UK can apply for Settled status, who was not 5 years in the UK yet, can apply for Pre settled status which will be replaced with Settled status after reaching 5 years upon application.

The application is free and the deadline for applying will be the 31 December 2020. Every EU Citizen should apply for this scheme, unless they already have a British passport, leave to remain or leave to enter the UK in an old passport.

For applying a biometric passport is needed and a laptop or tablet/ phone with NFC function in order to read the chip in the passport and to follow the online application during which one has to provide details such as a National Insurance number so that a continuous residency of 5 years can be confirmed. The government offers ID scanning locations if you need help to scan your passport.

The new Settled status will give you:

right to work in the UK, use the NHS, study and enrol in education, access public funds such as benefits and pensions (if you are eligible for them) and travel in and out of the UK

With Settled Status you can leave the UK for up to 5 years before losing this status. After successful application, the Home Office will email you and provide a link to an online service that you can use to view and prove your status. You will not get a physical document.

The GWC will offer help for Settled status applications from September onwards for its members and clients.