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Dear Editor,

Alice Thomson writes (29 June 2016), “Another issue with restricting access of Europeans to the UK is what happens to the 1.2 million British residents, many elderly, living permanently in Europe propped up by their health systems. They would presumably be subject to tit-for-tat restrictions.” Such a view is inaccurate and consequently irrelevant to the Brexit and immigration argument. The UK pays, and pays dearly in net terms, to cover the healthcare of our pensioners living in EU countries.

In 2015, the three biggest payments went to Spain (£220 million), Ireland (£200 million) and France (£140 million). We hardly charged those three countries £30 million for their residents here.

Yours faithfully

Jeffrey Dudgeon

[[HL566](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-06-08/HL566/) 8 June 2016 refers]