



British Nationality Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 61

An Act to make fresh provision about citizenship and nationality, and to amend the Immigration Act 1971 as regards the right of abode in the United Kingdom. [30th October 1981]

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Act extended by [British Nationality \(Falkland Islands\) Act 1983 \(c. 6, SIF 87\), s. 3\(1\)](#); restricted by [British Nationality \(Falkland Islands\) Act 1983 \(c. 6, SIF 87\), s. 3\(2\)](#); amended by S.I. 1983/1699, [art. 2\(1\)](#) and amended by [British Nationality \(Hong Kong\) Act 1990 \(c. 34, SIF 87\), s. 2\(1\)](#)
- C2** Act modified: (18.7.1996) by 1996 c. 41, [s. 2\(1\)](#); (19.3.1997) by 1997 c. 20, [s. 2\(1\)](#)
- C3** Act applied (19.3.1997) by 1997 c. 20, [s. 1\(8\)](#)
- C4** Act amended (2.10.2000) by S.I. 2000/2326, [art. 8](#)
- C5** Act modified (21.5.2002) by [British Overseas Territories Act 2002 \(c. 8\), s. 3\(3\)](#); S.I. 2002/1252, [art. 2](#)
- C6** Act modified (21.5.2002) by [British Overseas Territories Act 2002 \(c. 8\), s. 6\(2\)](#); S.I. 2002/1252, [art. 2](#)
- Act modified (21.5.2002) by [British Overseas Territories Act 2002 \(c. 8\), s. 6\(4\)](#); S.I. 2002/1252, [art. 2](#)
- Act modified (1.1.2004) by [Nationality Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 \(c. 41\), ss. 14, 162](#) (with s. 159); S.I. 2003/3156, [art. 2\(b\)](#) (with arts. 3, 4)
- Act modified (30.4.2006) by [The Immigration \(European Economic Area\) Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/1003\), Sch. 2 para. 2](#)

Commencement Information

- I1** Act partly in force at Royal Assent, see s. 53(2)(3); Act wholly in force at 1.1.1983, see S.I. 1982/933

Changes to legislation:

British Nationality Act 1981, Introductory Text is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 January 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 6(3)(4) inserted by [2009 c. 11 s. 40\(2\)](#) (Amending provision prospectively repealed by [2022 c. 36, s. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#))
- s. 41(1)(bc)-(be) inserted by [2009 c. 11 s. 41\(2\)](#) (Amending provision prospectively repealed by [2022 c. 36, s. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#))
- s. 41(1B)(1C) inserted by [2009 c. 11 s. 41\(3\)](#) (Amending provision prospectively repealed by [2022 c. 36, s. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#))
- Sch. 1 para. 2(1)(ba)(bb) inserted by [2009 c. 11 s. 39\(5\)](#) (Amending provision prospectively repealed by [2022 c. 36, s. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#))
- Sch. 1 para. 2(1)(ca) inserted by [2009 c. 11 s. 39\(7\)](#) (Amending provision prospectively repealed by [2022 c. 36, s. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#))
- Sch. 1 para. 2(5) inserted by [2009 c. 11 s. 39\(10\)](#) (Amending provision prospectively repealed by [2022 c. 36, s. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#))
- Sch. 1 para. 6(2)-(4) inserted by [2022 c. 36 Sch. 1 para. 3\(4\)\(d\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 2(1)(c) repealed by [2009 c. 11 s. 39\(6\)](#)[Sch. Pt. 2](#) (Amending provision prospectively repealed by [2022 c. 36, s. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#))
- Sch. 1 para. 2(1)(a) substituted by [2009 c. 11 s. 39\(4\)](#) (Amending provision prospectively repealed by [2022 c. 36, s. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#))
- Sch. 1 para. 2(2)-(4) substituted for Sch. 1 para. 2(2)(3) by [2009 c. 11 s. 39\(9\)](#) (Amending provision prospectively repealed by [2022 c. 36, s. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#))
- Sch. 1 para. 2(1)(d) word substituted by [2009 c. 11 s. 39\(8\)\(a\)](#) (Amending provision prospectively repealed by [2022 c. 36, s. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#))
- Sch. 1 para. 2(1)(d) words substituted by [2009 c. 11 s. 39\(8\)\(b\)](#) (Amending provision prospectively repealed by [2022 c. 36, s. 9\(3\)\(a\)](#))