



# British Nationality Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 61

### PART V

#### MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

#### **[<sup>F1</sup>41A Registration: requirement to be of good character**

(1) An application for registration of an adult or young person as a British citizen under section 1(3), (3A) or (4), 3(1), (2) or (5), 4(2) or (5), 4A, <sup>F2</sup>... 4D, <sup>F2</sup>... 5, 10(1) or (2) or 13(1) or (3) must not be granted unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the adult or young person is of good character.

[ An application for registration of an adult or young person as a British citizen under <sup>F3</sup>(1A) section 4F, so far as the relevant registration provision (as defined in section 4F(2)) is section 1(3), 3(2) [<sup>F4</sup>, 3(5) or 4D], must not be granted unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the adult or young person is of good character.]

(2) An application for registration of an adult or young person as a British overseas territories citizen under section 15(3) or (4), 17(1) [<sup>F5</sup>, (2)] or (5), 22(1) or (2) or 24 must not be granted unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the adult or young person is of good character.

[ An application for registration of an adult or young person as a British overseas <sup>F6</sup>(2A) territories citizen under section 17C, so far as the relevant registration provision (as defined in section 17C(2)) is section 15(3), 17(2) or 17(5), must not be granted unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the adult or young person is of good character.]

[ Subsection (2C) applies to an application for registration of an adult or young person <sup>F7</sup>(2B) as a British citizen under section 4K who is, or would have been, entitled to be registered as a British overseas territories citizen under section 17C, so far as the relevant registration provision (as defined in section 17C(2)) is section 15(3), 17(2) or 17(5).

(2C) The application must not be granted unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the adult or young person is of good character.]

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**Changes to legislation:** *British Nationality Act 1981, Section 41A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 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. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

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- (3) An application for registration of an adult or young person as a British Overseas citizen under section 27(1) must not be granted unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the adult or young person is of good character.
- (4) An application for registration of an adult or young person as a British subject under section 32 must not be granted unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the adult or young person is of good character.
- (5) In this section, “ adult or young person ” means a person who has attained the age of 10 years at the time when the application is made.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** S. 41A inserted (13.1.2010) by [Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 \(c. 11\)](#), **ss. 47(1)**, 58; [S.I. 2009/2731](#), **art. 4(f)**
- F2** Words in s. 41A(1) omitted (25.7.2019) by virtue of [The British Nationality Act 1981 \(Remedial\) Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1164\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2(2)**
- F3** S. 41A(1A) inserted (25.7.2019) by [The British Nationality Act 1981 \(Remedial\) Order 2019 \(S.I. 2019/1164\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2(3)**
- F4** Words in s. 41A(1A) substituted (28.6.2022) by [Nationality and Borders Act 2022 \(c. 36\)](#), **ss. 7(4)**, 87(1); [S.I. 2022/590](#), regs. 1(2), 2, Sch. 1 para. 6
- F5** Word in s. 41A(2) inserted (28.6.2022) by [Nationality and Borders Act 2022 \(c. 36\)](#), **ss. 5(2)**, 87(1); [S.I. 2022/590](#), regs. 1(2), 2, Sch. 1 para. 4 (with Sch. 2 para. 1)
- F6** S. 41A(2A) inserted (28.6.2022) by [Nationality and Borders Act 2022 \(c. 36\)](#), **ss. 2(4)**, 87(1); [S.I. 2022/590](#), regs. 1(2), 2, Sch. 1 para. 2
- F7** S. 41A(2B)(2C) inserted (28.6.2022) by [Nationality and Borders Act 2022 \(c. 36\)](#), **ss. 4(4)**, 87(1); [S.I. 2022/590](#), regs. 1(2), 2, Sch. 1 para. 3

**Changes to legislation:**

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**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\(3\)\(a\)](#))