



# British Nationality Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 61

### PART I

#### BRITISH CITIZENSHIP

##### *Acquisition after commencement*

#### **[<sup>F1</sup>4B Acquisition by registration: certain persons without other citizenship**

- (1) This section applies to a person who has the status of—
- (a) British Overseas citizen,
  - (b) British subject under this Act, <sup>F2</sup> . . .
  - (c) British protected person, [<sup>F3</sup> , or
  - (d) British National (Overseas)]
- (2) A person to whom this section applies shall be entitled to be registered as a British citizen if—
- (a) he applies for registration under this section,
  - (b) the Secretary of State is satisfied that the person does not have, apart from the status mentioned in subsection (1), any citizenship or nationality, and
  - (c) the Secretary of State is satisfied that the person has not after [<sup>F4</sup>the relevant day] renounced, voluntarily relinquished or lost through action or inaction any citizenship or nationality

[ For the purposes of subsection (2)(c), the “ relevant day ” means—

- <sup>F5</sup>(3) (a) in the case of a person to whom this section applies by virtue of subsection (1) (d) only, 19th March 2009, and
- (b) in any other case, 4th July 2002.]

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**Changes to legislation:** British Nationality Act 1981, Section 4B is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 March 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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### Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 4B inserted (30.4.2003) by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (c. 41), **ss. 12(1)**, 162 (with s. 159); S.I. 2003/754, **art. 2(1)**, Sch. 1 (with arts. 3, 4, Sch. 2 (as amended by S.I. 2003/1040, art. 2 and S.I. 2003/1339, art. 4))
- F2** Word in s. 4B(1) repealed (13.1.2010) by Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 (c. 11), ss. 44(2)(a), 56, 58, **Sch. Pt. 2**; S.I. 2009/2731, **art. 4(c)(i)(j)**
- F3** S. 4B(1)(d) and preceding word inserted (13.1.2010) by Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 (c. 11), **ss. 44(2)(b)**, 56, 58; S.I. 2009/2731, **art. 4(c)**
- F4** Words in s. 4B(2)(c) substituted (13.1.2010) by Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 (c. 11), **ss. 44(3)**, 56, 58; S.I. 2009/2731, **art. 4(c)**
- F5** S. 4B(3) inserted (13.1.2010) by Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 (c. 11), **ss. 44(4)**, 58; S.I. 2009/2731, **art. 4(c)**

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