



British Nationality Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 61

PART IV

BRITISH SUBJECTS

30 Continuance as British subjects of existing British subjects of certain descriptions.

A person who immediately before commencement was—

- (a) a British subject without citizenship by virtue of section 13 or 16 of the 1948 Act; or
- (b) a British subject by virtue of section 1 of the ^{M1}British Nationality Act 1965 (registration of alien women who have been married to British subjects of certain descriptions),

shall as from commencement be a British subject by virtue of this section.

Marginal Citations

M1 1965 c. 34.

31 Continuance as British subjects of certain former citizens of Eire.

- (1) A person is within this subsection if immediately before 1st January 1949 he was both a citizen of Eire and a British subject.
- (2) A person within subsection (1) who immediately before commencement was a British subject by virtue of section 2 of the 1948 Act (continuance of certain citizens of Eire as British subjects) shall as from commencement be a British subject by virtue of this subsection.
- (3) If at any time after commencement a citizen of the Republic of Ireland who is within subsection (1) but is not a British subject by virtue of subsection (2) gives notice in

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writing to the Secretary of State claiming to remain a British subject on either or both of the following grounds, namely—

- (a) that he is or has been in Crown Service under the government of the United Kingdom; and
- (b) that he has associations by way of descent, residence or otherwise with the United Kingdom or with any [^{F1}British overseas territory] ,

he shall as from that time be a British subject by virtue of this subsection.

- (4) A person who is a British subject by virtue of subsection (2) or (3) shall be deemed to have remained a British subject from 1st January 1949 to the time when (whether already a British subject by virtue of the said section 2 or not) he became a British subject by virtue of that subsection.

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 31(3)(b) substituted (26.2.2002) by [British Overseas Territories Act 2002 \(c. 8\), s. 1\(1\)\(b\)](#)

32 Registration of minors.

[^{F2}Subject to sections 31, 35 and 36 of the Illegal Migration Act 2023 (restriction of eligibility for citizenship etc),] if while a person is a minor an application is made for his registration as a British subject, the Secretary of State may, if he thinks fit, cause him to be registered as a British subject.

Textual Amendments

F2 Words in s. 32 inserted (20.7.2023) by [Illegal Migration Act 2023 \(c. 37\), ss. 37\(14\), 68\(3\)\(a\)](#) (with s. 55(9))

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 32 restricted (4.12.2006) by [Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 \(c. 13\), ss. 58, 62; S.I. 2006/2838, art. 4\(1\)](#) (subject to art. 4(2))
- C2** S. 32 restricted (20.7.2023) by [Illegal Migration Act 2023 \(c. 37\), ss. 35, 68\(3\)\(a\)](#) (with s. 55(9))

33 Registration of certain alien women entitled to registration as British subjects immediately before commencement.

F3

Textual Amendments

F3 S. 33 ceased to have effect (7.11.2002) and repealed (prosp.) by virtue of [Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 \(c. 41\), ss. 15, 161, 162, Sch. 2 para. 1\(i\), Sch. 9](#) (with s. 159, Sch. 2 para. 2)

34 Renunciation.

The provisions of section 12 shall apply in relation to British subjects and the status of a British subject as they apply in relation to British citizens and British citizenship.

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35 Circumstances in which British subjects are to lose that status.

A person who under this Act is a British subject otherwise than by virtue of section 31 shall cease to be such a subject if, in whatever circumstances and whether under this Act or otherwise, he acquires any other citizenship or nationality whatever.

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