

Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2004

08/05

Simon Woollacott

17 May 2005

MAIN POINTS:

- Applications for British citizenship fell by 8 per cent in 2004 to 135,085 (paragraph 1).
- The number of persons granted British citizenship in the United Kingdom rose by 12 per cent to 140,795 in 2004 (paragraph 2).
- 46 per cent were granted on the basis of residence, 29 per cent because of marriage, and 22 per cent were minor children (paragraph 5).
- Citizens of countries in Asia and Africa accounted for 40 and 32 per cent respectively of the total (paragraph 6).
- The main nationalities were Pakistan, India and Somalia (10, 10, and 8 per cent respectively) (paragraph 6).
- Other sources indicate that approximately 59 per cent of overseas born people who had been in the UK for six years or more in 2004 were British citizens (paragraph 13).

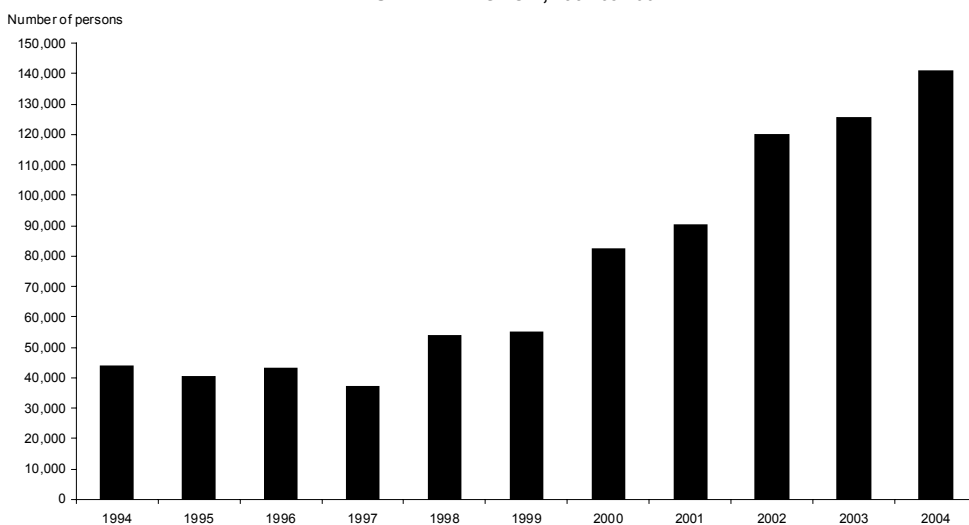
The Research, Development and Statistics Directorate exists to improve policy making, decision taking and practice in support of the Home Office purpose and aims, to provide the public and Parliament with information necessary for informed debate and to publish information for future use.

Statistical Bulletins are produced by the Research, Development and Statistics Directorate. For further copies contact:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds

Figure 1

GRANTS OF BRITISH CITIZENSHIP IN
THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1994 to 2004



Introduction

This bulletin provides provisional summary statistics on applications for, and, grants/refusals of, British citizenship in 2004 and preceding years. It also contains the results of an analysis to estimate British citizenship take-up rates.

The British Nationality Act 1981 came into force on 1 January 1983 and replaced citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies with three separate citizenships, statistics on which are shown in the tables indicated:-

1. British citizenship, for people closely connected with the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man (Tables 1-5);
2. British overseas territories citizenship, for people connected with the British overseas territories (Table 6);
3. British Overseas citizenship, for those citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies without connections with either the United Kingdom or the British overseas territories (Table 6).

Further information explaining the position from 1 January 1983 under the 1981 Act, and explaining some changes made by the British Overseas Territories Act 2002 is at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/laws_policy/policy_instructions/nis.html

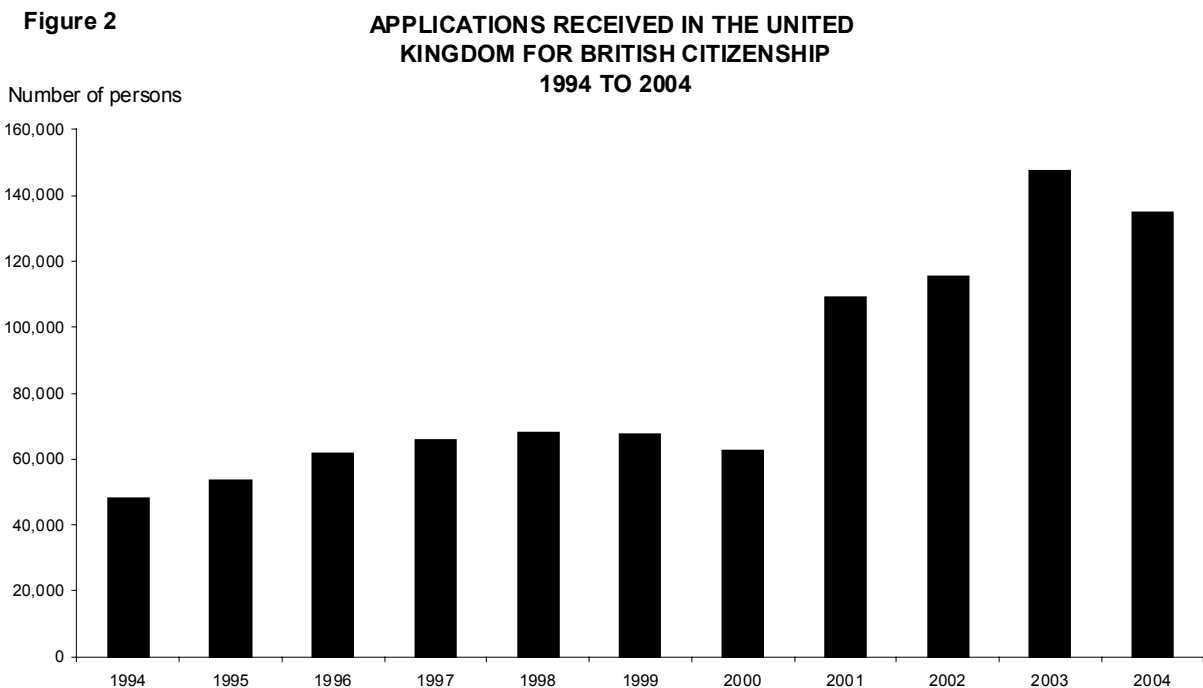
Contents

	Page
Section One: Persons Granted British Citizenship	
Applications	3
Grants and Refusals	3
Basis of Grant	4
Previous Nationality	4
Grants by Age	5
Other Grants of Citizenship	6
Reasons for Refusal	6
Section Two: British Citizenship take-up rates	
Analysis of the tendency of overseas nationals to take up British Citizenship	7
Tables Contents	9
Tables	10
Explanatory Notes	24

SECTION ONE: PERSONS GRANTED BRITISH CITIZENSHIP

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED (Figure 2 and Table 1)

1. The number of applications received for British citizenship in 2004 was 135,085, a fall of 8 per cent compared to the previous year when 147,345 applications were received. The fall in applications was a significant change from the 28 per cent increase in applications in 2003 and increases in both 2001 and 2002, although the number of applications received in 2004 was 17 and 24 per cent higher than in 2002 and 2001 respectively. The fall in 2004 was primarily due to the introduction of the requirement for English language testing.



GRANTS AND REFUSALS (Figure 1 and Table 1)

2. The number of persons granted British citizenship in 2004 was 140,795, an increase of 12 per cent on the previous year. It continued the upward trend of grants since 1997. The increase in 2004 was higher than the 5 per cent increase in grants in 2003. The total included 5,630 grants where persons had been approved for a citizenship ceremony.

3. 13,745 applications for British citizenship were refused in 2004, an increase of 3 per cent on 2003 when 10,480 applications were refused. Refusals made up 9 per cent of all decisions in 2004, compared with 8 per cent in 2003.

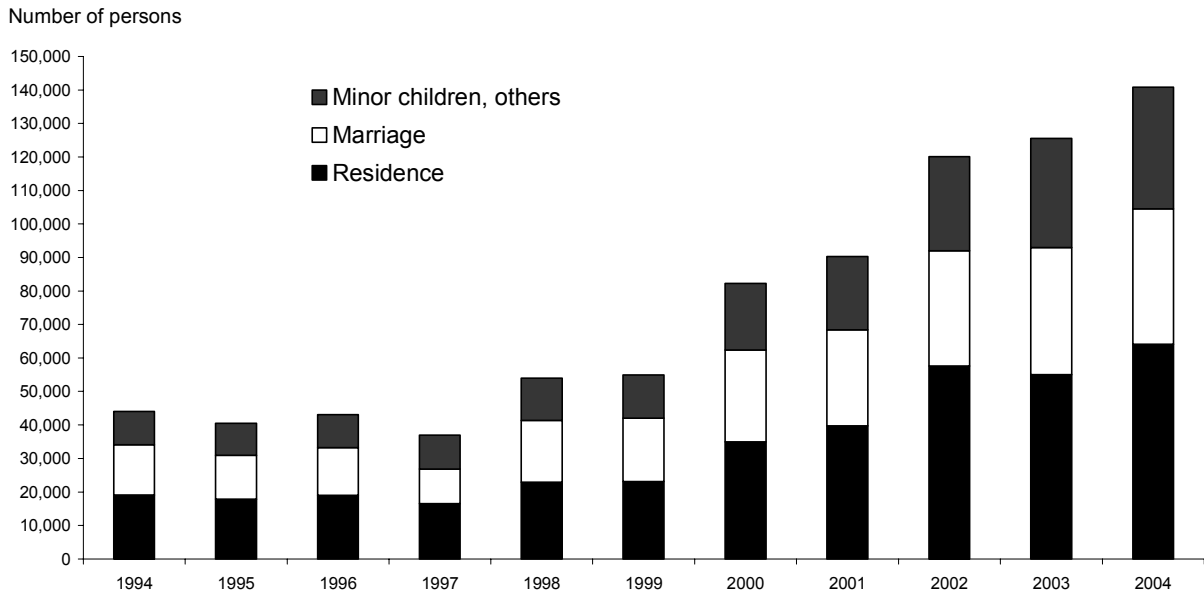
4. The total number of decisions made in 2004 rose by 14 per cent to 154,540. This rise can be attributed to procedural and organisational changes, improved staff productivity and an increase in case working resources.

BASIS OF GRANT (Figure 3 and Table 2)

5. Residence in the United Kingdom continued to be the most frequent basis on which persons were granted British citizenship in 2004. The number of such grants was 64,105, 46 per cent of the total. The number of grants to persons married to a British citizen was 40,410, 29 per cent of the total. These proportions have remained largely unchanged for several years. Most (30,300) of the remaining grants in 2004 were to minor children¹ who accounted for 22 per cent of the total.

Figure 3

GRANTS OF BRITISH CITIZENSHIP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, BY BASIS OF GRANT, 1994 TO 2004



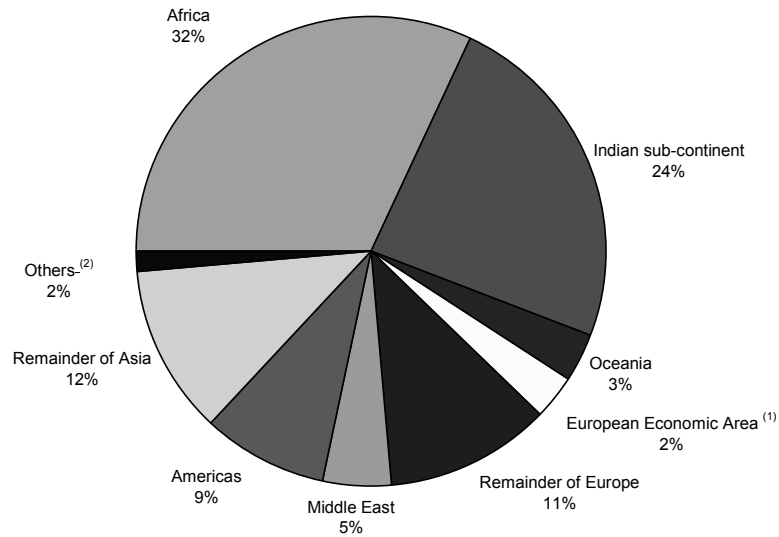
PREVIOUS NATIONALITY (Figure 4 and Tables 3, 4)

6. Persons whose previous nationality was from countries in the African continent constituted around 32 per cent (45,160) of all grants in 2004, the same proportion as in 2003. The same was true for the Indian sub-continent which accounted for 24 per cent (33,475) of grants. The Remainder of Europe (i.e. outside the European Economic Area) dropped by 3 per cent to 11 per cent (15,905). Nationalities with the largest numbers of grants in 2004 were Pakistani with 14,125 (10 per cent) and Indian with 13,540 (10 per cent), Somali 11,185 (8 per cent), South African with 6,370 (5 per cent) and Nigerian with 6,280 (4 per cent).

¹ Children under the age of 18

Figure 4

GRANTS OF BRITISH CITIZENSHIP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 2004, BY PREVIOUS NATIONALITY
(Total number of persons 140,795)



(1) Includes British overseas territories citizens from Gibraltar

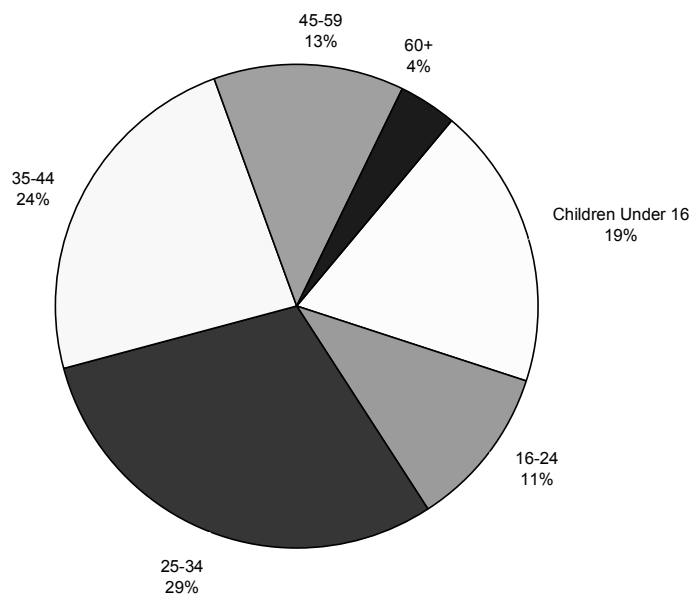
(2) Includes British overseas territories citizens (except from Gibraltar) and British Overseas citizens

GRANTS BY AGE (Figure 5 and Table 5)

7. The majority of grants of British citizenship were to people aged between 25 and 44 (54 per cent), similar to the previous year. Persons aged between 16 and 60 accounted for over 77 per cent of all grants.

Figure 5

GRANTS OF BRITISH NATIONALITY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 2004, BY AGE
(Total number of grants 140,700)⁽¹⁾



(1) Excludes 95 cases for which an age analysis is not available.

OTHER GRANTS OF CITIZENSHIP (Table 6)

8. 85 persons of non-Chinese nationality were granted British citizenship in 2004 under the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Act 1997. This brought the total number of grants since 1997 under this Act to 4,605. This was in addition to 136,500 grants in 1991 - 97 under the earlier 1990 Act and its associated Selection Scheme, under which key workers in Hong Kong and their spouses and dependants were granted British citizenship.

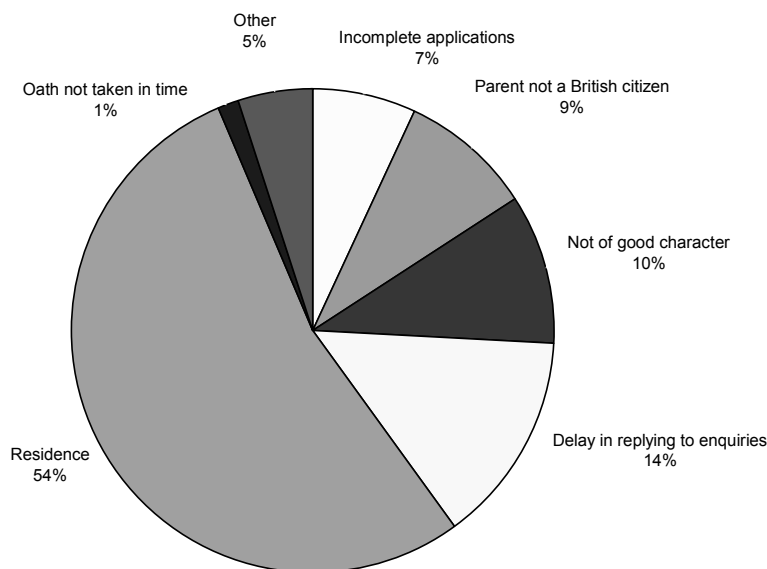
REASONS FOR REFUSAL OF CITIZENSHIP (Figure 6 and Table 7)

9. There was a 35 per cent increase in the number of persons refused British citizenship in 2004. Of the 12,050 refusal decisions made 54 per cent (6,475) were refusals on the grounds of Residence, 14 per cent (1,700) were due to the applicants delay in replying to enquiries from IND, 10 per cent (1,195) because the applicant was considered not to be of good character, and 9 per cent (1,095) because the parent was not a British citizen.

1,700 grants of citizenship were subsequently cancelled on the basis that the intended recipient was already a British citizen, or had died or had given notice of withdrawal of his or her application before the grant was made.

Figure 6

REASONS FOR REFUSAL OF BRITISH CITIZENSHIP 2004, BY TYPE OF REFUSAL
(Total number of refusals 12,050)⁽¹⁾



(1) Excludes 1,700 cases that were granted but were withdrawn or revoked

SECTION TWO: BRITISH CITIZENSHIP TAKE-UP RATES

AN ANALYSIS OF THE TENDENCY OF OVERSEAS NATIONALS TO TAKE UP BRITISH CITIZENSHIP (Figure 7 and Table 8)

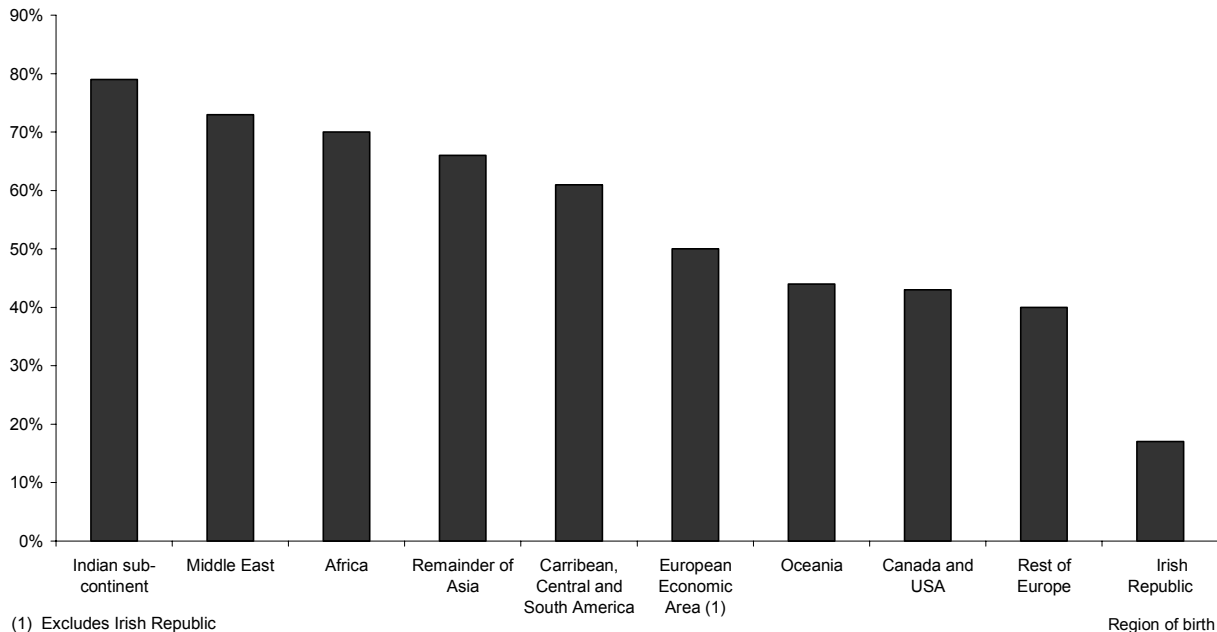
10. The Research Development and Statistics Directorate has carried out this analysis into the “take-up rate” of citizenship using information from the UK Labour Force Survey (LFS) in response to interest from the ‘Life in the UK Advisory Group’², on the tendency of overseas nationals to apply for and obtain British citizenship when they are eligible to do so.

11. The LFS was used to produce estimates of the proportion of overseas born persons living in the UK who, when questioned in 2004, said they were British citizens. This information, when compared with the total overseas born population, gave an indication of the proportion of migrants to the UK who had taken up British citizenship³. However, it must be noted that these rates are estimates and exclude a proportion of citizenship grants – most significantly those persons born in the UK who acquire British citizenship, for example via registration.

12. Figure 7 shows the proportion of overseas born persons who are British citizens once they have been in the UK for six years or more - the earliest at which the majority of migrants would be granted British citizenship⁴. In addition, Table 8 shows this analysis for those who have been in the UK for between six and ten years, between eleven and twenty years, and twenty-one years or more.

Figure 7 PERCENTAGE OF OVERSEAS BORN PERSONS WHO, AFTER SIX YEARS OR MORE IN THE UK, HAD OBTAINED BRITISH CITIZENSHIP, BY REGION OF BIRTH, 2004

Per centage who are British citizens



² See Explanatory Note 4

³ See Explanatory Notes 5 to 7

⁴ Eligibility criteria for British citizenship vary, but the usual maximum is 5 years residency in the UK, plus on average 1 year to allow for the application to be processed.

13. In 2004, 59 per cent of overseas-born people who had been in the UK for six years or more were British citizens. This rate varied with region of birth and increased with time spent in the UK prior to obtaining citizenship. These rates have remained largely unchanged since 2002.

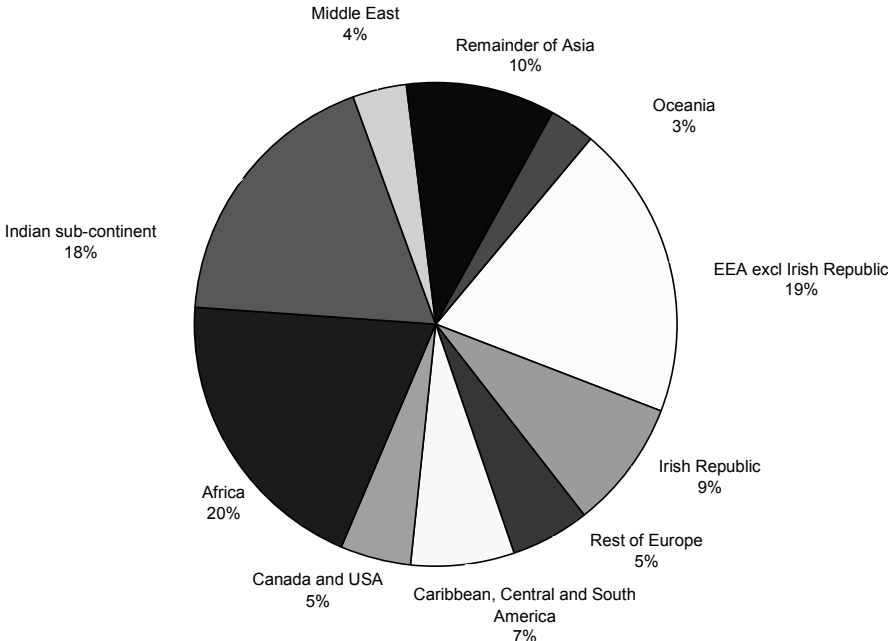
14. People born in developed countries such as Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and EU states were less likely to become British citizens than those born in developing countries in such regions as Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

15. The longer a person had remained in the UK the more likely they were to have gained British citizenship. 26 per cent of overseas-born people who had been in the UK for between 6 and 10 years in 2004 were British, compared with 68 per cent of those who had been in the UK for over 20 years.

16. Those born in Africa were more likely than others to become British citizens after residing in the UK for over 20 years (88 per cent compared with, for example, 87 per cent of Indian sub-continent-born people). However, they were more likely to wait before applying – only 32 per cent of African-born people who had been in the UK for between 6 and 10 years were British citizens compared with 40 per cent of Indian sub-continent-born people.

17. People born in the Irish Republic were unlikely to become British citizens – only 1 per cent of those who had lived in the UK for between 6 and 10 years, and 20 per cent of those who had lived here for over 20 years had become British citizens.

Figure 8
COUNTRY OF BIRTH OF NON-UK BORN BRITISH CITIZENS RESIDENT IN THE UK, 2004⁽¹⁾



(1) Excludes persons born in "Other New Commonwealth", "Rest of the world", "Stateless", "At sea or in air" and when no response is given.
Source: UK Labour Force Survey, March 2004 to February 2005.

TABLES : CONTENTS

Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom

Table 1	Applications, grants and refusals, 1994-2004
Table 2	Grants by basis (residence, marriage, etc), 1994-2004
Table 3	Grants by broad groupings of previous nationality, 2000-2004
Table 4	Grants by previous nationality, type and category (relevant section of British Nationality Act 1981), 2004
Table 5	Grants by age, 2003-2004

Other grants of citizenship

Table 6	Grants by type of citizenship, 2000-2004
---------	--

Reasons for refusal of British citizenship

Table 7	Reason for refusal of British citizenship by type of refusal and cancellations of grants of British citizenship, 2003-2004
---------	--

British citizenship take-up rates

Table 8	Take-up rates of British citizenship by region of birth, 2004
---------	---

Table 1 Applications for British citizenship received and decided in the United Kingdom, 1994-2004

Year	Applications received	Decisions taken		Refusals as a % of all decisions
		Grants ⁽¹⁾	Refusals ⁽²⁾	
1994	48,275	44,035	5,855	12%
1995	53,390	40,515	5,030	11%
1996	61,800	43,070	4,770	10%
1997	66,000	37,010	4,745	11%
1998	68,030	53,935	3,750	7%
1999	67,400	54,900	3,995	7%
2000	62,475	82,210	6,785	8%
2001	109,005	90,295	9,530	10%
2002	115,500	120,125	8,455	7%
2003 ^(R)	147,345	125,535	10,480	8%
2004 ^(P)	135,085	140,795 ⁽³⁾	13,745	9%

(1) Data from November 2001 include grants in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

(2) Includes small numbers of applications withdrawn.

(3) Includes 5,630 persons who have been approved for a citizenship ceremony. A small number of these will not attend and will be counted as a refusal in revised figures next year.

Table 2 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom by basis of grant⁽¹⁾, 1994-2004

Year of grant	Number of persons				
	All grants	Residence	Marriage	Minor children	Other ⁽²⁾
1994	44,035	19,095	14,975	9,220	745
1995	40,515	17,805	13,130	8,990	585
1996	43,070	18,970	14,285	9,270	540
1997	37,010	16,465	10,355	9,545	645
1998	53,935	22,935	18,495	11,975	530
1999	54,900	23,170	18,920	12,270	540
2000	82,210	34,980	27,425	19,160	645
2001	90,295	39,775	28,625	21,270	625
2002	120,125	57,595	34,415	26,320	1,795
2003 ^(R)	125,535	54,965	37,965	30,345	2,255
2004 ^(P)	140,795	64,105	40,410	30,300	5,980

(1) Data from November 2001 include grants of British citizenship in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man

(2) Includes British overseas territories citizens (before February 2002 known as British Dependent Territories citizens) from Gibraltar registered as British citizens under s.5 of the British Nationality Act 1981.

Table 3 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom by previous nationality⁽¹⁾, 2000-2004

Previous nationality	Number of persons				
	2000	2001	2002	2003 (R)	2004 (P)
European Economic Area ⁽²⁾	2,075	1,680	1,575	2,225	4,290
Remainder of Europe	9,370	9,405	17,755	17,230	15,905
Americas	6,965	7,245	8,035	10,455	12,115
Africa	21,925	29,790	37,560	40,125	45,160
Indian sub-continent	22,145	23,745	26,685	29,695	33,475
Middle East	6,620	5,330	9,440	6,250	6,985
Remainder of Asia	9,150	8,630	15,355	13,180	16,210
Oceania	1,670	1,515	1,740	3,875	4,630
Other ⁽³⁾	2,290	2,565	1,985	2,500	2,020
All grants	82,210	90,295	120,125	125,535	140,795

(1) Data from November 2001 include grants of British citizenship in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

(2) As constituted now; includes British overseas territories citizens (before February 2002 known as British Dependent Territories citizens) - from Gibraltar.

(3) British overseas territories citizens (before February 2002 known as British Dependent Territories citizens) except from Gibraltar, British Overseas citizens, British subjects, British protected persons, stateless and nationality uncertain.

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2004 ^(P) by previous nationality, type and category of grant

Previous nationality	Number of persons						
	Total	Naturalisation			Registration		
		Residence s.6(1) Sch.8	Marriage s.6(2)	Other Registration ss.4A, B, C, 4(2),(5), 5, 7, 8(1), (2), (3), 9, 10, 13, 36 Sch.8	Minor Children ss, 1(3), 1(4) Sch.8	Minor children s.3(1) Sch.8	Minor children ss.3(2), 3(5), Sch.8
European Economic Area							
Austria	30	15	5	†	5	5	5
Belgium	50	10	10	5	5	10	5
Cyprus	210	95	90	†	10	10	10
Czech Republic	105	25	70	-	5	5	-
Estonia	35	10	15	-	5	10	-
Denmark	25	10	5	†	10	†	-
Finland	25	10	15	†	†	5	-
France	385	105	55	30	60	85	50
Germany	285	85	85	25	30	45	10
Greece	180	105	45	-	10	20	5
Hungary	125	45	60	†	10	10	†
Iceland	5	-	†	-	†	5	-
Irish Republic	150	85	25	15	10	15	†
Italy	295	135	55	20	40	35	10
Latvia	50	20	15	†	-	10	-
Lithuania	120	45	35	-	10	25	-
Luxembourg	†	-	-	-	-	-	†
Malta	115	35	45	25	†	10	†
Netherlands	100	30	30	10	15	15	5
Norway	25	5	5	†	†	5	5
Poland	790	335	330	5	55	70	-
Portugal	545	330	70	5	90	50	†
Slovakia	230	55	150	-	15	15	†
Slovenia	15	5	10	-	†	-	-
Spain	130	25	20	5	25	40	10
Sweden	75	25	20	5	5	15	5
Switzerland	140	25	40	40	5	15	20
Total	4,240	1,665	1,300	205	410	520	140
Remainder of Europe							
Albania	315	150	75	-	65	30	-
Armenia	50	25	10	-	5	10	-
Azerbaijan	40	20	10	-	5	5	-
Belarus	80	25	40	-	5	10	-
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1,225	925	60	5	85	150	†

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2004^(P) by previous nationality, type and category of grant (continued)

Previous nationality	Total		Naturalisation		Registration			Number of persons	
	Total	Residence	Marriage	Other Registration	Minor Children	Minor children	Minor children	Registration	
								ss.4A, B, C, 4(2),(5), 5, 7, 8(1), (2), (3), 9, 10, 13, 36 Sch.8	ss.1(3), 1(4) Sch.8
Bulgaria	390	200	100	5	35	50	-	-	-
Croatia	690	435	100	5	45	110	-	-	-
Georgia	60	30	15	-	5	15	-	-	-
Kazakhstan	65	25	30	-	5	10	-	1	-
Kyrgyzstan	20	†	10	-	†	5	-	-	-
Macedonia	135	45	75	†	5	10	-	-	-
Moldova	30	5	15	-	5	5	-	-	-
Romania	425	190	160	†	25	50	-	-	-
Russia	1,390	510	585	15	55	225	-	-	-
Serbia and Montenegro	5,280	3,550	340	10	565	815	-	-	-
Tajikistan	5	5	†	-	†	-	-	-	-
Turkey	4,885	2,585	1,200	25	550	520	-	-	5
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus	280	130	85	5	30	35	-	-	†
Turkmenistan	10	†	5	-	-	†	-	-	-
Ukraine	470	160	205	5	30	65	-	-	†
Uzbekistan	55	20	25	-	-	10	-	-	-
Remainder of Europe	15,905	9,030	3,150	70	1,520	2,125	-	-	10
Americas									
Antigua and Barbuda	20	5	5	†	-	5	-	-	-
Argentina	115	40	45	5	5	15	-	-	5
Bahamas	25	5	5	5	-	†	-	-	†
Barbados	175	95	65	10	†	5	-	-	-
Belize	30	15	10	†	†	†	-	-	-
Bolivia	50	30	15	†	†	5	-	-	-
Brazil	485	195	245	10	15	20	-	-	5
Canada	1,180	365	305	375	25	90	-	-	20
Chile	130	70	45	-	†	10	-	-	†
Colombia	1,290	690	265	10	140	180	-	-	†

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2004 ^(P) by previous nationality, type and category of grant (continued)

Previous nationality	Total		Naturalisation		Registration			Number of persons	
	Total	Residence	Marriage	Other Registration	Minor Children	Minor children	Minor children	ss.3(2),3(5),	
								ss.4A, B, C, 4(2),(5), 5, 7, 8(1), (2), (3), 9, 10, 13, 36 Sch.8	ss, 1(3), 1(4)
Costa Rica	10	†	5	-	-	†	-	-	-
Cuba	90	15	60	-	-	15	-	-	-
Dominica	65	30	25	†	†	5	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	65	25	20	†	†	15	-	-	-
Ecuador	325	150	45	5	60	60	-	-	†
El Salvador	15	5	5	-	-	†	-	-	-
Grenada	110	60	45	-	†	5	-	-	-
Guatemala	10	-	5	-	-	5	-	-	-
Guyana	305	145	105	5	15	35	-	-	-
Haiti	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honduras	10	5	10	-	-	†	-	-	-
Jamaica	3,180	1,415	1,060	65	200	440	-	-	-
Mexico	160	35	90	10	10	10	-	-	5
Panama	10	-	5	-	†	†	-	-	-
Paraguay	15	†	5	5	-	-	-	-	5
Peru	180	80	70	5	15	10	-	-	-
St Helena	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Kitts and Nevis	10	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Lucia	125	60	40	5	10	15	-	-	-
St. Vincent and Grenadines	75	35	30	5	5	5	-	-	-
Surinam	5	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	555	285	175	10	40	35	-	-	5
United States of America	3,180	1,165	820	520	185	420	-	-	70
Uruguay	15	5	5	†	†	-	-	-	-
Venezuela	95	25	45	5	5	10	-	-	†
Americas	12,115	5,065	3,695	1,065	740	1,425	-	-	120

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2004 ^(P) by previous nationality, type and category of grant (continued)

Previous nationality	Total				Naturalisation				Registration				Number of persons
	Total	Residence		Marriage	Other Registration	Minor Children		Minor children	Minor children	Minor children	Minor children		
		s.6(1) Sch.8	s.6(2)			ss.4A, B, C, 4(2),(5), 5, 7, 8(1), (2), (3), 9, 10, 13, 36 Sch.8	ss,1(3), 1(4)					Sch.8	
Africa													
Algeria	1,255	675	330	5	165	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Angola	730	355	15	5	235	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Benin	15	5	5	-	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Botswana	25	5	5	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Burkina Faso	5	†	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Burundi	185	115	5	†	20	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cameroon	260	115	50	-	60	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Cape Verde	5	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Central African Republic	5	†	†	-	†	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Chad	25	10	†	-	†	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Congo	845	380	30	-	315	125	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Congo (Dem Rep)	1,200	590	50	5	345	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Djibouti	10	5	5	-	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Egypt	585	265	180	10	50	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Equatorial Guinea	5	-	†	-	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Eritrea	480	325	55	†	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ethiopia	630	150	65	†	60	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Gabon	10	5	5	-	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Gambia	275	110	100	†	40	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ghana	3,250	1,655	655	40	650	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Guinea	15	10	5	-	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Guinea Bissau	5	-	†	-	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ivory Coast	350	155	35	5	85	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Kenya	1,645	655	485	130	120	255	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lesotho	5	†	†	-	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Liberia	200	120	30	-	40	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Libya	550	245	50	15	140	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Madagascar	10	5	†	-	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2004 ^(P) by previous nationality, type and category of grant (continued)

Previous nationality	Total				Naturalisation			Registration			Number of persons
	Total	Residence		Marriage	Other Registration	Minor Children	Minor children	Minor children	Minor children		
		s.6(1) Sch.8	s.6(2)							ss.4A, B, C, 4(2),(5), 5, 7, 8(1), (2), (3), 9, 10, 13, 36 Sch.8	
Malawi	85	30	35	5	5	5	15	-	-	-	
Mali	5	†	†	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	
Mauritania	20	10	5	†	†	5	5	5	†	†	
Mauritius	750	395	255	10	10	50	35	50	35	5	
Morocco	610	250	320	5	5	10	25	10	25	†	
Mozambique	25	15	5	†	†	-	5	-	5	-	
Namibia	15	†	10	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	
Niger	10	5	†	-	-	5	†	5	†	-	
Nigeria	6,280	2,810	1,470	105	105	1,300	595	1,300	595	-	
Rwanda	265	165	5	-	-	30	70	30	70	-	
Seo Tome Principe	5	†	†	-	-	-	†	-	†	-	
Senegal	30	15	15	-	-	-	5	-	5	-	
Seychelles	95	50	25	5	5	10	10	10	10	-	
Sierra Leone	1,305	680	160	20	20	310	140	310	140	-	
Somalia	11,185	6,505	320	70	70	1,650	2,440	1,650	2,440	-	
South Africa	6,370	2,705	1,795	825	825	200	745	200	745	100	
Sudan	910	510	135	5	5	120	140	120	140	-	
Swaziland	10	†	5	†	†	-	5	-	5	-	
Tanzania	520	250	150	15	15	50	60	50	60	-	
Togo	40	30	5	-	-	5	†	5	†	-	
Tunisia	190	70	95	5	5	10	10	10	10	†	
Uganda	1,655	980	105	20	20	340	210	340	210	-	
Zambia	385	160	85	35	35	40	50	40	50	5	
Zimbabwe	1,830	695	370	390	390	105	230	105	230	35	
Africa	45,160	22,595	7,530	1,740	1,740	6,825	6,320	6,825	6,320	160	

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2004 ^(P) by previous nationality, type and category of grant (continued)

Previous nationality	Total				Naturalisation				Registration				Number of persons
	Total	Residence		Marriage	Other Registration	Minor Children		Minor children	Minor children	Minor children	Minor children		
		s.6(1) Sch.8	s.6(2)			ss.4A, B, C, 4(2),(5), 5, 7, 8(1), (2), (3), 9, 10, 13, 36 Sch.8	ss.1(3), 1(4)					s.3(1)	
Indian sub-continent													
Bangladesh	5,810	1,885	3,205	10	105	560	40						
India	13,540	5,515	6,580	75	510	850	15						
Pakistan	14,125	3,490	8,855	60	635	1,070	20						
Indian sub-continent	33,475	10,885	18,640	145	1,250	2,480	75						
Middle East													
Bahrain	40	20	10	-	10	†	-						
Iran	2,250	1,460	350	20	160	260	-						
Iraq	2,340	1,450	285	25	165	410	-						
Israel	540	155	150	120	45	50	25						
Jordan	210	90	60	5	25	35	†						
Kuwait	130	60	5	10	30	25	-						
Lebanon	500	245	135	5	65	45	5						
Oman	15	10	†	-	-	†	-						
Palestine	165	65	40	-	45	15	-						
Qatar	5	†	5	-	†	-	-						
Republic of Yemen	†	-	†	-	-	-	-						
Saudi Arabia	65	25	10	10	5	10	†						
Syria	275	110	90	†	30	45	-						
United Arab Emirates	10	5	†	†	-	5	†						
Yemen	440	140	145	20	30	105	-						
Middle East	6,985	3,830	1,290	215	605	1,010	35						
Remainder of Asia													
Afghanistan	4,080	2,610	85	20	495	875	-						
Bhutan	5	5	†	-	-	-	-						
Brunei	10	5	†	†	-	-	-						
Cambodia	25	†	10	-	-	15	-						
China	1,925	835	595	20	115	355	5						

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2004 ^(P) by previous nationality, type and category of grant (continued)

Previous nationality	Total			Naturalisation			Registration			Number of persons
	Total	Residence		Marriage	Other Registration	Minor Children		Minor children		
		s.6(1) Sch.8	s.6(2)			ss,4A, B, C, 4(2),(5), 5, 7, 8(1), (2), (3), 9, 10, 13, 36 Sch.8	ss,1(3), 1(4)		s.3(1)	
Nauru	5	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	1,520	855	305	230	40	70	20	†	†	
Papua New Guinea	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Solomon Islands	†	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tonga	5	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Vanuatu	†	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Western Samoa	†	-	-	-	†	-	-	-	-	
Oceania	4,630	2,035	1,020	1,145	110	235	80	-	-	
Other										
British overseas territories citizens [1]	10	†	5	5	†	†	-	†	-	
British Overseas citizens	1,290	85	100	1,005	25	50	25	50	25	
British subjects	360	100	40	110	75	10	25	10	25	
British protected persons	90	15	5	70	†	-	-	-	-	
Nationality uncertain	10	†	-	†	5	5	-	5	-	
Stateless	90	15	5	10	35	15	10	15	10	
Stateless - Defined 1954 Convention	120	20	5	20	35	25	20	25	20	
Stateless refugee- Defined 1951 Convention	5	5	†	-	-	†	-	†	-	
Stateless refugee - Other	45	10	5	5	10	15	5	15	5	
Total	2,020	245	165	1,220	185	120	85	120	85	
All nationalities	140,740 [2]	64,105	40,410	5,930	13,045	16,520	740	16,520	740	

[1] Including British Nationals (Overseas), but excluding Gibraltar BOTCs.

[2] In addition, 50 Gibraltar BOTCs were registered under section 5 of the British Nationality Act 1981.

Table 5 Grants of nationality in the United Kingdom, 2003 - 2004, by age ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

Age	Number of Persons	
	2003 (R)	2004 (P)
Children Under 16	25,550	26,475
16-24	12,905	15,435
25-34	35,965	42,050
35-44	30,240	33,475
45-59	16,025	17,885
60+	4,690	5,375
Total	125,370	140,700

(1) Data include grants of British citizenship in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

(2) Excludes 165 cases in 2003 and 95 cases in 2004 for which information on age is not available; data is based on the cases for which information is provided, hence totals differ from those shown in tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table 6 Other grants of citizenship by type of citizenship, 2000-2004

Type of citizenship	Number of persons				
	2000	2001	2002	2003 ^(R)	2004 ^(P)
British citizenship granted in Hong Kong ⁽¹⁾	*	*	*	*	*
British citizenship granted in the UK to residents of Hong Kong ⁽²⁾	350	365	175	175	85
British overseas territories citizenship granted in the British overseas territories	560	630	515	1,355	N/A
British Overseas citizenship	†	-	-	-	-

(1) From 2000 there were no grants of British citizenship in Hong Kong because the responsibility for grants was transferred to the Home Office in the UK.

(2) Includes persons of non-Chinese ethnic origin.

Table 7 Reasons for refusal of British citizenship by type of refusal and cases withdrawn or revoked, 2003 - 2004

Number of refusals

Reason for refusal	2003 ^(R)	2004 ^(P)
Incomplete applications ⁽¹⁾	600	825
Parent not a British citizen	775	1,095
Not of good character ⁽²⁾	950	1,195
Delay in replying to enquiries from IND	1,740	1,700
Residence ⁽³⁾	4,260	6,475
Oath not taken in time	115	145
Other ⁽⁴⁾	465	610
Total refusals	8,900	12,050
Granted but withdrawn or revoked ⁽⁵⁾	1,585	1,700

(1) Includes cases where the applicant has not paid the fee, submitted unacceptable documentation, late and improper applications

(2) Includes applicants who are considered a threat to national security

(3) Includes applicants who have not lived lawfully in the UK for the last 5 years, have been in breach of the immigration laws during those 5 years, have been absent from the UK for more than 450 days in those 5 years or more than 90 days in the last 12 months of those 5 years

(4) Includes cases where the applicant has an insufficient knowledge of English, is not of full capacity, is under/over the age limit, is not married to a British citizen, has no qualifying connections, is a threat to national security and transitory period

(5) Includes cases where the applicant was issued a certificate but was already British or died, was British already and application withdrawn

Table 8 Take-up rates of British citizenship by region of birth, 2004 ^(P)

Region or country of birth	Total number of persons born outside the UK	British citizens born outside the UK	Proportion of persons who are British citizens after being in the UK for:			
			6 years or more	Between 6 and 10 years	Between 11 and 20 years	21 years or more
Europe	1,728,000	469,000	38%	10%	31%	40%
<i>EEA excl Irish Republic</i>	1,011,000	332,000	50%	9%	33%	64%
<i>Irish Republic</i>	441,000	73,000	17%	1%	1%	20%
<i>Rest of Europe</i>	276,000	63,000	40%	15%	68%	79%
Americas	603,000	285,000	61%	25%	46%	72%
<i>Caribbean, Central and South America</i>	361,000	219,000	70%	29%	53%	79%
<i>Canada and USA</i>	242,000	66,000	43%	23%	38%	55%
Africa	1,004,000	515,000	70%	32%	64%	88%
Indian sub-continent	945,000	603,000	79%	40%	75%	87%
Middle East	181,000	96,000	73%	55%	68%	87%
Remainder of Asia	512,000	215,000	66%	35%	62%	79%
Oceania	164,000	41,000	44%	9%	40%	62%
Other ¹
TOTAL excluding "Other"	5,136,000	2,223,000	59%	26%	54%	68%

SOURCE: UK Labour Force Survey, March 2004-February 2005

¹ "Other" includes Other New Commonwealth, "rest of the world", stateless, at sea/in air, no response

.. Not available due to small sample sizes.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

PERSONS GRANTED BRITISH CITIZENSHIP

1. The British Nationality Act 1981, which came into force on 1 January 1983, reduced greatly the number of persons eligible to claim British citizenship by reason of entitlement. Certain entitlements to British citizenship were extended for a transitional period, which ended on 31 December 1987, after which time applications had to be made on discretionary grounds.

2. The nationality shown in the first column of Tables 3 and 4 is the one, or in cases of dual nationality the main one, which the person possessed immediately before acquiring British citizenship.

3. The categories shown in Tables 2 and 4 relate to the section of the British Nationality Act 1981 under which citizenship was acquired. The following is a brief summary of the provisions of the relevant sections of the Act:

s.1(3) - entitlement to registration of a minor born in the United Kingdom when one of his/her parents becomes a British citizen or becomes settled in the United Kingdom.

s.1(4) - entitlement to registration of a person in the United Kingdom who spent the first ten years of his/her life in the United Kingdom.

s.3(1) - discretionary registration of a minor.

s.3(2) - entitlement to registration of a minor less than one year old who was born outside the United Kingdom to parents one of whom was a British citizen by descent.

s.3(5) - entitlement to registration of an overseas-born minor resident in the United Kingdom, one of whose parents was a British citizen by descent.

s.4A - discretionary registration for adults and minors who are British overseas territories citizens.

s.4B - entitlement to registration for British overseas citizens, British subjects and British protected Persons who have no other citizenship or nationality.

s.4C - entitlement to registration for people born after 7 February 1961 and before 1 January 1983 to mothers who were citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies at the time of their birth.

s.4(2) - entitlement to registration of a British overseas territories citizen, a British Overseas citizen, a British subject or a British protected person resident in the United Kingdom.

s.4(5) - discretionary registration on the grounds of Crown service of a British overseas territories citizen, a British Overseas citizen, a British subject or a British protected person.

s.5 - entitlement to registration of a British overseas territories citizen from Gibraltar.

s.6(1) - naturalisation of an adult by virtue of residence in the United Kingdom.

s.6(2) - naturalisation of an adult, resident in the United Kingdom, by virtue of marriage to a British citizen.

s.7 -transitional entitlement to registration (which, with minor exceptions, ended on 31 December 1987) of a Commonwealth citizen who is resident in the United Kingdom.

s.8(1) - transitional entitlement to registration (which ended on 31 December 1987) of a woman still married since before 1983 to a man who became a British citizen on commencement of the 1981 Act.

s.8(2) and 8(3) - transitional discretionary registration (which ended on 31 December 1987) of a woman married before 1983 to a man who would have become a British citizen but for his death or renunciation of citizenship.

s.9 - transitional entitlement to registration (which ended on 31 December 1988) of a minor born abroad between 1 January 1983 and 31 December 1987 who, if they had been born before 1 January 1983 and had been consularly registered, would have become a British citizen on 1 January 1983.

s.10(1) - entitlement to acquire British citizenship by a person who had renounced citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies before 1983.

s.10(2) - discretionary registration of a person connected with the United Kingdom who renounced citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies before 1983.

s.13(1) - entitlement to resume British citizenship by a person who renounced it to acquire some other citizenship.

s.13(3) - discretionary registration of a person who has previously renounced British citizenship.

s.27(1) - discretionary provision for stateless minors one of whose parents is a British overseas citizen and whose family's stay in the country where they live is at risk to the point of deportation.

Schedule 2 - entitlement to registration of a stateless person.

Schedule 8 - any applications made before the commencement of the 1981 Act continue to be decided in accordance with the provisions of the previous nationality Acts.

There are currently 6 forms of British nationality:

- **British citizens** are the majority. They have that citizenship usually through a connection with the UK and have the right of abode in the UK
- **British overseas territories citizens** (BOTCs) – known as British Dependent Territories citizens before February 2002 - have that citizenship through a connection with a British overseas territory such as Gibraltar, St Helena etc. NB. Hong Kong BDTCs lost that citizenship automatically on 1 July 1997 but may still hold another form of British nationality (see below)
- **British Overseas citizens** (BOCs) are a smaller group connected with the former British colonies who, for the most part, did not acquire citizenship of the new country when it attained independence. Hong Kong BDTCs became BOCs on 1 July 1997 if they would otherwise have been stateless
- **British Nationals (Overseas)** (BN(O)s) are a separate sub-group of former Hong Kong BDTCs. The vast majority of British Nationals (Overseas) are ethnically Chinese who became Chinese on 1 July 1997. Although their BDTC status was lost on that date they are still, as BN(O)s, able to travel on British passports
- **British subjects** (BSs) are a dwindling group of people who normally hold that status either:
 - by virtue of their birth in Eire before 1 January 1949, or
 - because they were BSs before 1 January 1949 through a connection with a place which became a Commonwealth country on that date and, although they were potentially citizens of that country, did not acquire citizenship of that or any other country before 1 January 1983. Known as British subjects without citizenship, before 1983, they would lose that status if they acquired another nationality

British protected persons (BPPs) are a small group of persons who hold that status through a connection (normally birth) with a place which was either a UK protectorate, protected state, mandated or trust territory. In most cases, BPP status was lost if the place was part of a country which attained independence.

BRITISH CITIZENSHIP TAKE-UP RATES

4. The 'Life in the UK Advisory Group', headed by Sir Bernard Crick, was established in September 2002 with the remit: *"To advise the Home Secretary on the method, conduct and implementation of a 'Life in the United Kingdom' naturalisation test."* More information can be found at [http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/0/reports/life in the uk.html](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/0/reports/life%20in%20the%20uk.html)

5. Information from the UK Labour Force Survey (LFS), run by the Office for National Statistics, was used to produce the results in Table 7. The LFS is a quarterly sample survey of households living at private addresses in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Its purpose is to provide information on the UK labour market, but also contains questions that enquire after the respondent's country of birth, nationality, and year in which they arrived in the UK (if born outside the UK). As these figures are based on a sample - and in some cases the sample sizes are relatively small - it must be noted that they are only estimates and subject to sampling error. Data for the four consecutive quarters March to May 2004, June to August 2004, September to November 2004 and December 2004 to February 2005 were averaged to produce an annual estimate for 2004. Cross-tabulations of each of the LFS variables NATOX (main nationality) and CRYOX (country of birth) were produced with variable CAMEYR (year in which respondent arrived in the UK, which is asked of all persons not born in the UK). From these analyses, estimates were made of the number of overseas born British citizens, and dividing these by the total number of overseas born persons in each nationality and year breakdown provided broad estimates of British citizenship take-up rate.

6. The figures presented in this paper are estimates and not definitive take-up rates of British citizenship. They should also be treated as provisional subject to further refinement of the analysis. They show the proportions of overseas-born persons who are British citizens and do not take into account the application rate of citizenship applicants. The figures also include overseas citizens born in the UK, but this group is very small (4 per cent) in relation to the overseas born population. These figures include persons of all ages – i.e. they include children born abroad. An appreciable number will have acquired citizenship by registration as children. If it is assumed that the citizenship take-up rate for such children is higher than for adults, then this might result in a lower take-up rate for adults. This group will include some who were British at birth (e.g. children born to parents living in British military bases abroad) but it is not possible to separately identify them.

7. The following assumptions have been made to produce these estimates:

- the original nationality of overseas-born persons is the same as their country of birth;
- dual-nationals of which one nationality is British quote their British nationality as their main one, and those with two non-British nationalities quote the same nationality as their country of birth;
- the year given as the year in which respondent arrived in the UK is the year in which the respondent commenced their long-term stay in the UK. It may be the case that a person has become a UK citizen, then returned to their

country of birth – or another country – for a period of time, before returning to continue their life in the UK.

GENERAL

8. The following symbols are used in the tables:

* not applicable

- nil

† 2 or less

(P) provisional figures

(R) figures have been revised since the previous issue of this bulletin, for example to include late returns

9. Statistics for the years 1962 - 1983 were published annually in "Statistics of persons acquiring Citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies" (for 1962-77), "Tables of persons acquiring Citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies" (for 1978-82) and "Tables of persons acquiring British Citizenship" (for 1983), all of which are available from The Stationery Office. Statistics for 1984 and subsequent years were published in the relevant annual Statistical Bulletin.

Enquiries about the figures should be made to:

Home Office
Research Development and Statistics Directorate
Immigration Research and Statistics Service
Room 1402
Apollo House
36 Wellesley Road
Croydon
Surrey CR9 3RR

Telephone 020-8760 8289

Press enquiries should be made to:

Home Office
Press Office
Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Telephone 020-7035 3821

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS DIRECTORATE MISSION STATEMENT

RDS is part of the Home Office. The Home Office's purpose is to build a safe, just and tolerant society in which the rights and responsibilities of individuals, families and communities are properly balanced and the protection and security of the public are maintained.

RDS is also part of National Statistics (NS). One of the aims of NS is to inform Parliament and the citizen about the state of the nation and provide a window on the work and performance of government, allowing the impact of government policies and actions to be assessed.

Therefore -

Research, Development and Statistics Directorate exists to improve policy making, decision taking and practice in support of the Home Office purpose and aims, to provide the public and Parliament with information necessary for informed debate and to publish information for future use.