

Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2005

09/06

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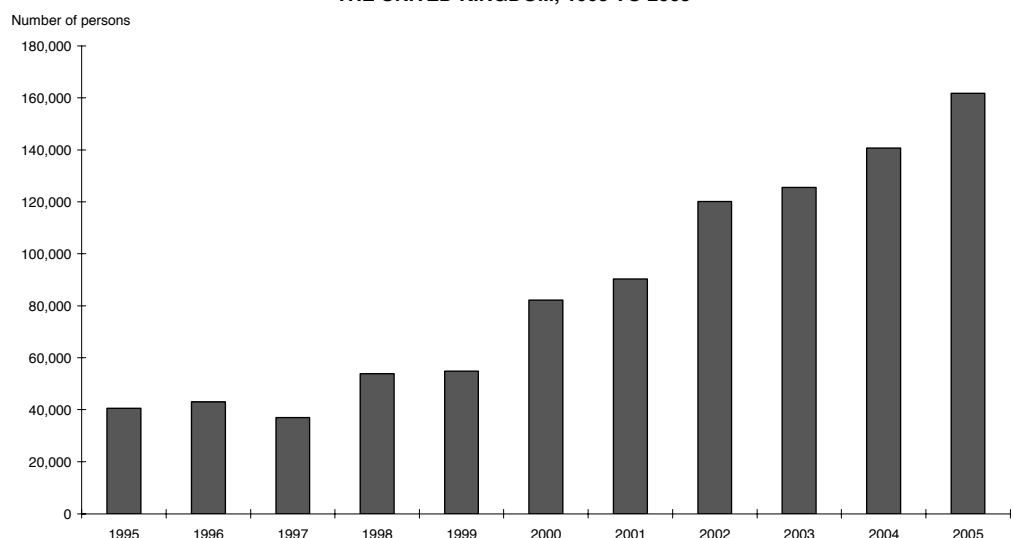
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MAIN POINTS:

- Applications for British citizenship rose by 64 per cent in 2005 to 217,475, mainly due to the introduction of a new requirement for an applicant to demonstrate a knowledge of life in the UK as well as their English language ability on 1 November 2005 (paragraph 1).
- The number of persons granted British citizenship in the United Kingdom rose by 15 per cent to 161,780 in 2005 (paragraph 2).
- 48 per cent were granted on the basis of residence, 21 per cent because of marriage, and 25 per cent were minor children (paragraph 5).
- Citizens of countries in Asia and Africa accounted for 39 and 29 per cent respectively of the total (paragraph 6).
- The main nationalities were India, Pakistan, Serbia and Montenegro, and Somalia (9, 8, 6 and 5 per cent respectively) (Paragraph 6).
- Other sources indicate that approximately 61 per cent of overseas born people who had been in the UK for six years or more in 2005 were British citizens (paragraph 13).

Figure 1

GRANTS OF BRITISH CITIZENSHIP IN
THE UNITED KINGDOM, 1995 TO 2005



Introduction

This bulletin provides provisional summary statistics on applications for, and, grants/refusals of, British citizenship in 2005 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

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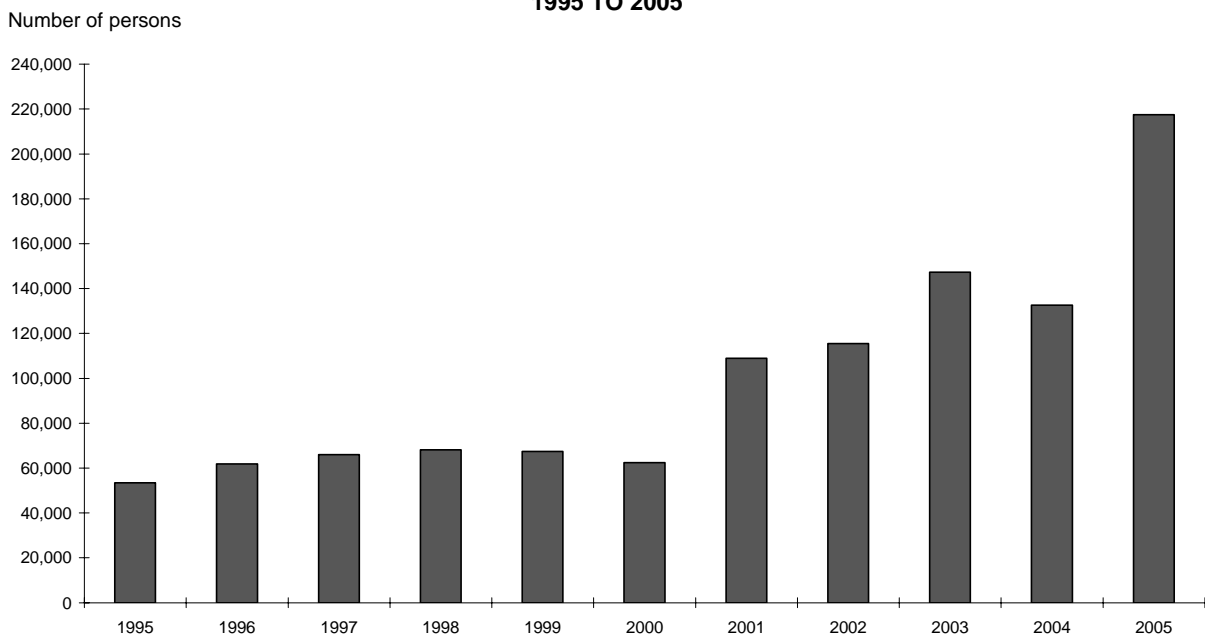
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SECTION ONE: PERSONS GRANTED BRITISH CITIZENSHIP

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED (Figure 2 and Table 1)

1. The number of applications received for British citizenship in 2005 was 217,475, a rise of 64 per cent compared to the previous year when 132,630 applications were received. This increase is mainly due to the introduction of a new requirement for an applicant to demonstrate a knowledge of life in the UK as well as their English language ability on 1 November 2005. In the month prior to the introduction of this requirement there was a significant increase in applications received, which suggests that prospective British citizens may have decided to submit their applications early to avoid the requirement. The rise in applications in 2005 was a significant change from the 10 per cent decrease in applications in 2004 which was attributed to the introduction of the requirement of English language testing.

Figure 2 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR BRITISH CITIZENSHIP 1995 TO 2005



GRANTS AND REFUSALS (Figure 1 and Table 1)

2. The number of persons granted British citizenship in 2005 was 161,780, an increase of 15 per cent on the previous year. It continued the upward trend of grants since 1997

3. 19,930 applications for British citizenship were refused in 2005, an increase of 46 per cent on 2004 when 13,650 applications were refused. Refusals made up 11 per cent of all decisions in 2005, compared with 9 per cent in 2004.

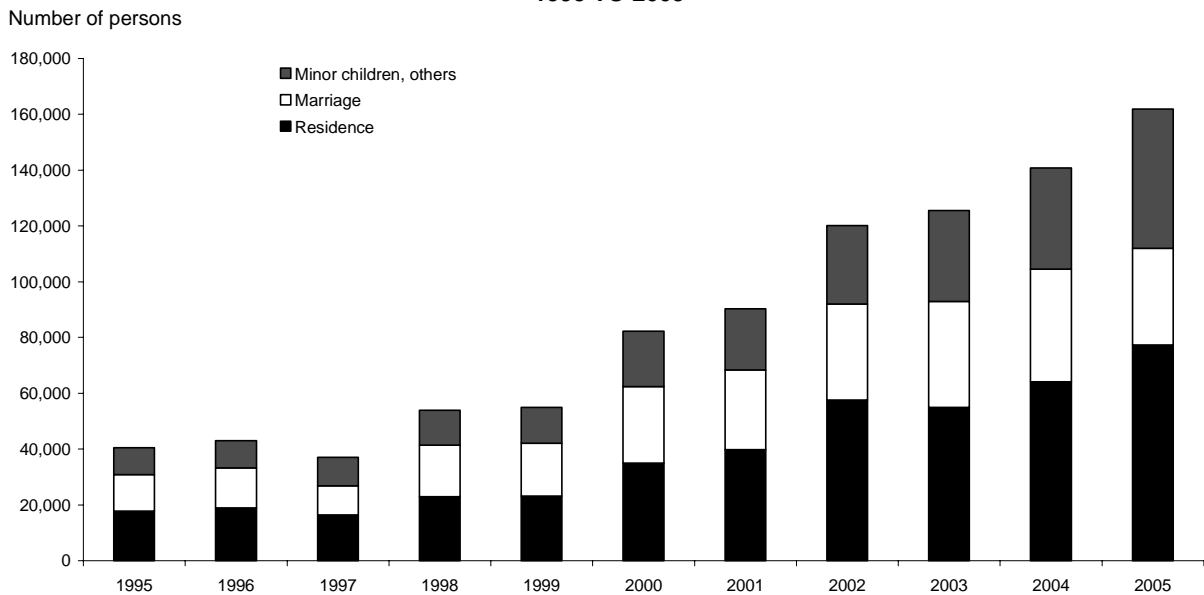
4. The total number of decisions made in 2005 rose by 18 per cent to 181,710. This rise can be attributed to procedural and organisational changes, improved staff productivity and an increase in case working resources.

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 2005. The number of such grants was 77,375, 48 per cent of the total. The number of grants to persons on the basis of marriage to a British citizen was 34,505, 21 per cent of the total. These proportions differ slightly from the previous year (46 per cent and 29 per cent respectively) which had remained largely unchanged for several years. Most (41,215) of the remaining grants in 2005 were to minor children¹ who accounted for 25 per cent of the total.

Figure 3

GRANTS OF BRITISH CITIZENSHIP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, BY BASIS OF GRANT, 1995 TO 2005



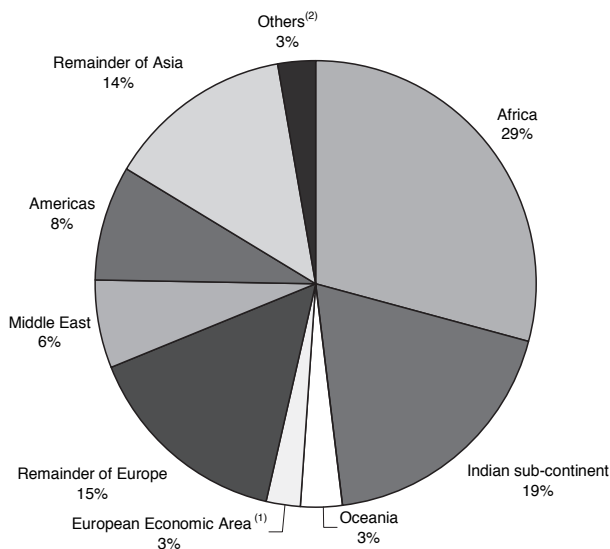
PREVIOUS NATIONALITY (Figure 4 and Tables 3, 4)

6. Persons whose previous nationality was from countries in the African continent constituted 29 per cent (47,320) of all grants in 2005, 5 per cent more than in 2004. The Indian sub-continent accounted for 19 per cent (30,415) of grants, compared with 24 per cent in 2004. Grants made to people from the Remainder of Europe (i.e. outside the European Economic Area) increased by 54 per cent to 24,600. Nationalities with the largest numbers of grants in 2005 were: India 14,160 (9 per cent of the total); Pakistan 12,615 (8 per cent); Serbia and Montenegro 9,800 (6 per cent); Somali 8,305 (5 per cent); South Africa 7,045 (5 per cent); Sri Lanka 6,995 (4 per cent); Turkey 6,765 (4 per cent) and Nigeria 6,615 (4 per cent).

¹ Children under the age of 18

Figure 4

**GRANTS OF BRITISH CITIZENSHIP IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 2005, BY PREVIOUS NATIONALITY
(Total number of persons 161,780)**



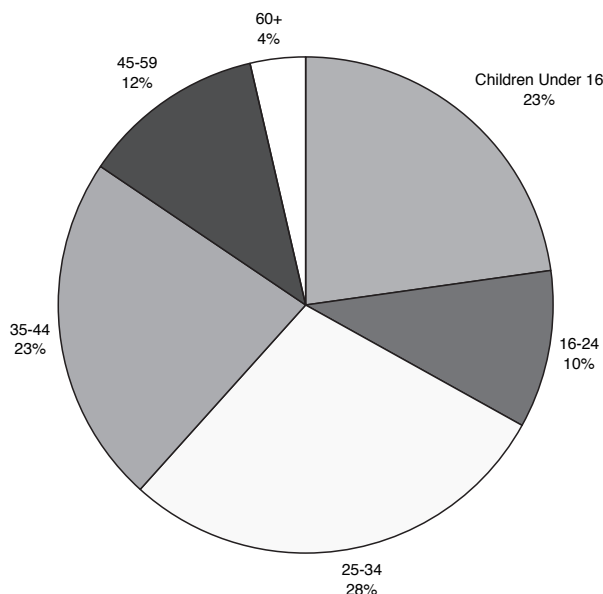
(1) Includes British overseas territories citizens (except from Gibraltar) and British Overseas citizens
(2) Includes British Overseas territories citizens from Gibraltar

GRANTS BY AGE (Figure 5 and Table 5)

7. The majority of grants of British citizenship were to people aged between 25 and 44 (51 per cent of the total), 3 percentage points less than the previous year. Children under 16 constituted 23 per cent, which was 4 percentage points higher than the previous year. Persons aged 45 to 59 were 12 per cent; 16 to 24 were 10 per cent while the over 60s were just 4 per cent, the same as 2004.

Figure 5

**GRANTS OF BRITISH NATIONALITY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 2005, BY AGE
(Total number of grants 161,780)(1)**



(1) Includes 55 cases where an age analysis is not available.

OTHER GRANTS OF CITIZENSHIP (Table 6)

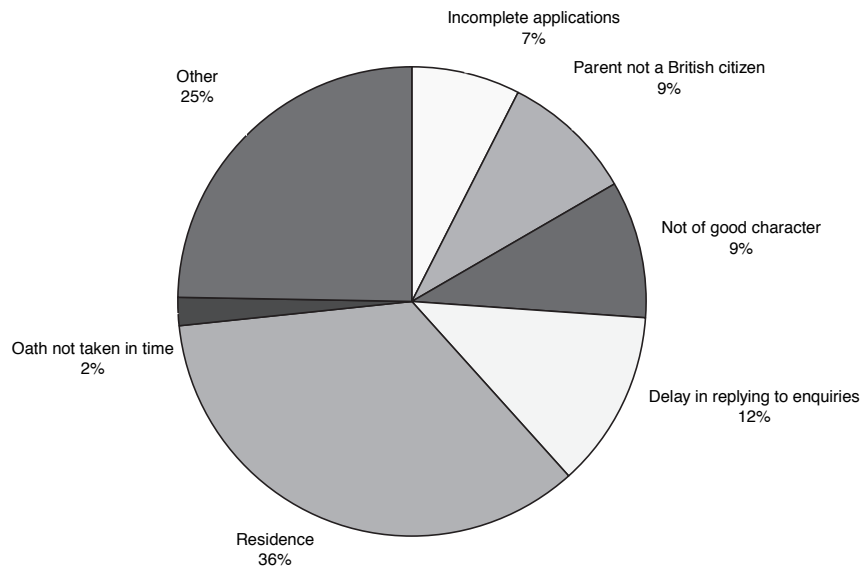
8. 150 persons of non-Chinese nationality were granted British citizenship in 2005 under the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Act 1997. This brought the total number of grants since 1997 under this Act to 4,755. This was in addition to 136,500 grants in 1991 - 97 under the earlier 1990 Act and its associated 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 32 per cent increase in the number of persons refused British citizenship in 2005. Of the 19,930 refusal decisions made 31 per cent (6,265) were refusals on the grounds of Residence, 11 per cent (2,170) were refused due to the applicants delay in replying to enquiries from IND, 8 per cent (1,665) because the applicant was considered not to be of good character, and 8 per cent (1,665) because the parent was not a British citizen. Other miscellaneous reasons for refusal made up 30 per cent (6,045)

2,115 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 2005, BY TYPE OF REFUSAL
(Total number of refusals 17,815)⁽¹⁾



(1) Excludes 2,115 cases that were granted but were withdrawn or revoked

SECTION TWO: BRITISH CITIZENSHIP TAKE-UP RATES

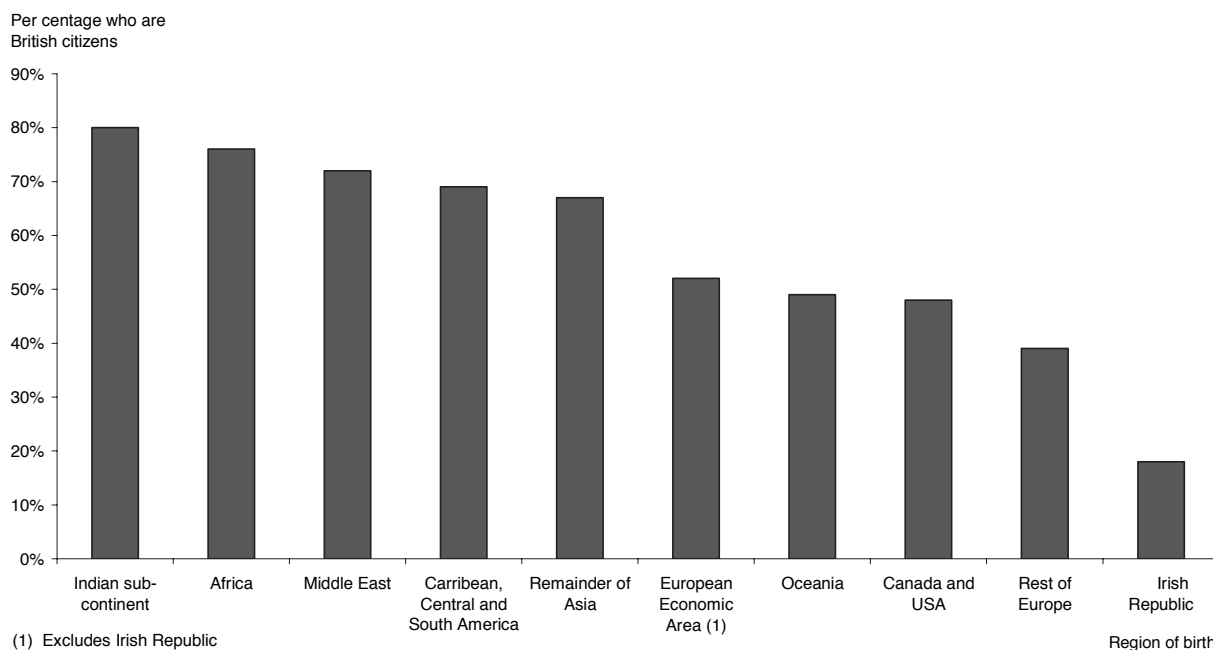
AN ANALYSIS OF THE TENDENCY OF OVERSEAS NATIONALS TO TAKE UP BRITISH CITIZENSHIP (Figure 7 and Table 8)

10. The Research Development and Statistics Directorate carries out annual analyses of the “take-up rate” of citizenship using information from the UK Labour Force Survey (LFS) in response to an initial interest from the ‘Life in the UK Advisory Group’², in 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 2005, 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, 2005



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 2005, 61 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.

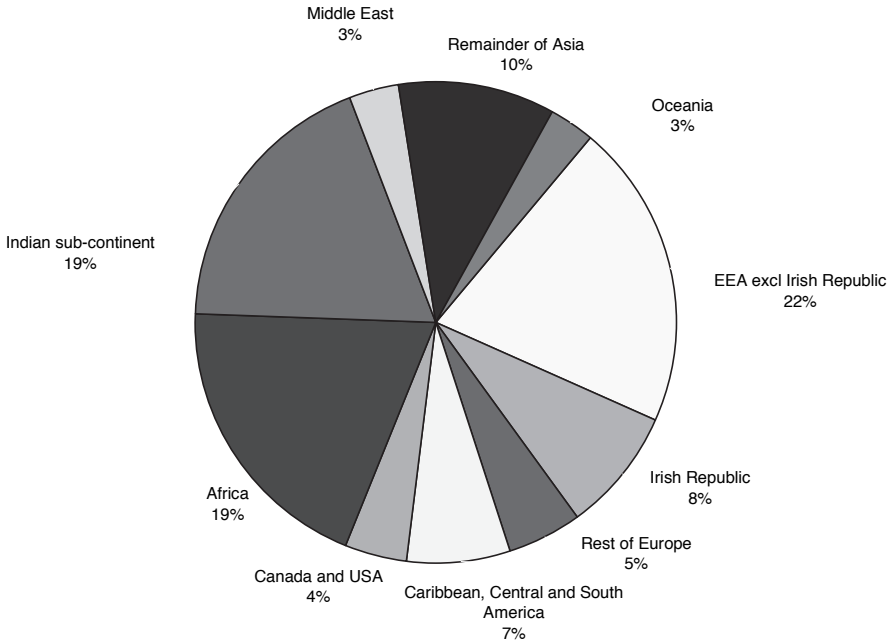
14. People born in developed countries such as Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada and EU states were less likely to become British citizens than those born in developing countries in such regions as Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

15. The longer a person had remained in the UK the more likely they were to have gained British citizenship. 31 per cent of overseas-born people who had been in the UK for between 6 and 10 years in 2005 were British, compared with 73 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 (94 per cent compared with, for example, 89 per cent of Indian sub-continent-born people). However, they were more likely to wait before applying – only 46 per cent of African-born people who had been in the UK for between 6 and 10 years were British citizens compared with 53 per cent of Indian sub-continent-born people.

17. People born in the Irish Republic were unlikely to become British citizens – only 22 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, 2005⁽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 2005 to February 2006.

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British citizenship take-up rates

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Table 1 Applications for British citizenship received and decided in the United Kingdom, 1995-2005

Year	Applications received	Decisions taken		Refusal as a % of all decisions
		Grants ⁽¹⁾	Refusals ⁽²⁾	
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	147,345	125,535	10,480	8%
2004 ^(R)	132,630	140,705	13,650	9%
2005 ^(P)	217,475	161,780	19,930	11%

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

(2) Includes small numbers of applications withdrawn.

Table 2 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom by basis of grant⁽¹⁾, 1995-2005

Year of grant	Number of persons				
	All grants	Residence	Marriage	Minor children	Other ⁽²⁾
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	125,535	54,965	37,965	30,345	2,255
2004 ^(R)	140,705	64,070	40,385	30,280	5,970
2005 ^(P)	161,780	77,375	34,505	41,215	8,680

(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⁾, 2001-2005

Previous nationality	Number of persons				
	2001	2002	2003	2004 (R)	2005 (P)
European Economic Area ⁽²⁾	1,680	1,575	2,225	4,165	4,120
Remainder of Europe	9,405	17,755	17,230	15,940	24,600
Americas	7,245	8,035	10,455	12,055	13,600
Africa	29,790	37,560	40,125	44,915	47,320
Indian sub-continent	23,745	26,685	29,695	33,360	30,415
Middle East	5,330	9,440	6,250	6,960	10,195
Remainder of Asia	8,630	15,355	13,180	16,115	22,080
Oceania	1,515	1,740	3,875	4,620	4,985
Other ⁽³⁾	2,565	1,985	2,500	2,580	4,465
All grants	90,295	120,125	125,535	140,705	161,780

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

(2) Includes the 10 accession states from 2004 and 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 2005^(P) by previous nationality, type and category of grant

Previous nationality	Naturalisation				Registration			Number of persons
	Total	Residence	Marriage	Other Registration	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)	ss.3(2),3(5), Sch.8	
European Economic Area								
Austria	25	15	5	†	5	5	-	-
Belgium	60	15	10	†		15	5	5
Cyprus	140	65	35	5	20	20	5	5
Czech Republic	115	30	60	-	10	15	-	-
Denmark	35	5	5	5	†	15	-	-
Estonia	40	20	10	-	5	10	-	-
Finland	30	10	5	-	5	10	-	-
France	375	135	50	15	60	80	40	40
Germany	305	75	80	30	30	70	20	20
Greece	185	120	20	†	25	15	10	10
Hungary	135	50	55	†	5	25	-	-
Iceland	5	†	†	5	-	†	-	-
Irish Republic	155	65	30	25	10	20	†	†
Italy	270	100	55	20	45	40	15	15
Latvia	90	45	20	†	10	15	-	-
Lithuania	205	80	40	†	35	45	-	-
Malta	60	15	20	10	5	5	-	-
Netherlands	145	55	25	5	30	20	†	†
Norway	25	5	5	-	5	10	†	†
Poland	560	250	160	†	80	60	†	†
Portugal	655	385	55	5	120	85	5	5
Slovakia	215	60	130	†	10	15	†	†
Slovenia	†	†	†	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	165	60	20	10	25	40	15	15
Sweden	90	30	10	10	15	25	5	5
Total	4,095	1,700	905	150	555	660	120	
Remainder of Europe								
Albania	780	345	150	5	125	155	†	†
Armenia	200	115	15	†	25	40	-	-
Azerbaijan	150	70	25	†	15	35	-	-
Belarus	175	80	55	†	10	25	-	-
Bosnia-Herzegovina	415	275	50	†	30	60	-	-

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2005^(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	375			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	s.3(1) Sch.8	
Bulgaria	650	375	135	5	55	80	†				
Croatia	1,035	615	75	†	125	215	-				
Cyprus (non European Union)	295	150	55	†	55	40	†				
Georgia	140	75	20	-	10	30	-				
Kazakhstan	115	40	45	-	5	25	†				
Kyrgyzstan	30	5	20	-	†	5	-				
Macedonia	165	65	85	-	10	10	-				
Moldova	90	35	30	-	5	15	-				
Romania	530	245	185	†	45	55	-				
Russia	2,235	1,015	735	20	120	345	-				
Serbia and Montenegro	9,800	5,300	400	25	1,770	2,305	5				
Switzerland	90	20	25	15	5	15	10				
Tajikistan	10	5	†	-	†	-	-				
Turkey	6,765	3,645	1,175	45	905	995	†				
Turkmenistan	5	†	†	-	-	-	-				
Ukraine	860	360	290	10	50	150	†				
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	†	-	†	-	-	-	-				
Uzbekistan	65	25	25	†	†	10	-				
Remainder of Europe	24,600	12,865	3,590	140	3,365	4,610	25				
Americas											
Antigua and Barbuda	25	15	5	†	5	-	-				
Argentina	145	45	60	10	5	20	-				
Bahamas	30	10	5	10	-	5	5				
Barbados	175	90	60	5	5	15	†				
Belize	25	10	5	-	-	5	†				
Bolivia	50	20	10	-	5	10	-				
Brazil	565	225	230	10	40	45	10				
Canada	1,295	430	315	395	30	105	20				
Chile	110	60	40	†	-	5	†				
Colombia	1,500	790	280	20	185	230	-				

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2005^(P) by previous nationality, type and category of grant (continued)

Previous nationality	Total	Naturalisation		Registration			Number of persons
		Residence	Marriage	Other Registration	Minor Children	Minor children	
Costa Rica	10	5	5	-	†	†	†
Cuba	115	25	70	-	5	15	-
Dominica	70	35	25	†	†	10	-
Dominican Republic	55	15	25	-	5	10	-
Ecuador	655	265	65	5	190	125	5
El Salvador	10	5	5	-	-	†	-
French Guyana	5	-	-	†	†	-	†
Grenada	105	55	30	10	5	10	-
Guadeloupe	†	†	-	-	-	-	-
Guatemala	10	†	5	†	-	†	-
Guyana	295	140	95	5	15	40	-
Haiti	5	†	†	-	-	5	-
Honduras	10	5	5	†	†	-	-
Jamaica	3,515	1,585	1,080	75	200	570	5
Mexico	175	60	80	10	5	15	5
Nicaragua	5	†	†	-	†	†	-
Panama	20	5	10	-	†	-	†
Paraguay	5	†	†	-	-	†	-
Peru	230	100	105	†	5	15	†
St. Kitts and Nevis	10	5	5	-	†	†	-
St. Lucia	115	50	50	5	5	10	-
St. Vincent and Grenadines	75	35	20	†	5	10	-
Surinam	5	-	5	†	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	730	430	165	10	70	55	†
United States of America	3,315	1,225	870	485	205	420	110
Uruguay	10	5	†	5	†	†	-
Venezuela	120	45	50	5	10	10	†
Americas	13,600	5,795	3,795	1,075	1,005	1,765	170

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2005^(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		
		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	1,485	885	280	†	†	190	125	†	190	125	–
Angola	870	430	15	5	5	275	140	†	275	140	–
Benin	10	5	†	–	–	5	†	5	5	†	–
Botswana	35	15	5	5	–	5	†	†	5	†	–
Burkina Faso	10	†	5	–	–	†	†	†	†	†	†
Burundi	400	245	10	5	5	70	70	70	70	70	–
Cameroon	380	195	35	†	†	90	55	55	90	55	–
Cape Verde	†	–	†	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Central African Republic	†	†	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Chad	70	55	–	–	–	5	10	–	5	10	–
Comoros	†	†	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Congo	670	340	25	†	†	200	95	95	200	95	–
Congo (Dem Rep)	1,810	830	65	15	15	580	320	320	580	320	–
Djibouti	5	5	†	–	–	†	–	–	†	–	–
Egypt	785	350	210	10	10	80	135	–	80	135	†
Eritrea	640	375	35	5	5	100	125	125	100	125	–
Ethiopia	610	430	60	†	†	70	55	55	70	55	–
Gabon	5	5	†	–	–	†	–	–	†	–	–
Gambia	335	120	100	†	†	80	35	35	80	35	–
Ghana	3,305	1,715	580	40	40	670	300	300	670	300	–
Guinea	45	20	10	–	–	10	5	5	10	5	–
Guinea Bissau	15	5	–	–	–	†	5	5	†	5	–
Ivory Coast	355	170	25	†	†	110	50	50	110	50	–
Kenya	2,320	955	490	255	255	255	350	350	255	350	10
Lesotho	10	5	5	–	–	–	†	†	–	†	–
Liberia	185	110	20	–	–	50	10	10	50	10	–
Libya	790	335	60	15	15	250	125	125	250	125	–
Madagascar	5	†	†	–	–	†	†	†	†	†	–
Malawi	165	60	40	20	20	10	35	35	10	35	–
Mali	5	†	†	–	–	5	†	†	5	†	–

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2005^(P) by previous nationality, type and category of grant (continued)

Previous nationality	Naturalisation				Registration			Number of persons
	Total	Residence	Marriage	Other Registration	Registration		Minor children	
					Minor Children	Minor children		
Mauritania	20	10	5	—	5	—	—	—
Mauritius	860	465	240	10	85	—	—	†
Morocco	705	310	330	—	30	—	—	—
Mozambique	50	15	15	†	5	—	—	†
Namibia	30	15	5	5	†	—	—	—
Niger	5	5	—	—	†	—	—	—
Nigeria	6,615	3,300	1,270	140	1,235	675	—	—
Rwanda	495	280	20	5	80	110	—	—
Sao Tome Principe	†	†	—	—	—	†	—	—
Senegal	45	15	15	—	5	10	—	—
Seychelles	95	50	20	5	10	15	—	—
Sierra Leone	1,740	955	140	50	460	140	—	—
Somalia	8,305	4,585	350	55	1,150	2,160	—	†
South Africa	7,045	3,555	1,680	570	265	845	—	130
Sudan	1,000	620	90	10	115	165	—	—
Swaziland	5	—	†	†	—	†	—	—
Tanzania	560	235	135	35	85	65	—	—
Togo	100	55	10	†	25	10	—	—
Tunisia	235	80	130	—	10	15	—	—
Uganda	1,525	840	100	55	310	220	—	5
Zambia	445	210	70	20	70	75	—	†
Zimbabwe	2,130	955	365	250	145	375	—	40
Africa	47,320	24,215	7,075	1,590	7,205	7,045	190	190

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2005^(P) by previous nationality, type and category of grant (continued)

Previous nationality	Total			Naturalisation		Registration			Number of persons
	Residence	Marriage	Other Registration	Minor Children	Minor children	Minor children	Minor children		
								ss.6(1) Sch.8	
Indian sub-continent									
Bangladesh	1,400	1,680	10	120	405	25			
India	6,495	5,280	175	915	1,290	10			
Pakistan	4,235	6,185	75	765	1,330	25			
Indian sub-continent	12,125	13,145	260	1,800	3,025	60			
Middle East									
Bahrain	30	15	5	†	5	†			
Iran	3,525	2,490	360	360	25	190			
Iraq	3,260	2,025	320	320	35	300			
Israel	665	295	150	150	120	55			
Jordan	245	100	70	70	5	30			
Kuwait	155	70	10	10	10	20			
Lebanon	630	315	140	140	15	65			
Oman	10	5	5	5	–	†			
Palestine	405	180	40	40	5	105			
Qatar	10	5	–	†	–	–			
Saudi Arabia	80	35	15	15	10	10			
Syria	405	190	10	90	10	60			
United Arab Emirates	20	5	†	†	†	†			
Yemen	765	325	40	135	195	70			
Middle East	10,195	6,015	275	910	1,630	30			
Remainder of Asia									
Afghanistan	4,950	2,960	40	150	1,295	–			
Bhutan	25	25	–	†	–	†			
Brunei	10	†	†	5	–	–			
Cambodia	20	†	–	15	–	–			
China	2,425	1,095	25	540	450	310			

Table 4 Grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom in 2005^(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	5							s.6(2)	
Hong Kong SAR of China (holder of certificate)	5	5	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Hong Kong SAR of China (holder of special voucher)	115	25	20	30	30	5	5	5	20	20	15
Indonesia	210	70	105	†	†	5	5	5	25	25	5
Japan	175	75	55	5	5	20	20	20	15	15	10
Laos	5	5	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Malaysia	525	265	195	10	10	25	25	25	30	30	5
Maldives	15	5	†	†	†	†	†	†	5	5	†
Mongolia	20	10	10	†	†	†	†	†	5	5	†
Myanmar (Burma)	120	75	20	†	†	10	10	10	15	15	†
Nauru	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Nepal	655	430	60	†	†	25	25	25	140	140	†
North Korea	5	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Philippines	3,800	2,170	855	5	5	320	320	320	440	440	5
Singapore	150	55	60	5	5	15	15	15	15	15	†
South Korea	280	135	45	5	5	40	40	40	55	55	†
Sri Lanka	6,995	4,365	650	30	30	1,065	1,065	1,065	885	885	†
Taiwan	250	145	80	†	†	10	10	10	15	15	†
Thailand	1,110	260	630	5	5	15	15	15	200	200	5
Vietnam	205	90	75	†	†	†	†	†	25	25	†
Remainder of Asia	22,080	12,265	3,565	165	165	2,395	2,395	2,395	3,635	3,635	50
Oceania											
American Samoa	5	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Australia	3,345	1,295	630	1,085	1,085	90	90	90	180	180	70
Fiji	50	20	25	†	†	5	5	5	5	5	†
New Zealand	1,560	895	330	190	190	55	55	55	70	70	20

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
		Residence	Marriage	Other Registration	Minor Children	Minor children	Minor children		
Papua New Guinea	5	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-
Samoa	†	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-
Solomon Islands	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tonga	15	5	5	-	†	5	5	5	-
Vanuatu	†	-	-	†	-	†	-	†	-
Oceania	4,985	2,225	985	1,280	150	260	150	260	90
Other									
British overseas territories citizens [1]	280	5	5	220	†	50	†	50	-
British Nationals (Overseas)	465	15	55	330	10	40	15	40	15
British Overseas citizens	2,830	60	20	2,675	15	35	15	35	15
British subjects	280	5	5	155	100	15	15	15	-
British protected persons	360	10	-	345	-	†	-	†	-
Nationality uncertain	105	25	10	†	30	35	30	35	5
Stateless	95	30	-	-	30	30	30	30	5
Stateless - Defined 1954 Convention	30	10	5	5	-	5	-	5	†
Stateless refugee- Defined 1951 Convention	30	10	†	-	5	10	5	10	†
Stateless refugee - Other	†	-	†	†	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4,465	175	100	3,740	190	220	190	220	45
All nationalities	161,755 [2]	77,375	34,505	8,670	17,570	22,855	17,570	22,855	785

[1] Excluding Gibraltar BOTCs.

[2] In addition, 25 Gibraltar BOTCs were registered under section 5 of the British Nationality Act 1981.

Table 5 Grants of nationality in the United Kingdom, 2003 - 2005, by age⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

Age	Number of Persons		
	2003	2004 (R)	2005 (P)
Children Under 16	25,550	26,445	36,780
16-24	12,905	15,420	16,850
25-34	35,965	42,010	46,175
35-44	30,240	33,435	36,900
45-59	16,025	17,860	19,210
60+	4,690	5,370	5,810
Total	125,370	140,535	161,730

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

(2) Excludes 165 cases in 2003, 95 Cases in 2004 and 55 cases in 2005 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, 2001-2005

Type of citizenship	Number of persons				
	2001	2002	2003	2004 ^(R)	2005 ^(P)
British citizenship granted in the UK to residents of Hong Kong ⁽¹⁾	365	175	175	80	150
British overseas territories citizenship granted in the British overseas territories	630	515	1,355	1,000	245

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

Table 7 Reasons for refusal of British citizenship by type of refusal and cases withdrawn or revoked, 2003-2005

Reason for refusal	Number of refusals		
	2003	2004 ^(R)	2005 ^(P)
Incomplete applications ⁽¹⁾	600	820	1,320
Parent not a British citizen	775	1,100	1,665
Not of good character ⁽²⁾	950	1,195	1,665
Delay in replying to enquiries from IND	1,740	1,645	2,170
Residence ⁽³⁾	4,260	6,490	6,265
Oath not taken in time	115	105	345
Other ⁽⁴⁾	465	610	4,380
Total refusals	8,900	11,960	17,815
Granted but withdrawn or revoked ⁽⁵⁾	1,585	1,695	2,115

(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, 2005 ^(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	1,859,000	453,000	40%	11%	32%	51%
EEA excl Irish Republic	1,134,000	318,000	52%	9%	34%	71%
Irish Republic	446,000	77,000	#	#	#	#
Rest of Europe	279,000	58,000	39%	20%	58%	63%
Americas	606,000	280,000	62%	28%	53%	74%
Caribbean, Central and South America	373,000	207,000	69%	30%	54%	82%
Canada and USA	233,000	73,000	48%	25%	51%	57%
Africa	1,061,000	573,000	76%	46%	71%	94%
Indian sub-continent	1,026,000	644,000	80%	53%	72%	89%
Middle East	187,000	94,000	72%	39%	80%	86%
Remainder of Asia	570,000	229,000	67%	35%	61%	83%
Oceania	173,000	52,000	49%	15%	30%	74%
Other ¹
TOTAL excluding "Other"	5,482,000	2,325,000	61%	31%	56%	73%

SOURCE: UK Labour Force Survey, March 2005-February 2006

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

.. Not available due to small sample sizes.

data has not been published due to concerns over data quality.

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

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

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