

The Commonwealth Secretariat

1. The Commonwealth Secretariat is an international body which acts as a liaison between the Commonwealth governments, arranges meetings and conferences and co-ordinates Commonwealth activities. It came into existence on 1 July 1965 when the Commonwealth Secretariat Act 1966 came into retrospective effect.

2. Under Article 5(1) of Part 2 of the Schedule to the 1966 Act, "every senior officer of the Commonwealth Secretariat (i.e. an officer recognised by the Secretary of State as being a senior officer of the Secretariat) who is a citizen of a country mentioned in Schedule 3 to the BNA 1981, and any member of his family forming part of his household, other than a member who is a British citizen only shall, if permanently resident outside the United Kingdom, have the like privileges and immunities as are accorded by law to a diplomatic agent and the members of his family forming part of his household".

3. As a result of this, children who are born in this country to fathers who, at the time of the birth, are within the scope of Article 5(1) of the Schedule will not become British citizens.

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