



Home Office

Windrush Scheme casework guidance

Version 12.0

Guidance for decision makers considering cases under the Windrush Scheme.

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About this guidance

This document tells those in the Windrush Help Team how to consider cases under the Windrush Scheme from those covered by the Windrush Scheme policy.

Those who wish to be considered under the Windrush Scheme, should refer to the information about the [Windrush Scheme on GOV.UK](#).

The Windrush Scheme applies to Commonwealth citizens as defined within this document who:

- were settled in the UK before 1 January 1973 and have lived continuously in the UK since their arrival
- were settled in the UK before 1 January 1973 whose settled status has lapsed
- have the right of abode in the UK, and were ordinarily resident on 1 January 1973

The Windrush Scheme also applies to:

A child of a Commonwealth citizen parent where the parent either:

- was settled in the UK before 1 January 1973
- has the right of abode and was ordinarily resident in the UK on that date (or did satisfy this provision and is now a British citizen)
- (including a citizen who satisfied one of those requirements and is now deceased), where the child either:
 - was born in the UK or arrived in the UK before the age of 18, was not automatically a British citizen of a citizen of the UK and Colonies from birth, and has been continuously resident in the UK since their birth or arrival
 - was born in the UK or arrived in the UK before the age of 18, is a British citizen and automatically became a citizen of the UK and Colonies / British citizen at birth
- a person of any nationality, who arrived in the UK before 31 December 1988 and who has indefinite leave to remain

The guidance tells you:

- how to decide what immigration or nationality document or proof of status an applicant is entitled to under the Windrush Scheme
- what proof of status to issue

This policy does not provide for:

- consideration of any application not made on the Windrush Scheme (UK) or Windrush Scheme (Overseas) application form
- consideration of another application type that is made on a Windrush form

However, the Windrush Help Team may direct a person to the guidance on how to make other applications for leave to enter or remain under the existing Immigration Rules on the [visas and immigration pages of GOV.UK](#).

Contacts

If you have any questions about the guidance and your line manager or senior decision-maker cannot help you or you think that the guidance has factual errors, then email the Nationality Policy team.

If you notice any formatting errors in this guidance (broken links, spelling mistakes and so on) or have any comments about the layout or navigability of the guidance then you can email the Guidance, Rules and Forms team.

Publication

Below is information on when this version of the guidance was published:

- version **12.0**
- published for Home Office staff on **11 August 2026**

Changes from last version of this guidance

Changes to:

- [Commonwealth citizen: meaning](#) as Nauru has officially changed its name to Naoero

Related content

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Intention

On 16 April 2018, the Home Office set up a Taskforce (now known as the Windrush Help Team) to support the Windrush generation and launched the Windrush Scheme shortly after. The Windrush Scheme formalises and extends the assistance provided by the Windrush Help Team, to help the Windrush generation to prove their settled status (or right of abode), or to apply for British citizenship. The Scheme allows those who are in the UK to remain and those who are overseas, to return.

The Windrush Scheme has been introduced to enable people who originally came to and settled in the UK prior to 1 January 1973 from [Commonwealth countries](#) as part of the 'Windrush generation' and their children, to obtain proof of their immigration or settled status, or apply for British citizenship free of charge. These are people who are, or have in the past been, continuously resident in the UK, but because of the law applying at the time of their arrival, did not need a formal grant of leave and may not have, since then, obtained proof of their immigration status.

The Windrush Scheme also allows for certain people of any nationality, who arrived in the UK before 31 December 1988, who are not British citizens and are settled but no longer hold proof of their lawful status, to make an application free of charge for proof of their immigration status.

The Scheme will allow Commonwealth citizens, settled in the UK prior to 1 January 1973, but who have subsequently moved overseas, to apply for the necessary proof of their immigration status, free of charge, which will enable them to return to the UK either permanently, or to visit.

Tightening controls intended to create a compliant environment in the UK, have meant that people who do not hold proof of their immigration status have encountered difficulties in proving their right to work, to rent property or to receive healthcare.

Many people in the Windrush generation considered themselves to be British citizens, which is a point that has been recognised in Parliament by the Prime Minister and other ministers. These are people who have lived for many years in the UK, having come to this country from countries with close ties to the UK and institutions that were in many cases modelled on those in the UK.

The government has apologised to those who are entitled to be here, but who are unsure or unclear about their status, and has made a clear commitment to help people to prove their right to be here.

Related content

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Background

People from the Commonwealth, who arrived in the UK during the post-war period up to 1 January 1973, are commonly described as the 'Windrush generation'.

The term 'Windrush' is a reference to the ship MV Empire Windrush, which arrived at Tilbury Docks, Essex, in June 1948, bringing citizens of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and other islands, as a response to post-war labour shortages in the UK.

The Windrush generation who were settled in the UK on 1 January 1973, were granted indefinite leave to remain (ILR) by virtue of the Immigration Act 1971. This meant that they were lawfully entitled to live in the UK but were not given a document confirming their right to enter or remain.

Under the Immigration Act 1971, some of the Windrush generation have the [right of abode](#) in the UK or are British citizens.

Right of abode means a person is free from any immigration restrictions, with no limit on the length of time they can spend in the UK. All British citizens automatically have the right of abode.

Some Commonwealth citizens may also have the right of abode.

Some of the Windrush generation will never subsequently have applied for proof of their right to be in the UK. Some may have left the UK. The Windrush Scheme applies to all Windrush generation cases.

The Windrush Scheme is not however, limited to the Windrush generation. It also makes provisions for free proof of immigration status for some children of the Windrush generation as well as for all overseas nationals who arrived in the UK before 31 December 1988 and have settled status.

Related content

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Commonwealth citizen: meaning

This page tells you the meaning of a Commonwealth citizen for the purposes of the Windrush Scheme.

Commonwealth citizens means citizens of the following:

- Anguilla
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bermuda
- Botswana
- British Antarctic Territory
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- Brunei
- Canada
- Cayman Islands
- Cyprus (excluding the Sovereign base areas)
- Dominica
- Falkland Islands
- Fiji
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Hong Kong
- India
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Monserrat
- Namibia
- Naoero
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea

- Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands
- Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- Saint Lucia
- Samoa
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- South Africa
- South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- Sri Lanka
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Vincent and The Grenadines
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- The Bahamas
- The Gambia
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Vanuatu
- Virgin Islands
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

In addition, the following people are included:

- citizens of the UK and colonies by virtue of a connection to a country or territory on the above list
- British subjects without citizenship under the law on 1 January 1973

Although British Overseas Territories are not members of the Commonwealth in their own right, with the exception of the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia, British Overseas Territories citizens are included in the list of Commonwealth citizens in this guidance. Citizens of Rwanda, Cameroon and Mozambique are not included in the list of Commonwealth citizens in this guidance, as these countries were never British colonies, but have nonetheless joined the Commonwealth.

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Operation of the Windrush Scheme

This section provides you with guidance on the scheme process.

People who identify as falling into a Windrush group can contact the dedicated Windrush Help Team for free on 0800 678 1925, Monday to Saturday between 9am and 5pm, or on Sunday between 10am and 4pm, or by email: [Commonwealth Taskforce](mailto:CommonwealthTaskforce@homeoffice.gov.uk) (commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gov.uk).

You should consider people's individual circumstances, to understand whether, on the balance of probabilities, they are provided for by the Windrush Scheme and advise them how to go about making an application.

The applicant may also complete a Windrush Scheme application without going through the Windrush Help Team. Those who wish to be considered under the Windrush Scheme, should refer to the information about the [Windrush Scheme on GOV.UK](#).

No information provided to the Windrush Help Team will be passed on to Immigration Enforcement.

Consideration of evidence

Those making an application through one of the online forms, or who are contacting the Windrush Help Team to seek assistance to clarify their status under the Windrush Scheme, will in some cases be able to provide evidence of their arrival and time spent in the UK but will not always have much evidence.

Where people are unsure as to their status under the Windrush Scheme, or where there are gaps in the person's evidence of life in the UK, the Windrush Help Team will assist individuals to get relevant information.

You should recognise that people may not have documents that are over 30 years old and help people to build a picture of their life in the UK, using documentation and evidence provided, or that you can access through systems available to you, including through use of cross-departmental data sharing. You must consider all evidence provided of the person's date of arrival or birth in the UK and time spent in the UK. Acceptable evidence that may assist could include for example:

- passports
- travel documents, flight manifest or passenger listing
- birth certificates
- school and study records
- employment history
- family history
- evidence of addresses, property ownership or rental agreements
- National Insurance number

- marriage or civil partnership certificate
- factual records including court proceedings
- medical or dental records
- bills and letters

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Deciding Windrush Scheme applications

You must consider every application under the Windrush Scheme under existing law and policy, but if this document differs from existing policy, you should consider the application in line with this document.

There is no charge for an application under the Windrush Scheme.

Applicants under the Windrush Scheme are required to provide their biometrics (photograph of face and fingerprints) unless they are exempt from that requirement.

You must consider all evidence provided or available to you and refer to relevant guidance to make your decision. Relevant guidance is either contained within this document, or in separate published guidance, in which case links are provided.

Where evidence is provided that prove matters of fact, such as nationality, dates of entry to the UK, or circumstances of birth, you should determine the person's status based on those facts.

Where you decide that a person is British by automatic entitlement, has the right of abode, holds settled status or qualifies for British nationality, you should issue them with the relevant proof of status available to them as outlined in this guidance under the [Windrush Scheme groups](#).

You must take a rounded view where evidence is not provided that proves matters of fact and decide the case on balance of probability, taking into account the picture of life in the UK, evidence in the round and criminality. However, no information provided in relation to an application under the Windrush Scheme will be passed on to Immigration Enforcement.

Biometric enrolment

People coming forward to regularise their stay or receive confirmation of their status, are required to enrol their biometrics.

Where a person does not meet the requirements for a document or proof of immigration status under the Windrush Scheme

Where a person is considered under the Windrush Scheme in accordance with this guidance but does not meet the requirements to be issued with a document or proof of immigration status, you must always contact an applicant, in order to give them the opportunity to provide more information. This can be by telephone, email or in writing. You must keep a record of your request for information and the response. Where the applicant does not provide information straight away, you should allow 7

calendar days for a response. You will refer the case to a senior decision-maker before you advise the person of the reasons for this.

The exception to this is where the applicant clearly does not meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme. If this is the case, and following agreement from a senior decision-maker, there is no need to contact the applicant prior to refusing the application.

You can sign-post relevant application routes for those who are not provided for under this scheme.

Refusals

Where an applicant does not come within one of the [Windrush Scheme groups](#) you must issue them with an eligibility refusal letter which explains the reasons for this. When refusing on eligibility grounds in the UK you must always consider all the potential Windrush categories that could be relevant to an individual's circumstances. For example, a Commonwealth national who arrived in the UK in 1975 must also be checked to confirm they are not eligible as the child of a Commonwealth national or a person who arrived in the UK before 31 December 1988 who is lawfully settled.

Where an applicant is eligible under the scheme and is being refused either all or part of what they applied for you must explain the reasons in the appropriate letter. A partial refusal is when the applicant is being given something but not the most beneficial product they applied for, for example where we refuse citizenship but confirm they have settled status, or note that they don't have the right of abode, but grant a returning resident visa. However, you need not consider products less beneficial than what they are being granted. For example, if they are not a British Citizen but have the right of abode you need not consider whether to grant indefinite leave to remain (ILR).

Reviews of the decision to refuse

Appeal rights

Where a person is refused under the Windrush Scheme, the decision will not attract a right of appeal.

How a review can be requested

Applicants who come under the Windrush Scheme can request a review of the decision to refuse all or part of their application. This includes applicants who were refused because they were not eligible under the scheme.

Applicants must write or email the address provided on their refusal letter to ask for a review. This is not an administrative review or a nationality citizenship refusal review so the applicant does not need to complete either the admin review application or form NR.

If an applicant contacts the Windrush Help Team by telephone to request a review they should be asked to confirm this by sending a letter or email to the relevant address and setting out their reasons along with any new information they want us to consider.

There is no fee for a review under the Windrush Scheme.

Second applications and reviews

An applicant might choose to make a second application instead of requesting a review. If the applicant completes one of the Windrush application forms and they are applying for something different (for example because they initially applied overseas but they are now in the UK), or if they provide new information on the application form and fresh evidence then this should automatically be treated as a fresh application.

If it is not clear whether they are making a fresh application, for example if they provide all the same information and evidence as their first application, then the Windrush Help Team can contact them to confirm whether they want a review instead.

Repeated applications or requests for review which raise no new material can be rejected.

When reviews can be made

There is no time limit on when an applicant can ask for a review under Windrush, but if we do not receive a review request within 90 days, we should treat the case as concluded unless the applicant later goes on to request a review.

We will not provide a review of the review decision.

Considering the review

The review must be done by an independent case worker, such as one who is not part of the Windrush Help Team.

The case worker must apply the Windrush Scheme and follow this guidance when considering the review.

The case worker should look at all the immigration and citizenship products that were refused under the scheme. For example, for a refusal in-country of a person who applied as a Commonwealth citizen who was settled in the UK before 1973 and has been continuously resident, the review will cover citizenship, right of abode and settled status.

The case worker must review whether the decision is correct, which can include looking at whether:

- the law, policy and guidance were applied correctly
- all the relevant immigration and citizenship products under the scheme were considered
- there was a mistake of fact
- the initial decision maker made the right judgement on the balance of probabilities (where relevant)
- all the available evidence was considered

The review is not limited to information that was before the original decision maker. If the applicant provides new information or it is provided by a third party, it must be considered as part of the review.

What the reviewer can do

The reviewer can:

- decide that the review request raises new issues not included in the original application - if it does, they will refer the case back to the initial decision-making team to determine whether, in respect of the new issues, it would be appropriate to grant any of the products available under the Scheme, provided this is in line with the Scheme and this guidance - the initial decision-making team will issue a letter to notify the applicant of the result of their consideration and the reasons for the decision
- decide the decision is incorrect and refer the case back to the initial decision-making team to grant any of the products available under the scheme so long as it is in line with the scheme and this guidance
- uphold all or part of the original decision
- refuse to consider a review where the request does not fall within the scope of this guidance, for example if the applicant is requesting a different immigration product

The reviewer must issue a letter to notify the applicant of the result of their review and the reasons for the decision.

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Deportation

Serious criminality will be considered in accordance with existing good character and criminality guidance.

[Section 7 of the Immigration Act 1971](#) provides an exemption from deportation ([Deporting non EEA foreign nationals – GOV.UK](#)), (Deporting non EEA foreign nationals - internal) for those Commonwealth citizens who were ordinarily resident ([Assessing ordinary residence - GOV.UK](#)), (Assessing ordinary residence - internal) in the UK when the act came into force, provided they were also ordinarily resident in the UK for at least 5 years, before the decision to make a deportation order is made. Those who can establish that they meet this exemption will not be liable to deportation and so will not be deported. As set out in section 3(8) of the Immigration Act 1971, the responsibility is on the applicant to assert that they are entitled to rely on the exemption in section 7 and to prove that to be the case. Anyone with the right of abode is not liable to deportation.

In such cases, they will normally not succeed in obtaining citizenship, because of the good character requirement, see:

- [Good character - GOV.UK](#)
- Good character - internal

Where a person is the subject of a deportation order made on criminal or non-conducive grounds, they should be advised to apply to Criminal Casework in Immigration Enforcement for their deportation order to be revoked. Applicants should be directed to apply to Criminal Casework at the following email address: [CCD Intake team](mailto:CCDIntakeTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk) (CCDIntakeTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk).

Commitments have been made to Parliament that no information brought forward by an applicant to the Windrush Help Team should be passed on to Immigration Enforcement. You must not refer a case to Criminal Casework if an applicant has serious criminality.

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Windrush Scheme groups

The decision you make and the document or proof of immigration status you issue, will depend on what group the applicant comes under within the Windrush Scheme, and their status. Each Windrush group is defined by people's date of arrival in the UK, their nationality, their age and place of birth.

This section defines each Windrush group, shows you the range of statuses they may have and what document or proof of immigration status you can issue them with.

Group 1: Commonwealth citizens who were either settled in the UK before 1 January 1973 or who have the right of abode

Those who are automatically British

Some of this group may be automatically British and can [apply for a British passport](#) and the Windrush Help Team can advise on how to do that. They will need to pay the appropriate fee when applying for a British passport.

Where a person under this group does not wish to apply for a British passport, they can instead [apply for a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode](#) for free.

Where you are deciding a case on this basis, you should refer to the following Nationality guidance which sets out how to consider right of abode cases:

- [Right of abode - GOV.UK](#)
- Right of abode - internal

Where the person in the UK does not hold a valid foreign-national passport, you can issue them with a nationality status document. However, you should ensure that the person is aware the status document will not be accepted to prove a person's right to work, rent or access services and benefits in a compliant environment, but can be used at a later date as part of a UK passport application, which would be at their own cost.

Those in the UK who wish to apply for British citizenship

Commonwealth citizens who arrived in the UK and who were settled before 1 January 1973 and currently hold settled status can apply for British citizenship for free. They will not have to attend a citizenship ceremony unless they want to. Although it is normally a requirement that an adult seeking to naturalise or register as a British citizen should attend a citizenship ceremony and make the required oath and pledge, this is not required where a person is applying for citizenship under the Windrush Scheme. Where a person under this group indicates that they wish to attend a citizenship ceremony, it will be free. In some limited circumstances related

to residence and good character, individuals may not be eligible for British citizenship. Where a person prefers not to become British, a grant of No Time Limit (NTL) may be more appropriate.

Those Commonwealth citizens with the right of abode can also apply for British citizenship for free. To do so they must have been ordinarily resident on 1 January 1973. They will not have to attend a citizenship ceremony unless they want to. In some limited circumstances related to good character, individuals may not be eligible for British citizenship.

When deciding an application on this basis, you should refer to the following Nationality guidance which sets out who can naturalise as a British citizen as well as the requirements that are common to all types of British Nationality applications:

- [Naturalisation as a British citizen by discretion - GOV.UK guidance](#)
- [Requirements and considerations common to all types of British nationality - GOV.UK guidance](#)
- Naturalisation as a British citizen by discretion - internal guidance
- Requirements and considerations common to all types of British nationality - internal guidance

If you believe, on the balance of probabilities, that the person has the right of abode or held indefinite leave to enter (ILE) or indefinite leave to remain (ILR) on 1 January 1973, and met the above conditions as well as the criteria for a citizenship application – for example, has been resident in the UK for the past 5 years (3 years for a spouse of a British citizen) and passes the good character test you will confer a person's British citizenship by way of a certificate of citizenship.

When considering good character, you should consult the Nationality good character guidance:

- [Good character - GOV.UK](#)
- Good character – internal

Where a person is not being granted British citizenship because of criminality, you should refer to the section of this guidance on [those who wish to prove their settled status](#).

Knowledge of Language and Life (KoLL) ([KoLL - GOV.UK guidance](#)), (KoLL - internal guidance) in the UK is a requirement for an application for British citizenship. The test for deciding whether the KoLL requirement is met for a person with the right of abode is set out below. In respect of a Commonwealth citizen who was settled in the UK on 1 January 1973, when deciding a citizenship application for this group, you will accept that this requirement is met because of the close historical links and the shared institutions which means that those in this group have a sufficient knowledge of language and life in the UK to meet the relevant statutory requirements for British nationality.

In respect of Commonwealth citizens with the right of abode, the KoLL requirement will be deemed met when the person has strong ties to the UK. It may be clear from

the length of residency in the UK that there are strong ties but where there is doubt you must contact the applicant for further information and discuss the application with a senior case worker.

Nationals of Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Malta, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, are already exempt from proving knowledge of English, whilst all people over the age of 65 are exempt from both English language and the knowledge of life test.

Those in the UK who are not automatically British, but who have the right of abode

Those in this group who have the right of abode in the UK who do not wish to apply, or do not qualify, for British citizenship, can [apply for a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode](#) for free.

Where you are deciding an application on this basis, you should refer to the following Nationality guidance which sets out how to consider right of abode cases:

- [right of abode - GOV.UK](#)
- right of abode - internal

If you believe, on the balance of probabilities, that the person has the right of abode, you will confirm this by way of a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode. If the applicant does not hold a foreign-national passport then you will issue them with a letter which confirms their right of abode.

Those in the UK who wish to prove their settled status

There may be some individuals in this group who had ILE or ILR on 1 January 1973, who have been continuously resident in the UK since their arrival and who do not want to apply, or are precluded from applying, for British citizenship, but nonetheless would like to prove their settled status. They can be provided with proof of their settled status for free.

Where you are deciding an application on this basis, you should refer to the following guidance which sets out the policy on no time limit applications:

- [no time limit - GOV.UK](#)
- no time limit - internal

If you believe, on the balance of probabilities, that the person was settled before 1 January 1973, you will confirm a person's settled status by way of "No Time Limit" (NTL).

Those in the UK who wish to be considered for ILR

A number of people in this group were settled before 1 January 1973, but left and remained outside of the UK for more than 2 years resulting in the lapsing of their ILE or ILR. If they have returned and have some form of limited leave, with strong ties to the UK they can be considered for ILR for free.

Where you are considering a case on this basis, you should be satisfied that, on the balance of probabilities, the person has strong ties to the UK and is not liable to deportation on grounds of criminality or other non-conducive behaviour. Where this is the case, and you believe that the person was settled before 1 January 1973, you may grant ILR leave outside the rules, provided they meet the tests set out under the Suitability Requirements.

Those affected by a previous interpretation of Section 1(5) of the Immigration Act 1971

There may be a small number of people falling under this group who were settled before 1 January 1973, left and remained outside of the UK for more than 2 years (resulting in the lapsing of their ILE or ILR), returned to the UK by 1 August 1990 as a visitor or on some other form of limited leave, and have remained continuously resident since that date. Due to a mistake in previous versions of Home Office guidance, an individual in this position may have subsequently been issued an NTL document but will not actually have retained ILR in law. In these cases, you may consider making a grant of ILR for free under the Windrush Scheme. Where you consider that such a person does not meet the tests set out under the Suitability Requirements, you should refer to a senior caseworker to consider whether a new grant of immigration status needs to be issued.

If ILR is granted on this basis to an applicant who has applied for British citizenship, you should refer their case to a senior caseworker to consider whether there is a basis for proceeding to grant citizenship. This may require the waiving of certain requirements for naturalisation in line with the discretion outlined in the Nationality guidance.

Whenever you encounter an individual who was incorrectly issued an NTL document you should consider whether they have any children whose status may have in turn been impacted. If an applicant does have a child (or children) whose status is impacted by an incorrect grant of NTL to their parent, you should refer to a senior caseworker to consider whether a grant of immigration status needs to be issued.

Those who wish to return to the UK from overseas

A number of people in this group were settled before 1 January 1973, but will have left and remained outside of the UK for more than 2 years resulting in the lapsing of their ILE or ILR. They will have ties to the UK and now wish to return to the UK. They can apply to live permanently in the UK, or to visit, for free. In order to benefit from a free application under the Windrush Scheme, all nationals (including a non-visa

national) under this group must apply to return to the UK using the Windrush application form before travel.

You should refer to the [returning resident](#) section of this guidance and guidance on Suitability Requirements:

- [Immigration Rules](#)
- Part Suitability

Where a person is subject to a deportation order, or whose exclusion is conducive to the public good, you must refuse their application. Where a refusal would be triggered under the Suitability Requirements you should consider whether any potential ground for refusal can be attributed to a failure to confirm a person's legitimate status (for example NHS debt). If so, the ground for refusal may be waived. Such cases should be referred to a senior caseworker.

Where you believe, on the balance of probabilities, that a person who wishes to return to the UK permanently meets the requirements for admission as a returning resident as in the [returning resident section of this guidance](#), and that the person was settled before 1 January 1973, you must issue a visa confirming ILE.

Where the person states on their application that they want only to visit the UK and they meet the [returning resident criteria as set out in this guidance](#), you must believe, on the balance of probabilities that they meet the same requirements as all other visitors according to the [Immigration Rules for Visitors](#).

Where you are considering an application on this basis, you should refer to the following guidance which sets out the policy on visit visas:

- [visit - GOV.UK](#)
- visit - internal

Where you believe, on the balance of probabilities, that the person was settled before 1 January 1973, you will confer a person's entry clearance as a visitor by way of a 10-year multi-entry visit visa, valid for 10 years from date of issue.

This 10-year multi-entry visit visa allows entry to the UK for a maximum of 6 months at any one time. Should a person enter and remain in the UK for longer than the permitted 6 months, they will have overstayed their leave to enter, unless they have made a further application for leave.

If there are applicants from overseas who have the right of abode, they can have this [confirmed through a certificate of entitlement](#) for free.

Where you are deciding a case on this basis, you should refer to the following Nationality guidance which sets out how to consider right of abode cases:

- [right of abode - GOV.UK](#)
- [confirmation or right of abode document - GOV.UK](#)
- right of abode - internal

Group 2: people of any other nationality who arrived in the UK and had indefinite leave before 1 January 1973

Those in this group include people of any nationality other than those defined in this guidance as Commonwealth citizens who arrived in the UK and were settled before 1 January 1973.

Those who wish to prove their settled status

Where you are deciding an application from a person in this group in the UK, who was settled before 1 January 1973 who has been continuously resident, you should refer to the following guidance which sets out the policy on [no time limit applications](#):

- [no time limit - GOV.UK](#)
- no time limit - internal

Where you believe, on the balance of probabilities, that the person was settled before 1 January 1973, you will confirm a person's settled status by way of issuing a grant of NTL.

People in this group who have serious criminality which would otherwise result in deportation must be referred to a senior decision-maker before a decision is made to confirm settled status. When deciding whether to refer to a senior decision-maker, you should refer to the following guidance:

- [conductive deportation - GOV.UK](#)
- [EEA decisions taken on grounds of public policy - GOV.UK](#)
- when to refer a case to Criminal Casework (CC) - internal
- conducive deportations - internal
- EEA decisions taken on grounds of public policy - internal

Commitments have been made to Parliament that no information provided directly by an applicant to the Windrush Scheme will be passed on to Immigration Enforcement. You must not refer a case to Criminal Casework if the person has serious criminality.

Group 3: people of any nationality, who arrived in the UK between 1 January 1973 and 31 December 1988 and who have settled status

Those in this group are people of any nationality in the UK (including those defined in this guidance as Commonwealth citizens) who entered the UK lawfully between 1 January 1973 and 31 December 1988, who have ILE or ILR.

Those who are automatically British

Some of this group may be automatically British and can [apply for a British passport](#) and the Windrush Help Team can advise on how to do that. They will need to pay the appropriate fee when applying for a British passport.

Where a person under this group does not wish to apply for a British passport, they can instead [apply for a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode](#) for free.

Where you are deciding a case on this basis, you should refer to the following Nationality guidance which sets out how to consider right of abode cases:

- [right of abode - GOV.UK](#)
- right of abode - internal

Where the person in the UK does not hold a valid foreign-national passport, you can issue them with a nationality status document. However, you should ensure that the person is aware the status document will not be accepted to prove a person's right to work, rent or access services and benefits in the UK, but can be used at a later date as part of a UK passport application, which would be at their own cost.

Those in the UK who are not automatically British, but who have the right of abode

Those in this group who have right of abode in the UK can [apply for a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode](#) for free.

Where you are deciding an application on this basis, you should refer to the following Nationality guidance which sets out how to consider right of abode cases:

- [right of abode - GOV.UK](#)
- right of abode - internal

If you believe, on the balance of probabilities, that the person has the right of abode, you will confirm by way of a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode.

Those in the UK who wish to prove their settled status

People in this group who would like to prove they have ILE or ILR, can have their settled status confirmed for free.

When deciding an application on this basis, you should refer to the following guidance which sets out the policy on no time limit applications:

- [no time limit - GOV.UK](#)
- no time limit - internal

Where you believe, on the balance of probabilities, that the person has ILE or ILR, you will confirm a person's settled status by way of issuing a grant of NTL.

People in this group who have serious criminality which would result in deportation must be referred to a senior decision-maker before a decision is made to confirm settled status. When deciding whether to refer to a senior decision-maker, you should refer to the following guidance:

- [conductive deportation - GOV.UK](#)
- [EEA decisions taken on grounds of public policy - GOV.UK](#)
- when to refer a case to Criminal Casework (CC) - internal
- conductive deportation - internal
- EEA decisions taken on grounds of public policy - internal

Commitments have been made to Parliament that no information provided directly by an applicant to the Windrush Scheme will be passed on to Immigration Enforcement. You must not refer a case to Criminal Casework if the person has serious criminality.

Group 4: a child of a Commonwealth citizen parent and the parent was settled in the UK before 1 January 1973 or has the Right of Abode and was ordinarily resident in the UK on 1 January 1973 (or who satisfied this provision and is now a British citizen)

Children in the UK whose parent is confirmed as being part of [group 1](#), will have their status considered in their own right, taking account of their parent's status, their date of arrival or birth in the UK, and relevant Nationality law. The parent's status may need to be resolved first under the Windrush Scheme, before the child's case can be concluded.

To qualify under the scheme, the parent must be within group 1 and the child must have:

- been born in the UK or arrived in the UK before the age of 18, was not automatically a British citizen or a citizen of the UK and Colonies from birth and been continuously resident in the UK since their birth or arrival
- been born in the UK or arrived in the UK before the age of 18, is a British citizen and automatically became a citizen of the UK and Colonies / British citizen at birth

Where a parent has died before 1973, it is sufficient that they were settled in the UK before they died. You should refer such cases to a senior decision-maker to be considered in a pragmatic and sensitive way.

For the purposes of the Windrush Scheme 'parent' has the normal meaning under the Immigration Rules. However, where there has been a genuine transfer of parental responsibility on the ground of the original parent / parents inability to care for the child, for the purposes of the Windrush Scheme, this applies to children born both inside and outside the UK.

For the purpose of the Windrush Scheme, reference to children includes an adopted child ([Registration as British citizen: children - GOV.UK](#)), (Registration as British citizen: children - internal) or a child born through surrogacy ([Surrogacy - GOV.UK](#)), (Surrogacy - internal) (where recognised in UK law).

In respect of a child whose parent was a Commonwealth citizen who was settled in the UK before 1 January 1973, and where the child has been continuously resident since birth or arrival, when deciding a citizenship application for this group, you will accept that KoLL requirement is met because of the close historical links and the shared institutions which means that those in this group have a sufficient knowledge of language and life in the UK to meet the relevant statutory requirements for British nationality.

In respect of a child of a parent with the right of abode, the KoLL requirement will be deemed met when the parent had strong ties to the UK. This is the same test as is set out in the [returning residents section of this guidance](#). It may be clear from the length of residency in the UK that there were strong ties but where there is doubt you must contact the applicant for further information and discuss the application with a senior case worker.

It is normally a requirement that an adult seeking to naturalise or register as a British citizen should attend a citizenship ceremony and make the required oath and pledge. However, attendance at a citizenship ceremony or making the oath and pledge are not required where a person is applying for citizenship under the Windrush Scheme.

Where a person under this group indicates that they wish to attend a citizenship ceremony, it will be free.

When you receive an application from a person under this group, you must consider whether their parent could have been [issued an NTL document in error](#) despite not holding ILR. If there is evidence that this is the case, you should refer to a senior caseworker to consider whether there is an impact on the applicant's status in the UK.

Those who are automatically British

Those in this group who were born in the UK before 1 January 1983 are automatically British, as are those who were born in the UK after 1983 but to a settled parent. A person who is automatically British, can [apply for a British passport](#) directly, without assistance from the Windrush Scheme, although the Windrush Help Team can advise on how to do that. Any passport application requires the applicant to pay the appropriate fee.

Where a person under this group does not wish to apply for a British passport, they can instead [ask for a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode](#) for free. In order to come under the Windrush Scheme and receive the certificate for free, children must have been born to a Commonwealth citizen parent who themselves come or would have come under the Windrush Scheme, having arrived in the UK before 1 January 1973.

Where you are deciding an application on this basis, you should refer to the following Nationality guidance which sets out how to consider right of abode cases:

- [right of abode - GOV.UK](#)
- right of abode - internal

Where the person in this group does not hold a valid foreign-national passport, you can issue them with a nationality status document. However, you should ensure that the person is aware the status document will not be accepted to prove their right to work, rent or access services and benefits in the UK, but can be used at a later date as part of a UK passport application, which would be at their own cost.

Those who qualify to register as a British citizen

There will be some in this group who were born in the UK on or after 1 January 1983 who are not automatically British. This is because their parent was not settled when they were born in the UK. The parent may or may not have gone on to settle.

There will also be some in this group who were born outside the UK before 1 January 1983 who are not automatically British because, for example, at the time of their birth, the parent could not pass on their status to the child. Where an eligible child of Windrush says they want British citizenship you will consider whether they have the right to register under the British Nationality Act 1981.

An eligible child of Windrush will not necessarily know which section of the act they are applying under. You must therefore consider which section a child has an entitlement to register under.

In order to come under the Windrush Scheme and ask to register as British for free, children must have been born to a parent who themselves come or would have come under [group 1](#) of the Windrush Scheme. These children can ask to register as a British citizen for free, if they were born in the UK and spent the first 10-years of their life in the UK with continuous residence and have been continuously resident in the UK since that time, or they arrived in the UK whilst aged under 18 and have been continuously resident since that time. They must meet the criteria of the specific provision they will be registered under.

They may also be able to register if their parents became settled, or a British citizen, after their birth but while they were still under the age of 18. These children can register if they were born in the UK and are under the age of 18 at the time of application. They must meet the criteria of the specific provision they will be registered under.

Where you are considering an application on this basis, you should refer to all relevant nationality guidance on registration as a British citizen and good character, including:

- [registration as a British citizen: children - GOV.UK](#)
- [good character - GOV.UK](#)

- registration as a British citizen: children – internal
- good character - internal

Where you believe, on the balance of probabilities, that the person is eligible to register as a British citizen, and that the individual meets the criteria of the specific provision they will be registered under, you will confer a person's citizenship by way of a certificate of registration as a British citizen.

Those in the UK who wish to apply for British citizenship

There will be some in this group who are the child of a settled parent under [group 1](#) or a parent who has the right of abode, where the parent was ordinarily resident on 1 January 1973. Children who were born outside the UK and arrived after 1 January 1973 when they were under the age of 18, and have ILE or ILR who have been continuously resident in the UK, can now apply for British citizenship for free in the UK.

When deciding an application on this basis, you should refer to the following Nationality guidance which sets out who can naturalise as a British citizen as well as the requirements that are common to all types of British Nationality applications:

- [naturalisation as a British citizen by discretion - GOV.UK](#)
- [considerations common to all types of British nationality - GOV.UK](#)
- naturalisation as a British citizen by discretion – internal
- considerations common to all types of British nationality - internal

Where you believe, on the balance of probabilities that the person had ILE or ILR, meets the above conditions as well as the criteria for a citizenship application – for example, has been resident in the UK for the past 5 years (3 years for a spouse of a British Citizen) and passes the good character test ([Good character - GOV.UK](#)), (Good character - internal) you will confer a person's British citizenship by way of a certificate of citizenship. They will not need to pay a fee for their British citizenship, and the position on the need to take the KoLL test is set out above.

When considering good character, you should consult the Nationality good character guidance:

- [good character - GOV.UK](#)
- good character - internal

Where a person is not being granted British citizenship because of criminality, you should refer to the following section of this guidance on [those who wish to prove their ILE or ILR status](#).

Those who are not automatically British, but who have the right of abode in the UK

Those in this group who have right of abode in the UK who do not wish to apply, or do not qualify, for British citizenship, can [ask for a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode](#) for free.

Where you are deciding an application on this basis, you should refer to the following Nationality guidance which sets out how to consider right of abode cases:

- [right of abode - GOV.UK](#)
- right of abode - internal

Where you believe, on the balance of probabilities, that the person has the right of abode, you will confirm this by way of a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode. If the applicant does not hold a foreign-national passport then you will issue them with a letter which confirms their right of abode.

Those in the UK who wish to prove their settled status

There may be some individuals in this group who were the child of a settled parent, or a parent with the right of abode, under group 1, who were born outside the UK, arriving here after 1 January 1973 when they were under the age of 18, who had ILE or ILR and have since been continuously resident in the UK. They do not want to apply, or are precluded from applying, for British citizenship, but nonetheless would like to prove their settled status. They can ask for proof of their settled status for free.

Where you are considering an application on this basis, you should refer to the following guidance which sets out the policy on no time limit applications:

- [no time limit - GOV.UK](#)
- no time limit - internal

Where you believe, on the balance of probabilities, that the person had ILE or ILR, you will confirm a person's settled status by way of issuing a grant of NTL.

Those who wish to apply for ILR

There may be some individuals in this group who were the child of a settled parent, or a parent who had the right of abode, under [group 1](#), who were born outside the UK, arriving here after 1 January 1973 when they were under the age of 18, who had limited leave and have never settled and have been continuously resident in the UK since. They can apply for ILR for free.

Where this is the case, you may grant ILR outside the rules.

Where a person is subject to a deportation order, or whose exclusion is conducive to the public good, you must refuse their application. Where a refusal would be triggered under the suitability requirements you should consider whether any

potential ground for refusal can be attributed to a failure to confirm a person's legitimate status (for example NHS debt). If so, the ground for refusal may be waived. Such cases should be referred to a senior caseworker.

People in this group who have serious criminality which would result in deportation must be referred to a senior decision-maker before a decision is made to grant ILR. When deciding whether to refer to a senior decision-maker, you should refer to the following guidance:

- [conducive deportation - GOV.UK](#)
- [EEA decisions taken on grounds of public policy - GOV.UK](#)
- when to refer a case to Criminal Casework (CC) - internal
- conducive deportation - internal
- EEA decisions taken on grounds of public policy - internal

Commitments have been made to Parliament that no information provided directly by an applicant to the Windrush Scheme will be passed on to Immigration Enforcement. You must not refer a case to Criminal Casework if the person has serious criminality.

Related content

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Returning resident guidance

This section sets out guidance on how you should consider returning resident applications specifically made under the Windrush Scheme.

Part 1 section 1(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 which came into force on 1 January 1973 states that foreign nationals who were ordinarily resident in the UK on that date are deemed to have settled status indefinite leave to enter (ILE) or indefinite leave to remain (ILR) unless they either:

- were exempt from immigration control on that date
- had the right of abode

Where a person is the subject of a deportation order made on criminal or non-conducive grounds, they should be advised to apply to Criminal Casework in Immigration Enforcement for their deportation order to be revoked. Applicants should be directed to apply to Criminal Casework at the following email address: [CCD Intake team \(CCDIntakeTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk\)](mailto:CCDIntakeTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk).

Lapse of indefinite leave

Before Article 13 of the Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) Order 2000 (“the 2000 Order”) came into effect on 30 July 2000, the effect of section 3(4) IA 1971 was that leave automatically lapsed on leaving the common travel area and there was no automatic entitlement to be granted ILR on return.

If an individual applied for leave to enter for the purposes of settlement within 2 years of leaving and had indefinite leave when they were last in the UK, the immigration rules created an expectation (not an entitlement) that they would be granted it, subject to satisfying the immigration rules in place at the time.

[Article 13 of the Immigration \(Leave to Enter and Remain\) Order 2000](#) makes provision for certain types of leave to enter or remain not to lapse on leaving the common travel area, unless a person remains outside the UK for a continuous period of more than 2 years. This means that when a person with indefinite leave to enter or remain stays outside the UK for more than 2 continuous years, their leave automatically lapses as a matter of law.

Provision is contained within the Immigration Rules, however, for indefinite leave to be reinstated where a person can meet the requirements as a returning resident.

Intention to settle requirement for a returning resident

You must be satisfied the applicant genuinely intends to return to the UK for the purposes of settlement. For example, a person applying for entry clearance as a returning resident and giving their immediate reasons for wanting to resume their settlement as house hunting or job hunting prior to returning to settle some months later, would demonstrate an intention to settle. Whereas, returning for a short time for a fixed-term job, study, or medical treatment would not.

Alternatively, evidence that might show the applicant does not genuinely intend to return to the UK for the purposes of settlement include:

- strong family ties outside the UK
- property outside the UK
- business ties outside the UK
- length of original residence and length of time spent outside the UK

You must look at all of the evidence together and each case must be considered on its individual merits.

Strong ties to the UK requirement for a returning resident

Strength of ties to the UK

A person's ties to the UK may be evident in a number of different ways. The nature of those ties, and the degree those ties have been maintained during a person's absence, will need to be considered when assessing whether a person should be readmitted as a returning resident. Such ties may include (but are not limited to):

- family ties
- property ties
- business ties
- length of original residence and length of time spent outside the UK

Family ties

Where a person has close family ties in the UK which have been maintained during their absence, this will likely indicate strong ties to the UK. The more immediate the family members are, for example parents, spouse, partner, children or grandchildren, the greater the strength those ties are likely to have. However, relationships with wider family members, such as cousins or nieces and nephews, may also be taken into account if those ties have been closely maintained.

The nature of any contact will also need to be considered. For example, regular visits from, or to, the applicant from family members in the UK will help demonstrate the strength of those ties. Such contact does not, however, need to have been made physically in person, and strong ties can still be demonstrated where there has been regular contact through other means.

Property and business ties

Ties may also be in the form of property or business interests. This may be, for example, where the applicant owns their own property in the UK or has a vested interest in an ongoing business venture within the UK. Ties on the basis of property or business interests alone, are unlikely to demonstrate strong ties to the UK, but can be used in conjunction with other factors to satisfy this.

Length of original residence

Generally, the longer the period of original residence, the more likely it is that the applicant will have developed strong ties to the UK and can be admitted as a returning resident. It is important to consider the length of the original residence together with all other relevant factors. You must not refuse an application solely based on a short period of original residence if the other evidence points to the applicant having strong ties to the UK.

The length of time spent outside the UK will be an important factor to consider when assessing whether a person can be readmitted as a returning resident. This must be assessed against all other factors, including the time spent in the UK before they left.

A person may leave the UK for a variety of reasons. This may include:

- to access health treatment overseas
- to care for family
- to retire
- for employment / self-employment
- study

In some cases, these reasons mean a person remains outside the UK for more than the permitted period, and so their settlement lapses. You must consider their reasons for leaving and for now wishing to return to the UK. For example, a person may have left the UK to care for family members and now wishes to return to the UK to retire.

Those within the Windrush cohort may have left the UK under the impression they were British citizens and so believed there was no restrictions on the time they spent outside the UK.

Any other circumstances

Other more specific circumstances which would support an application are:

- travel and service overseas with a particular employer before return to the UK with the employer
- a prolonged period of study abroad by a person who wishes to re-join the family in the UK on completion of studies
- prolonged medical treatment abroad of a kind not available in the UK
- unintended absences from the UK due to - for example: the COVID-19 pandemic

Additionally, there may be other compelling or compassionate circumstances not mentioned above which need to be considered. Each case must be considered on its individual merits.

Evidence to support an application may include:

- evidence of previous settlement:
 - for those who held settlement before 1 January 1973 when the Immigration Act 1971 came into force - this may not be evidenced through a vignette-biometric residence permit (BRP) / passport / other evidence such as doctor's records or school letters may be taken into account
- details of any family in the UK and correspondence with them (to establish strong ties to the UK)
- evidence of property in the UK and any business interests (to establish strong ties to the UK)
- letters of enrolment / attendance at an education establishment if they have been studying outside the UK for long periods
- letter of employment where this has been reason for their absence from the UK
- a letter from a medical professional if their reason for their absence relates to caring for another person or for their own medical reasons

This list is not exhaustive, and other evidence can be considered.

You must have regard to all relevant information provided and the responsibility lies with the applicant to satisfy you that they meet all the requirements. However, where there are minor errors or omissions in the application, you may request more information, or clarification, if this may make a material difference to your decision on the application.

Each case must be considered on its individual merits.

Suitability requirements

When considering whether the suitability requirements apply, you should refer to the following guidance:

- [Immigration Rules](#)
- Grounds for refusal and cancellation (Part suitability)

Related content

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Strong ties

When considering whether a person in the UK has strong ties to the UK for purposes other than returning resident applications, you will want to consider similar factors. However, where the person is in the UK, you need not consider factors relating to their departure from the UK and their reason for wanting to return.

Related content

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Table of Windrush Scheme groups

This section summarises the Windrush Scheme in a table showing who is covered by the policy and who is not, by Windrush group as defined in the guidance. Each of the tables which show who is included, shows why that might be and what documents or proof of status they are eligible for.

The tables which show who is not included, show why not and what the Windrush Help Team can do to advise people of that. If decision-makers come across applications that are from those who are shown not to be provided for, they must refer the case to a senior decision-maker, before deciding whether to reject or refuse the application and agree how the applicant will be advised of that.

For the purposes of the below tables, 'settled before 1 January 1973' means a person was ordinarily resident and not subject to any restriction on the period for which they could remain.

Those who are covered by the Windrush Scheme guidance

Tables for group 1: Commonwealth citizens who were either settled in the UK before 1 January 1973 or who have the right of abode

Those who are automatically British

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, in the UK who have been continuously resident since that time. This could include, but is not limited to: • citizens of the UK and colonies who are still British • nationals of countries where independence came in 1981 • British citizens by virtue of the 2002 act and who did not	People who are already British, but might not know this.	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • Windrush Help Team to signpost and advise on how to apply for a British passport • where a person does not wish to apply for a British passport, they can be issued with a Certificate of Entitlement to the right of abode • where a person does not hold a valid foreign national passport, a

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
realise the impact of residence in the UK		nationality status document can be issued (this is not accepted for compliant environment but may be used to enable a UK passport application at own cost)

Those in the UK who wish to apply for British citizenship

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, in the UK Those who were subject to immigration control, who are in the UK and want to apply for British citizenship	Commonwealth citizens who arrived in the UK and were settled before 1 January 1973 and want citizenship, where they: • fall within section 1(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 (which covers those who are subject to immigration control) • have been continuously resident since their arrival (where a 2 year break is permitted without disrupting continuous residence) • are subject to usual good character (Good character - GOV.UK), (Good character - internal) requirement and all other naturalisation criteria	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • issue a certificate of naturalisation as a British citizen • no requirement for a Knowledge of language and life (KoLL) in the UK test and KoLL requirement met • Citizenship ceremony not required, although applicants can indicate that they wish to attend a ceremony
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, in the UK	Commonwealth citizens who arrived in the UK before 1 January 1973 who	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Those with the right of abode who are not automatically British, who are in the UK and want to apply for British Citizenship	have the right of abode and want citizenship, where: • they fall within section (2)(1)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971 (which covers those with Right of Abode) • they have been resident in the UK for the required amount of time before a citizenship application • usual good character (Good character - GOV.UK), (Good character - internal) requirement applies as do all other naturalisation requirements	• issue a certificate of naturalisation as a British citizen • no requirement for a Knowledge of language and life in the UK test and KoLL requirement met providing strong ties test met • Citizenship ceremony not required, although applicants can indicate that they wish to attend a ceremony
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, in the UK Those who were subject to immigration control, who are in the UK and want to apply for British citizenship	Commonwealth citizens who arrived in the UK and were settled before 1 January 1973 and want citizenship, where they: • fell within section 1(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 (which covers those who are subject to immigration control) • have left the UK and lost their indefinite leave to remain (ILR) but have returned to the UK and have been granted ILR / indefinite leave to enter (ILE) • are subject to usual good character requirement and all	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • issue a certificate of naturalisation as a British citizen • no requirement for a Knowledge of language and life in the UK test and KoLL requirement met providing strong ties test met • Citizenship ceremony not required, although applicants can indicate that they wish to attend a ceremony

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
	other naturalisation criteria	

Those who are not automatically British, but who have Right of Abode in the UK

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, in the UK Those with the right of abode who are not automatically British, and who are in the UK but do not want to apply for British Citizenship or do not meet the naturalisation requirements including good character and residency requirements	Commonwealth citizens who arrived in the UK before 1 January 1973, who has the right of abode and who are not automatically British, where they: • fall within section 2(1)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971, do not want British citizenship or do not meet all the relevant requirements Some Commonwealth nationals will have the right of abode because either: • one of their parents was born in the UK and was a citizen of the UK and colonies when they were born or adopted • they were a Commonwealth citizen on 31 December 1982 And they must either: • have not stopped being a Commonwealth citizen (even	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • a Certificate of Entitlement to the right of abode. • where a person does not hold a valid foreign national passport, letter can be issued confirming their right of abode (this is not accepted for compliant environment purposes)

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
	temporarily) at any point after 31 December 1982 if they are a female Commonwealth citizen and were married to someone with right of abode before 1 January 1983, they must not have stopped being a Commonwealth citizen (even temporarily) at any point after 31 December 1982	

Those who wish to prove their settled status

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, in the UK Those who were subject to immigration control, who are in the UK and want to prove their settled status	Commonwealth citizens who were settled before 1 January 1973, who want confirmation of their settled status, where they: - fall within section 1(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 (which covers those who are subject to immigration control) - have been continuously resident since their arrival - do not want or do not qualify for British citizenship	- Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status - No time limit (NTL) granted to confirm their ILR status

Those who wish to apply for ILR

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, in the UK Those who were settled in the UK but lost that status, are in the UK with limited leave (or, in limited circumstances, have been granted an NTL document), and want to apply for ILR	Commonwealth citizens who were settled before 1 January 1973, who want reinstatement of their settled status, where they: - lost that settled status by being outside the UK for more than 2 years - have not since acquired some other settled status but currently have limited leave in the UK - you may also consider an applicant who lost settled status as a result of an absence of more than 2 years prior to 1 August 1990 (and who returned to the UK by that date and has remained continuously resident since) in cases where they were issued an NTL document despite not actually having indefinite leave to remain in law - meet the strong ties criteria - not liable for deportation - don't fall for refusal on suitability requirements (Immigration Rules - Part Suitability, Grounds for refusal and cancellation (Part suitability))	- Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status - ILR Status

Those who wish to return to the UK from overseas

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, outside the UK Those who were subject to immigration control, who are outside the UK and want to return permanently	Commonwealth citizens who were settled before 1 January 1973, who are now outside the UK and want to confirm their settled status to return to the UK permanently, where they: • left the UK within the last 2 years • meet the Returning resident criteria • don't fall for refusal on suitability requirements (Immigration Rules - Part Suitability, Grounds for refusal and cancellation (Part suitability))	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • Visa issued to confirm their ILE status, valid for 6 months
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, outside the UK Those who were subject to immigration control, who are outside the UK and have been so for more than 2 years, and want to return permanently	Commonwealth citizens who were settled before 1 January 1973, who are now outside the UK and want to reinstate their settled status to return to the UK permanently, where they: • left the UK after 1 January 1973 and lost that settled status by being outside the UK for more than 2 years • meet the Returning resident criteria • don't fall for refusal on suitability requirements (Immigration Rules - Part Suitability, Grounds for refusal	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • Visa issued to reinstate their ILE status, valid for 6 months

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
	and cancellation (Part suitability))	
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, outside the UK Those who were subject to immigration control, who are outside the UK and have been so for more than two years, and want to return to visit	Commonwealth citizens who were settled before 1 January 1973, who are now outside the UK and want to reinstate their settled status to return as a visitor, where they: • left the UK after 1 January 1973 and lost that settled status by being outside the UK for more than 2 years • meet the Returning resident criteria • don't fall for refusal on suitability requirements (Immigration Rules - Part Suitability, Grounds for refusal and cancellation (Part suitability)) as per Part V3 of Appendix V of the Immigration Rules	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • 10-year multi-entry visit visa issued, for visits of up to 6 months' duration
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, outside the UK Those with the right of abode who are not automatically British, and who are outside the UK and wish to return	Commonwealth citizens who arrived in the UK with the right of abode before 1 January 1973, and who are not automatically British, where they: • fall within section 2(1)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971, do not want British citizenship or do not have relevant residency Some Commonwealth nationals will have the right of abode because either:	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • a Certificate of Entitlement to the right of abode • where a person does not hold a valid foreign national passport, a letter can be issued confirming their right of abode (this is not accepted for compliant environment purposes)

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
	- one of their parents was born in the UK and was a citizen of the UK and colonies when they were born or adopted - they were a Commonwealth citizen on 31 December 1982 And they must either: - have not stopped being a Commonwealth citizen (even temporarily) at any point after 31 December 1982 - if they are a female Commonwealth citizen and were married to someone with right of abode before 1 January 1983, they must not have stopped being a Commonwealth citizen (even temporarily) at any point after 31 December 1982	

Table for group 2: people of any other nationality who arrived in the UK and had indefinite leave before 1 January 1973

Those who wish to prove their settled status

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Pre-1973 arrival of any other nationality, in the UK	People of any nationality other than those defined in this guidance as	Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
<u>Those who were subject to immigration control, who are in the UK, and want to prove their settled status</u>	<u>Commonwealth citizens</u>, who were settled before 1 January 1973, who want confirmation of their settled status, where they: • fall within section 1(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 (which covers those who are subject to immigration control) • have been continuously resident since their arrival	• NTL granted to confirm their ILR status

Table for group 3: people of any nationality, who arrived in the UK between 1 January 1973 and 31 December 1988 and who have settled status

Those who wish to prove their settled status

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Any nationality who arrived between 1 January 1973 and 31 December 1988, who are in the UK <u>Those in the UK between 1 January 1973 and 31 December 1988, are in the UK and have settled status, and want to prove their settled status</u>	People of any nationality who: • entered the UK lawfully after 1 January 1973 and are now settled	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • NTL granted to confirm their ILR status

Tables for group 4: Windrush children – child of a Commonwealth citizen parent where the parent was settled in the UK on 1 January 1973 or has the right of abode

Those who are automatically British

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Children of pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizen parents, under group 1. Those who are automatically British	Child born in the UK before 1983, or born in the UK on or after 1 January 1983 to a settled or British parent, is automatically British . Child born overseas to a British mother, or a British father if married to the mother.	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • Windrush Help Team to signpost and advice on how to apply for a British passport • where a person does not wish to apply for a British passport, they can be issued with a Certificate of Entitlement to the right of abode • where a person does not hold a valid foreign national passport, a nationality status document can be issued (this is not accepted for compliant environment but may be used to enable a UK passport application at own cost)

Those in the UK who qualify to register as a British citizen

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Children of a pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizen parent who may or may not have settled in the UK.	Child born in the UK on or after 1 January 1983, to a Commonwealth citizen parent who was not settled at the time of their birth. They are eligible to register	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • issue a certificate of registration as a British citizen

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Those who were subject to immigration control, who are in the UK and want to register as a British citizen	as a British citizen in the UK, where the child: • was born in the UK • spent the first 10-years of their life in the UK • was continuously resident for those 10-years (spending no more than 90-days per year outside the UK during the 10-year period) and has been continuously resident since that time • meets the criteria under the specific provision they will be registered under Or Child born outside the UK prior to 1 January 1983 to a Group 1 parent. They are eligible to register as a British citizen in the UK where the child: • came to the UK as a minor • has lived continuously in the UK since their arrival • meets the criteria under the specific provision they will be registered under	• Citizenship ceremony not required, although applicants can indicate that they wish to attend a ceremony

Those who wish to apply for British citizenship

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Children of pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens in the UK under group 1, who are in the UK. Those who were born outside the UK, who are subject to immigration control, are in the UK and want to apply for British citizenship	Child born outside the UK to a Commonwealth citizen parent who arrived pre-1973 and comes within group 1. They are eligible for a free citizenship application, where the child: - came to the UK after 1973, when they were under the age of 18 - had ILE or ILR and are still in the UK with ILE or ILR - has been continuously resident since their arrival (where a 2 year break is permitted without disrupting continuous residence) - is subject to the usual good character (Good character - GOV.UK), (Good character - internal) requirement	- Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status - issue a certificate of naturalisation as a British citizen - Citizenship ceremony not required, although applicants can indicate that they wish to attend a ceremony

Those who are not automatically British, but who have Right of Abode

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Children of pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens falling within group 1, in the UK Those with the right of abode who are not automatically British, and who are in the UK	Child born to a parent falling within group 1. They are not automatically British but have the right of abode themselves, where they:	- Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status - Certificate of Entitlement to the right of abode - if the applicant does not hold a passport you should issue

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
but do not want or are not eligible to apply for British Citizenship	• fall within section 2(1)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971 • do not want British citizenship or do not meet all the relevant requirements	them with a nationality status document confirming their right of abode

Those who wish to prove their settled status

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Children of pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens under group 1, who are in the UK. Those who were born outside the UK, who were subject to immigration control, are in the UK and want to prove their settled status	Child born outside the UK to a Commonwealth citizen who is a group 1 parent who arrived pre-1973. They want confirmation of their settled status, where the child: • came to the UK after 1973, when they were under the age of 18 • had ILE or ILR and are still in the UK with ILE or ILR • has been continuously resident since their arrival (where a 2 year break is permitted without disrupting continuous residence) • do not want UK citizenship or do not meet all the relevant requirements	• Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status • NTL granted to confirm their ILR status

Those who wish to apply for ILR

Who does this include	Criteria	What they will be eligible for if they meet the criteria
Children of pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens under group 1, who are in the UK. Those who were born outside the UK, who were subject to immigration control, are in the UK and want to apply for ILR	Child born outside the UK to a Commonwealth citizen parent who arrived pre-1973 and falls within group 1. They want a grant of ILR, where the child: - came to the UK after 1973, when they were under the age of 18 - has been continuously resident in the UK since their arrival and currently has limited leave in the UK - don't fall for refusal on criminality or non-conducive grounds	- Windrush Help Team assistance to confirm status - ILR Status

Those not covered by the Windrush Scheme guidance

Those that do not benefit under group 1: Commonwealth citizens who were either settled in the UK before 1 January 1973 or who have the right of abode

Who does this include	Criteria	What the Windrush Help Team can do for them
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, in the UK Those who were subject to immigration control, who are in the UK and want to confirm their status	Commonwealth citizens who were settled before 1 January 1973, who wants confirmation of their settled status, where they: left the UK after 1 January 1973 and lost that settled status by being outside the UK for more than 2 years	- cannot benefit under the Windrush Scheme policy - they will need make an appropriate application, paying the appropriate fees and charges for any application they choose to make

Who does this include	Criteria	What the Windrush Help Team can do for them
	• have not since acquired some other settled status, but currently have limited leave in the UK • do not meet the Returning resident ('strong ties') criteria or they fall for refusal on criminality or non-conductive grounds • do not meet the suitability requirements (Immigration Rules - Part Suitability, Grounds for refusal and cancellation (Part suitability))	
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, outside the UK Those who were subject to immigration control, who are outside the UK and want to return permanently	Commonwealth citizens who were settled before 1 January 1973, who want to confirm their settled status to return to the UK permanently, where they: • left the UK after 1 January 1973 and have lost that settled status by being outside the UK for more than 2 years • do not meet the Returning resident criteria or they fall for refusal on criminality or non-conductive grounds	• cannot benefit under the Windrush Scheme policy • Windrush Help Team can confirm that leave has lapsed, and signpost to the current Immigration Rules
Pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizens, outside the UK Those who were subject to immigration control, who are outside the UK and want to return to visit	Commonwealth citizens who were settled before 1 January 1973, who left the UK after 1 January 1973 and remain outside the UK. They want to confirm their settled status, where they: • have lost that settled status by being	• cannot benefit under the Windrush Scheme policy • standard 6-month visit visa can be issued at cost of £93 (No fee waiver), or 6-months LTE can be granted by a Border

Who does this include	Criteria	What the Windrush Help Team can do for them
	outside the UK for more than 2 years - do not meet the Returning resident criteria - meet the normal visit visa requirements	Force Officer at port, for non-visa nationals (no fee)

Those that do not benefit under group 3: people of any nationality who arrived in the UK before 1 January 1973 with limited leave

Who does this include	Criteria	What the Windrush Help Team can do for them
Pre-1973 arrival of any nationality, in the UK Those who were in the UK but not settled on 1 January 1973, who are in the UK and want to prove their status	People of any nationality who: - were in the UK but were not settled on 01 January 73 when the Immigration Act 1971 commenced, so were not granted ILE or ILR by virtue of the act - arrived in the UK before 31 December 1988 - cannot establish they had ILE or ILR cannot establish they have any other permission from the Home Office to be here	- cannot benefit under the Windrush Scheme policy - Windrush Help Team can confirm can signpost to the current Immigration Rules - they will need make an appropriate application, paying the appropriate fees and charges for any application they choose to make
Those of any nationality who arrived in the UK between 1 January 1973 and 31 December 1988, and who are in the UK Those who were in the UK but not settled on 1 January 1973, who are in the UK and want to prove their status	People of any nationality who entered the UK lawfully after 1 January 1973, who: - arrived in the UK before 31 December 1988 - cannot establish they had ILE or ILR - cannot establish they have any other	- cannot benefit under the Windrush Scheme policy - Windrush Help Team can confirm can signpost to the current Immigration Rules - they will need make an appropriate application, paying the appropriate fees

Who does this include	Criteria	What the Windrush Help Team can do for them
	permission from the Home Office to be here	and charges for any application they choose to make
Those of any nationality who arrived in the UK between 1 January 1973 and 31 December 1988, and who are outside the UK	People of any nationality who entered the UK lawfully after 1 January 1973, who are now outside the UK .	• cannot benefit under the Windrush Scheme policy • Windrush Help Team can confirm can signpost to the current Immigration Rules • they will need make an appropriate application, paying the appropriate fees and charges for any application they choose to make

Those who do not benefit under group 4: Windrush children – child of a Commonwealth citizen parent settled in the UK on 1 January 1973 or who has the right of abode

Who does this include	Criteria	What the Windrush Help Team can do for them
Children of pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizen parents under group 1, who are in the UK. Those who were born outside the UK, who are subject to immigration control, are in the UK and want to confirm their settled status.	Child born outside the UK to a Commonwealth citizen parent who arrived pre-1973. They want confirmation of their settled status, where the child: • came to the UK after 1973 when they were under the age of 18 • had ILE or ILR but has lost that settled status by being outside the UK for more than 2 years • are now in the UK and have acquired some other settled status in the UK	• cannot benefit under the Windrush Scheme policy • Windrush Help Team can confirm that they currently have ILR

Who does this include	Criteria	What the Windrush Help Team can do for them
Children of pre-1973 arrival Commonwealth citizen parents in the UK under group 1, who are in the UK. Those who were born outside the UK, who are subject to immigration control, are in the UK and want to confirm their settled status.	Child born outside the UK to a settled Commonwealth citizen parent who arrived pre-1973. They want confirmation of their settled status, where the child: • came to the UK, after 1973 when they were under the age of 18 • had ILE or ILR but lost that settled status by being outside the UK for more than 2 years • has not since acquired some other settled status, and currently has no leave, therefore they require status	• cannot benefit under the Windrush Scheme policy • Windrush Help Team can signpost to the current Immigration Rules • they will need make an appropriate application, paying the appropriate fees and charges for any application they choose to make
Children of pre-1973 parents of any nationality, who are in the UK. Those who were born outside the UK, who are subject to immigration control, are in the UK and want to confirm their settled status.	Child born outside the UK to a parent of any nationality who arrived pre-1973. They want confirmation of their status, where the child: • came to the UK when they were over the age of 18 • may or may not have settled in the UK • is currently in the UK	• cannot benefit under the Windrush Scheme policy • Windrush Help Team can signpost to the current Immigration Rules, where the person is not settled and does not have any current leave • where the person does not have current leave, they will need make an appropriate application, paying the appropriate fees and charges for any application they choose to make
Children of pre-1973 parents of any nationality settled in the UK under group 1, who are outside the UK.	Child born outside the UK to a settled Commonwealth citizen parent who arrived pre-1973. They want to confirm their settled status, where the child:	• cannot benefit under the Windrush Scheme policy • Windrush Help Team can signpost to the

Who does this include	Criteria	What the Windrush Help Team can do for them
Those who were born outside the UK, who are subject to immigration control, are outside the UK and want to confirm their settled status	- came to the UK after 1973 when they were under the age of 18 - cannot establish they had ILE or ILR - is now outside the UK	current Immigration Rules

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