



British Nationality (Irish Citizens) Act 2024

2024 CHAPTER 19

PROSPECTIVE

1 Acquisition of British citizenship: Irish citizens

- (1) The British Nationality Act 1981 is amended as set out in subsections (2) to (4).
- (2) After section 4A insert—

“4AA Acquisition by registration: Irish citizens

- (1) An Irish citizen is entitled to be registered as a British citizen if—
 - (a) an application for their registration is made under this section, and
 - (b) they satisfy the requirements specified in subsection (2).
- (2) The requirements are that—
 - (a) the person was in the United Kingdom at the beginning of the period of five years ending with the date of their application;
 - (b) the person was absent from the United Kingdom for—
 - (i) no more than 450 days in the period of five years ending with the date of their application, and
 - (ii) no more than 90 days in the period of 12 months ending with the date of their application; and
 - (c) the person was not in the United Kingdom in breach of the immigration laws at any time in the period of five years ending with the date of their application.
- (3) If in the special circumstances of a particular case the Secretary of State thinks fit, the Secretary of State may treat the person as satisfying a requirement specified in subsection (2), even if they did not in fact satisfy the requirement.
- (4) This section is subject to sections 31, 32 and 36 of the Illegal Migration Act 2023 (restriction of eligibility for citizenship etc).”

Status: This version of this provision is prospective.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the British Nationality (Irish Citizens) Act 2024, Section 1. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) In section 41A (registration: requirement to be of good character), in subsection (1), after “4A,” insert “4AA,”.
- (4) In section 50A (meaning of references to being in breach of immigration laws)—
- (a) in subsection (1), after paragraph (a) insert—
“(aa) section 4AA(2)(c);”;
 - (b) in subsection (2)(b), for “or 4(2)” substitute “, 4(2) or 4AA”.
- (5) In section 32 of the Illegal Migration Act 2023 (British citizenship), in subsection (1), after paragraph (b) insert—
- “(ba) section 4AA of that Act (acquisition of British citizenship by registration: Irish citizens);”.

Commencement Information

- II** S. 1 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 2\(3\)](#)

Status:

This version of this provision is prospective.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the British Nationality (Irish Citizens) Act 2024, Section 1.