



# Home Office

## WINDRUSH FACTSHEET

24 May 2018

- The Home Office values the contribution made to the UK by the Windrush generation and we are committed to do right by those affected.
- If you are a Commonwealth citizen who has lived in the UK for a long time and are worried about your immigration status, our dedicated team at the Home Office could help you.
- We have announced a Windrush Scheme to make it easier for individuals to access support and understand what is on offer.
- You can call our new dedicated helpline on freephone 0800 678 1925. The line is open Monday to Saturday between 9am to 5pm and Sunday between 10am to 4pm, or you can email [commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).
- In the near future, you will also be able to apply using a form available on [Gov.uk/Windrush](http://Gov.uk/Windrush)
- If required, you will be allocated a caseworker who will work with you to build a picture of your life in the UK. We will work with other government departments to find your records if helpful.
- We accept all sorts of documentation, including previous addresses, employment records, national insurance numbers, birth and marriage certificates, bills and letters among others.
- We will aim to resolve your case within two weeks of your information being obtained.
- If you are not currently living in the UK and want to come back to the UK, we could also help you. We can arrange for you to ring freephone from a UK visa application centre, or email us and we will call you back. You will be able to use the online form to apply when this becomes available.
- There is no fee for an application under the Windrush Scheme.
- We have announced a call for evidence on compensation for those, including the Windrush generation, who have faced difficulties in establishing their status under the immigration system. This is an opportunity for anyone affected to tell us about their experience to help shape the compensation scheme.
- The call for evidence will run until 8 June. This will be followed by a full consultation on the detail of the scheme.
- We are delivering surgeries to offer individuals concerned about their status the opportunity to speak in confidence to Home Office staff, and request support to resolve their case. We are asking community groups to support us in hosting these events. If you are interested in assisting this initiative, please contact us at [WindrushSurgeries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:WindrushSurgeries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)
- Further information can be found at <http://www.gov.uk/windrush>, where you can also sign up to stay informed about Home Office announcements relating to Windrush.

**I have already been through the taskforce, do I now need to apply under the Windrush Scheme?**

No. Whilst we may require some additional information, the taskforce have your details and will be back in touch with you to take your case forward if necessary.

**I'm a Commonwealth citizen who settled in the UK before 1973 and have stayed here since; I'm unsure of my status or what I need to do.**

If you are a Commonwealth citizen who settled in the UK before 1973 and have stayed to build a life here, you may already be a British citizen. If so we will give you a document confirming that. If you are not already British, you will be eligible to apply for citizenship. You will need to meet the residence requirements for citizenship and the good character requirement, but there will be no need for you to complete the normal Knowledge of Language and Life in the UK test. If you do not want to apply for citizenship or do not qualify, we will consider whether you are entitled to remain and which route you are eligible for. You can find an outline of the routes and eligibility criteria at [www.gov.uk/windrush](http://www.gov.uk/windrush).

**I'm a Commonwealth citizen who settled in the UK before 1973 but left the UK for longer than two years before returning to continue my life here; I'm unsure of my status or what I need to do.**

You can apply under the Windrush Scheme as you may be eligible for indefinite leave to remain.

**My parent is a Commonwealth citizen who settled in the UK before 1973 and I have lived in the UK most of my life, but I am unclear of my status. Can you help me?**

Yes. It is possible you are already a British citizen and, if so, we will confirm that. If you are not already a British citizen you can apply under the Windrush scheme and we will consider which route you are eligible for. You can find an outline of the routes and eligibility criteria at [www.gov.uk/windrush](http://www.gov.uk/windrush).

**I'm a Commonwealth citizen who settled in the UK after 1973 but before the end of 1988, and I have lived in the UK ever since. Can you help me?**

We know there are people who settled legally in the UK after 1973 but before the end of 1988 and don't have documents confirming their status. If you fall into this category we may be able to issue you with documents to confirm your right to live and work in the UK. This will be free of charge.

**I'm not a Commonwealth citizen but I settled in the UK before 31 December 1988 and I am lawfully settled in the UK. Do I need to apply under this scheme?**

We know there are people who settled legally in the UK after 1973 but before the end of 1988 and don't have documents confirming their status. If you fall into this category we may be able to issue you with documents to confirm your right to live and work in the UK. This will be free of charge.

**What documents do I need to provide to prove my right to be in the UK?**

We will work with you to help demonstrate you have lived in the UK for a long time. We accept all sorts of documentation. We will also work with other government departments including Department for Work and Pensions and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to make sure we are doing all we can to help you get the documents you need. We do not need to see definitive proof of the date you entered the UK or to see four pieces of evidence for every year you have lived here.

**How long will it take for me to get my status confirmed?**

You will be allocated a caseworker who will work with you to resolve your case. They will aim to resolve your case within two weeks of relevant information being obtained.

**How do I apply under the Windrush Scheme?**

You can call our taskforce, or application forms will shortly be available on [gov.uk/windrush](http://gov.uk/windrush).

**What are biometrics and why do I need to give them?**

Biometrics mean a photograph of your face and your fingerprints. This is a legal requirement for anyone applying for citizenship or leave to remain, unless you are exempt. There is no fee for this.

**What is a good character test and why do I need to meet it?**

Before anyone can be granted British citizenship we need to be satisfied that they are of good character, including considering any criminal convictions.

**Will immigration enforcement action be taken against me by getting in touch with the taskforce?**

No. No information provided in relation to an application under the Windrush Scheme will be passed on to immigration enforcement.

**Will I get a free passport?**

The Windrush Scheme does not cover applications for a British passport. British citizens must pay for a passport and it would not be fair to existing British citizens to provide a free passport to those applying for British citizenship under the Windrush Scheme.

**What will happen if I don't apply under the Windrush Scheme?**

We would encourage anyone who thinks they have been in the UK lawfully since before 1988 but doesn't have documentation to prove this to contact the taskforce.

**What counts as a Commonwealth country under this scheme?**

There is a list available through [www.gov.uk/windrush](http://www.gov.uk/windrush)