

Chapter 42

British subjects - general information

42.1 Before 1983, the terms 'British subject' and 'Commonwealth citizen' were synonymous (**s.1(2), British Nationality Act 1948**). Under the British Nationality Act 1981, the term 'British subject' has a much more limited application.

42.2 Particular points about British subject status are:

- On 1 January 1983, it was acquired only by the persons described in **Chapter 43**
- Since 1 January 1983, it has been, or can be, acquired only by:
 - a. certain stateless persons (**Chapters 44 and 47**)
 - b. minors (**Chapter 45**)
 - c. certain Irish nationals (**Chapter 46**)
 - d. certain wives (or former wives) of British subjects (**Chapter 49.2**)
 - It can be held with another nationality or citizenship, including another form of British nationality (e.g. British citizenship) (but see **Chapter 49**)
 - It cannot be transmitted
 - It can be renounced (**Chapter 48**)
 - It can be lost automatically (**Chapter 49**)
 - It can be lost by deprivation (**Chapter 55**)