

Certificates of British Nationality

1. Certificates of nationality, which confirm that a particular person is recognised as a British national and is the holder of a British passport, are sometimes required by foreign countries in connection with the settlement of estates or for other purposes.
2. The majority of such requests are dealt with by the appropriate consular post in the country concerned, in consultation with FCO Consular Division, as necessary, and the Home Office would not normally become involved. Occasionally, the authorities of another country will require the certificate to be issued in the United Kingdom, and any such requests received by the Home Office should be forwarded to Consular Division.
3. Special procedures apply to requests from French authorities when dual Franco-British nationals, resident in the United Kingdom, seek to prove their status (most commonly to avoid being called for military service in France) or to renounce French citizenship. In practice, it has been found that a STATUS LETTER will usually suffice where the applicant is living in the United Kingdom and wishes to avoid military service. Any case where it seems that a status letter is unlikely to be acceptable should be referred initially to INPD(L) to consult Consular Division.