

Retention (declarations of)

1. Under **s.1(1)(i)** of the **British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act 1914**, persons whose British nationality depended upon the fact that their birth had been registered at a British consulate were required to make a declaration of retention of British nationality within one year after their 21st birthday or, in special circumstances, later.
2. This requirement was continued under the **British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act 1943**. However, the **1943 Act** provided that such persons did not have to make a declaration of retention if they had been members of His Majesty's forces at any time during the Second World War (those who had already ceased to be a British subject would be deemed never to have lost that status). The exemption also applied to persons who were able to satisfy the Secretary of State that the only reason why they did not serve in the armed forces was because they were engaged on work of national importance or had been prevented from serving by some cause outside their control.
3. Under **s.10(4)** of the **British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act 1914**, a woman whose husband ceased to be a British subject while her marriage was still in existence, and who also acquired his new nationality, was able to make a declaration of retention of British nationality within 12 months of the date on which she acquired the new nationality or, in special circumstances, later.
4. Under **s.15** of the **British Nationality Act 1948**, the failure of any person to make a declaration of retention as described above was to be disregarded in determining whether, for the purposes of that Act, the person had been a British subject on 31 December 1948.