



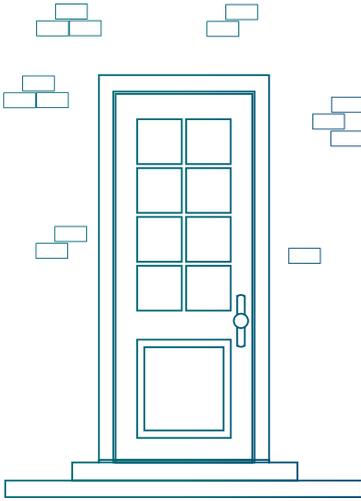
HM Government

Windrush Scheme and Windrush Compensation Scheme



**Did you come to live in the UK
before the end of 1988?**

How to get help to demonstrate your right to
live in the UK or to claim compensation.



Did you come to live in the UK before the end of 1988?

And are you worried about proving your right to live here?

If so, we can help.

The Windrush Scheme

What is the Windrush Scheme?

Many people who settled lawfully in the UK years ago have the right to live and work here, but some of these people do not have the right documents to show their lawful status. They may have found it hard to demonstrate their right to work and access services in the UK. This can also apply to their children in some circumstances. The Government has apologised for this.

The Government has set up the 'Windrush Scheme' to help people get the documents they need free of charge. It is working with groups representing affected communities, in order to help rebuild trust and make sure people know what support is available.

If you have lost out on things like jobs and healthcare because you could not prove your right to live in the UK, you may also be able to claim compensation through the Government's 'Windrush Compensation Scheme'.

More information on the Windrush Compensation Scheme is on page 8.



Important

Nothing you tell the Windrush teams will be passed to Immigration Enforcement.

All applications under the Windrush Scheme are free.

Who can get help from the Windrush Scheme?

If you fall within one of the following groups, you may qualify for help in getting the documents you need.

People in the UK who:

- arrived in the UK before the end of 1988 and are settled in the UK (including non-Commonwealth citizens).
- are a Commonwealth citizen and settled in the UK before 1 January 1973 or have the 'right of abode'.
- are a child of a Commonwealth citizen, where the parent settled in the UK before 1 January 1973 or has "right of abode", and were born in the UK or came here as a child and have lived here ever since.
- are a Commonwealth citizen who was settled in the UK before 1 January 1973, whose settled status lapsed because they left the UK for more than 2 years, and who is now lawfully in the UK and has strong ties to the UK.

People not in the UK who:

- are a Commonwealth citizen and were settled in the UK before 1 January 1973.

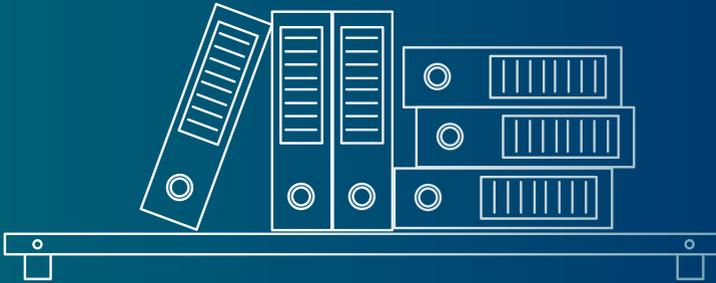


To find out if you can get help, please call the Windrush Helpline for free on **0800 678 1925** or visit **gov.uk/Windrush**.



Can I apply for British citizenship under the Scheme?

If you are a Commonwealth citizen and settled in the UK before 1 January 1973, or are a child of someone who did, you may be entitled to a free citizenship application. Please call us to find out more.



Examples of people who would be helped by the Scheme



Christopher

Christopher's father came to the UK from Grenada in 1970. Christopher came to the UK with his mother when he was eight. He has lived in the UK ever since. Both of Christopher's parents died many years ago. Christopher works for the NHS. Christopher asked the Windrush Scheme for help to get British Citizenship.

He could not remember certain details about his parents, such as when they came to the UK and what their status was. The Windrush Scheme looked for information about Christopher and his parents, so he could show he was allowed to live in the UK. They found Government records that showed that Christopher's parents had lived in the UK ever since they arrived, and that his father had lived here before 1973.

Christopher was granted British citizenship.



Patricia

Patricia came to the UK from Jamaica with her parents in 1963 when she was 5. She has lived in the UK ever since. She had nothing to prove that she was allowed to live in the UK.

Patricia contacted the Windrush Scheme. They explained how to apply. They helped her by looking for evidence of her status and long residence in government records.

She was given British Citizenship for free.



Sandeep

Sandeep came to the UK from India and settled here in 1970 aged 20. He set up a business in the UK. In 2008 he went back to India to look after his elderly parents. He kept his business active in the UK. His two children and their families still lived here and he visited the UK regularly.

When Sandeep's parents died in India, he wanted to come back to the UK to live. He got a six-month visit visa, and contacted the Windrush Scheme for help on arrival.

Sandeep was granted 'indefinite leave to remain' because of his strong ties with the UK.



Yvonne

Yvonne is 75 and arrived in 1966 with her husband. They have two children who were born in the UK and still live here. Yvonne and her husband retired in 2008 and went to Nigeria. She has visited the UK often to see her family.

When her husband died, Yvonne wanted to return to the UK to live with her daughter.

The Windrush Scheme team helped Yvonne get a 'returning resident visa' because of her strong ties to the UK. Now back in the UK she has been given a further document to prove she is 'settled' in the UK.



Find out more

Contact us to get advice on the Windrush Scheme and the Windrush Compensation Scheme

Free phone: **0800 678 1925**

Email: **commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gov.uk**

Visit: **gov.uk/Windrush**

We can also help vulnerable people or those who need additional support

Nothing you tell the Windrush teams will be passed to Immigration Enforcement.

Windrush Compensation Scheme



If you lost out on things or suffered because you could not prove your lawful right to live in the UK, you may be able to claim compensation from the Government. This is called the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Who can claim compensation?

The eligibility criteria are the same as the Windrush Scheme. However, the Compensation Scheme is also open to:

- children and grandchildren of Commonwealth citizens in certain circumstances.
- the estates of those who are now deceased but who would have otherwise been eligible to claim compensation.
- close family members of eligible claimants, in certain circumstances.

Types of loss you can claim for

The types of loss you can claim for includes if you could not prove your right to work, access services or if you faced enforcement action.

You may be able to claim compensation for losses including those related to:

- employment
- immigration fees
- housing
- health
- education
- driving licences
- banking
- impact on normal daily life (for example, you missed key family events or were unable to travel)
- detention and removal

Even if you are now a British Citizen you can still make a compensation claim if you were affected in the past.

If you are in the UK, you will need evidence of your right to live in the UK before you can make a claim for compensation. You can get help to do this through the Windrush Scheme.



If you are in urgent financial need as a result of difficulties evidencing your status, you may be eligible for an urgent and exceptional payment. Contact the Windrush Scheme for more information.

To find out more about the things you can claim for, visit **www.gov.uk/windrush-compensation**

For more information and help to apply, call for free on **0800 678 1925**.



Glossary

‘Windrush Commonwealth Taskforce’. A dedicated team set up to provide advice and help to people who may want to apply under the Windrush Scheme or seek compensation.

‘Windrush Scheme’ A free service that provides people with the documents they need to demonstrate their right to live and work in the UK.

‘Windrush Compensation Scheme’ A free service to provide compensation to people and their close family members who lost out on things like jobs and healthcare because they could not demonstrate their right to live in the UK.

‘Settled’ means you can live and work in the UK on a permanent basis. It is commonly used to refer to someone who has Indefinite Leave to Remain or Enter.

‘Right of abode’ is a legal status that means you have an unrestricted right to enter, live and work in the UK.

‘Estate’ is the property and money of a person who has died.

‘Claimant’ is a person making a claim.

‘Status’ means immigration status giving rights to visit or live in the UK.



Commonwealth countries

Many people affected by Windrush have come from Commonwealth countries. Commonwealth countries include:

- Anguilla
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- The Bahamas
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bermuda
- Botswana
- British Antarctic Territory
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- Brunei
- Canada
- Cayman Islands
- Cyprus (excluding the Sovereign base area)
- Dominica
- Falkland Islands
- Fiji
- The Gambia
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Hong Kong
- India
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Malta
- Mauritius
- Montserrat
- Namibia
- Nauru
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Papua New Guinea
- Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands
- Saint Lucia
- Samoa
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- South Africa
- South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- Sri Lanka
- St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Vincent and The Grenadines
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Vanuatu
- Virgin Islands
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Contact us to get advice on the Windrush Scheme and Windrush Compensation Scheme

Free phone:

0800 678 1925

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 3pm

Email:

commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gov.uk

Visit:

gov.uk/Windrush

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