



Home Office

International and Immigration
Policy Group
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 7035 4848
Fax: 020 7035 4745
www.gov.uk/homeoffice

By Email:

request-342003-f629be51@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: 40174

Date: 14 July 2016

Dear A Fernandes

Thank you for your e-mail of 27 June, in which you ask for clarification on whether the UK class Overseas Citizens of India as Commonwealth citizens, and if as a consequence they are eligible to the right to vote in UK elections. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Schedule 3 of the British Nationality Act (BNA) 1981 sets out the countries whose citizens are Commonwealth citizens. Where an individual is recognised by a country included in Schedule 3, as being a citizen of that country, they will be considered to be a Commonwealth citizen and will be treated as such under UK law, including being eligible to register to vote in UK elections where they reside in the UK.

Where an individual holds a status which is not recognised by a country listed in schedule 3 as conferring full citizenship of that country, they will not as a result be considered as being a commonwealth citizen.

Our understanding is that Overseas Citizenship of India is not recognised by India as full citizenship. Given this they would not meet the definition of a Commonwealth citizen unless they meet the requirement on the basis of another nationality or citizenship.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference 40174. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Rights Team
Home Office
Fourth Floor, Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
e-mail: foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

G Musgrave

International and Immigration Policy Group (IIPG)