

You can demonstrate eligibility to apply to access the Chagossian support package announced in November 2016 in two ways:

1. By being born in the Chagos Archipelago/British Indian Ocean Territory.
2. By claiming to be of Chagossian heritage, descended from a Chagossian born in the Chagos Archipelago/British Indian Ocean Territory, with a direct maternal or paternal line of descent.

If you believe you fit either of the criteria stated above you will need to provide the following evidence to support your claim:

- If claiming through being born in the Chagos Archipelago/BIOT - documentary evidence in the form of a copy of your original birth certificate or copy of an original identification card confirming place of birth as the Chagos Archipelago/BIOT **and** a covering letter of no more than 500 words explaining how you meet the eligibility criteria;

or

- If claiming through Chagossian heritage - documentary evidence in the form of a copy of original birth certificate or copy of an original identification card, along with copies of all subsequent relevant original birth certificates tracing a direct maternal or paternal line of descent from a Chagossian born in the Chagos Archipelago/BIOT **and** a covering letter of no more than 500 words explaining how you meet the eligibility criteria.

As announced in November 2016, the UK Government is committed to providing assistance to Chagossians to help address pressing needs in identified areas through the support package. If you feel you meet the criteria to access Chagossian support package funds but **are unable** to provide all the documentation required, we are happy to consider alternatives. Please set out in a letter to the UK Government (of no more than 500 words) explaining on what basis you feel you meet the criteria and copies of any additional documentation you feel may support your claim. The UK Government will then, as far as reasonably possible and where appropriate, consult appropriate representatives of the Chagossian community resident in-country to provide an assessment of your claim. The UK Government will make the final decision whether a claimant is eligible to apply to access Chagossian support package funds.

Please note this criteria is **only** for the purposes of accessing the Chagossian support package announced in November 2016.