

Quarterly asylum statistics

August 2016

This briefing covers the latest quarterly asylum statistics. For annual and longer term trends see the Refugee Council briefing on asylum trends.

APPLICATIONS:

- The number of applications for asylum in the UK increased in Q2 2016 compared with Q2 2015, but was lower than the previous three quarters.

Table 1: Asylum applications in the UK by quarter (excl. Dependants)

Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016
6,279	10,231	10,196	8,228	7,810

Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2015 there was a large increase in the number of applicants from Iran, Iraq, and Bangladesh. All of the top ten countries of origin showed an increase except for Sudan.

Table 2: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries by quarter (excl. Dependants)

	Q2 2015	Q2 2016	% change
Iran	487	1,098	+125%
Pakistan	487	788	+62%
Afghanistan	420	643	+53%
Iraq	235	603	+157%
Bangladesh	195	513	+163%
Syria	370	431	+16%
Albania	357	369	+3%
India	211	366	+73%
Nigeria	198	300	+52%
Sudan	524	275	-48%

Applications by location

- The proportion of applications made at ports and in-country has changed only marginally in the past year, and for in-country applications was 90% in Q2 2016.

Table 3: Applications by location (excl. dependants), by quarter

	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016
In-country	5,772	9,439	9,156	7,304	7,029
Port	509	792	1,040	924	781
Total	6,279	10,231	10,196	8,228	7,810

DECISIONS:

- In Q2 2016, 6,185 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; a marginal decrease compared with Q2 2015 (6,235) but fewer than the previous three quarters.
- 29% of initial decisions in Q2 2016 were to grant asylum, compared with 38% in Q2 2015. 0.8% of initial decisions in Q2 2016 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 1.2% in Q2 2015 and 66% were refusals, a 10% increase on Q2 2015.

Table 4: Initial Decisions (excl. dependants) by quarter

	Q2 2015		Q3 2015		Q4 2015		Q1 2016		Q2 2016	
Decisions	6,235		6,653		6,868		6,644		6,185	
Refugee status	2,360	38%	2,449	38%	2,382	35%	1,963	30%	1,794	29%
Humanitarian Protection	29	0.5 %	25	0.4%	38	0.6%	16	0.2%	26	0.4 %
Discretionary Leave	41	0.7%	52	0.8%	40	0.6%	36	0.5%	23	0.4%
Other Grants	290	5%	235	4%	247	4%	347	5%	284	5%
Refused	3,515	56%	3,892	58%	4,161	61%	4,282	64%	4,058	66%

- Countries with a high percentage of applicants granted protection in Q2 2016 included Sudan and Syria. Several countries had very high refusal rates.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q2 2016, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	1,087	364	0	0	28	695
Iraq	682	46	5	0	19	612
Syria	659	571	3	1	5	79
Afghanistan	467	76	0	4	89	298
Pakistan	450	51	0	1	1	397
Sudan	343	305	0	0	0	38
Bangladesh	306	10	0	0	4	292
Albania	225	4	0	2	50	169
India	194	1	0	0	0	193
Sri Lanka	187	12	0	1	1	173

APPEALS:

- 2,936 appeals were determined in Q2 2016, a significant increase on all the previous four quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 46% in Q2 2016, while 50% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q2 2015		Q3 2015		Q4 2015		Q1 2016		Q2 2016	
Determined	2,339		2,576		2,026		1,974		2,936	
Allowed	752	32%	972	38%	877	43%	840	43%	1,359	46%
Dismissed	1,457	62%	1,478	57%	1,056	52%	1,036	52%	1,470	50%
Withdrawn	130	6%	126	5%	93	5%	98	5%	107	4%

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q2 2016 was 37,030, an increase of 22% from Q2 2015.
- 2,663 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q2 2016.
- 34,367 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2016.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2016 was the North West (9,015).
- 1,889 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q2 2016

Table 7: Asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of each quarter (incl. Dependants)

	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016
Dispersed accommodation	26,984	28,620	31,432	32,935	34,367
Subsistence only	3,473	3,276	2,931	2,748	2,663
Initial accommodation	989	1,660	1,985	2,240	1,889

Applicants supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

- 1,104 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q2 2016, a small increase compared with the previous quarter.
- At the end of Q2 2016 2,419 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,313 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016
Number of grants	1,386	1,284	1,137	937	1,104

Table 9: Numbers in receipt of Section 4 Support at the end of the quarter (excl. dependants)

	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016
Number supported	3,318	2,834	2,525	2,366	2,419

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 827 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q2 2016, a 41% decrease from Q2 2015 (1,406).
- 650 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q2 2016, a 42% decrease from Q2 2015 (1,120).
- 117 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q2 2016, a 46% decrease from Q2 2015 (216).
- 60 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q2 2016, a 14% decrease from Q2 2015 (70).

Table 10: Removals and voluntary departures of asylum applicants, incl. dependants, by quarter

	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016
Enforced	929	704	747	567	546
Assisted Voluntary	216	238	215	58	117
Notified Voluntary	191	222	197	209	104
Other Voluntary	70	107	104	113	60
Total	1,406	1,271	1,263	947	827

Detention

Persons leaving detention

- A total of 3,528 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q2 2016; 748 (21% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q2 2016, 1,401 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,132 had been detained for 28 days or less. 21 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 2 people for 24 months or more.

Persons Detained at the end of Q2 2016

- At the end of Q2 2016 a total of 2,878 persons were detained, at this point none of these were children.
- 1,492 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (52% of all immigration detainees)
- 90% of all detainees at the end of Q2 2016 were male.

Children in Detention

- 24 children were recorded as entering detention in Q2 2016. Of these 16 were asylum detainees. In the same period 25 children left detention.

Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q2 2016

	End of Q2 2015	End of Q2 2016
India	174	200
Pakistan	245	162
Bangladesh	163	126
Afghanistan	109	108
Nigeria	82	91
China	89	86
Albania	74	77
Iran	38	76
Iraq	33	74
Vietnam	53	45

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 658 in Q2 2016, a 14% increase compared with Q2 2015 (575), but significantly less than the final two quarters of 2015.

Table 12: Asylum applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum (excl. dependants)

	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016
Applications	575	1,023	1,130	661	658

- Afghanistan was the top country of origin for number of unaccompanied children (27% of all applications in Q2 2016). Iran accounted for 17% of applications, Albania for 15%, and Iraq for 12%. Together these four countries accounted for 71% of all applications in Q2 2016.
- In Q2 2016 93% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to earlier quarters.
- In Q2 2016 45 asylum applications by unaccompanied children were made by girls.

Table 13: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
Q2 2016	658	45	7%
Q1 2016	661	43	7%
Q4 2015	1,130	84	7%
Q3 2015	1,023	86	8%
Q2 2015	575	50	9%

For the detailed statistics on the main countries of origin for unaccompanied girls seeking asylum see the Refugee Council briefing on annual trends in statistics.

Age Disputed Cases

- The number of age disputed cases raised in Q2 2016 was 216, an increase compared with Q2 2015 (134). Afghanistan (80) and Iran (33) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q2 2016.

Table 14: Age Disputed Asylum applications (excl. dependants)

	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016
Applications	134	277	271	296	216

N.B. The Home Office statistics on age disputed cases do not include the category of those applicants who claim to be children but who are treated as adult because in the opinion of an Immigration officer "their physical appearance and/or general demeanour **very strongly** indicates that they are **significantly** over 18 years and no other credible evidence exists to the contrary"

Decisions

- The majority of decisions on asylum applications by unaccompanied children under the age of 18 used to be grants of discretionary leave. In 2013, for example, 72% of all grants of discretionary leave were to children aged 17 and under, although they accounted for only 5% of total decisions. For unaccompanied children a new category, UASC leave, has been used since 2013 in cases where the only reason for giving leave is that the applicant is a child who cannot be returned, and this means there are far fewer grants of discretionary leave.

Table 15: Initial asylum decisions on unaccompanied children aged 17 and under by Quarter

British Refugee Council, (commonly called the Refugee Council) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, [No 2727514] and a registered charity, [No 1014576].

Registered office: : Gredley House, 11 Broadway, Stratford, E15 4BQ, United Kingdom VAT reg no: 936 519 988

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	UASC Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
Q2 2016	463	131	15	2	235	2	78
Q1 2016	550	160	6	9	290	0	85
Q4 2015	424	110	7	4	208	0	95
Q3 2015	342	81	2	7	183	0	69
Q2 2015	414	67	8	8	235	0	96

Table 16: Initial asylum decisions on unaccompanied children who have reached the age of 18 by Quarter

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	UASC Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
Q2 2016	105	37	1	1	0	1	65
Q1 2016	64	25	1	0	1	0	37
Q4 2015	74	13	0	1	0	0	60
Q3 2015	62	9	0	0	0	0	53
Q2 2015	52	12	0	2	0	0	38

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q2 2016 there were 2,030 dependants included in asylum applications.
- Statistics which deal with the age and gender of dependants are published only in annual statistics, and not on a quarterly basis. These statistics are published in August each year.

Table 17: Dependants included in asylum applications

	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016
Number of main applicants	6,279	10,231	10,196	8,228	7,810
Number of dependants	1,556	2,080	1,838	1,910	2,030

For the detailed statistics on dependants see the Refugee Council briefing on annual trends in statistics.

WOMEN AND GIRLS:

- The detailed data relating to asylum applications by women, including countries of origin, decisions, and appeals is published only on an annual basis, in August of each year. There are no quarterly statistics available.

For the detailed statistics on women and girls see the Refugee Council briefing on annual trends in statistics.

NOTE

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The full detailed statistics covering the most recent period can be found on the Gov.UK website via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2016/list-of-tables#asylum>

For older statistics follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/migration-statistics>

About the Refugee Council

The Refugee Council is one of the leading organisations in the UK working with asylum seekers and refugees. We give help and support to asylum seekers and refugees, and also work with them to ensure their needs and concerns are addressed by decision-makers.