

Asylum statistics

Applications:

- The number of applications for asylum in the UK, excluding dependants, was 4 per cent lower in Q4 2010 (4,630) than in Q4 2009 (4,840). In the year 2010 as a whole there was a 27% fall in the number of applications compared with 2009. In Q4 2010 compared with Q4 2009 there were large decreases in the number of applicants from Afghanistan and Zimbabwe, offset to some degree by increases from Sri Lanka and especially (in %age terms) Sudan.
- In Q4 2010, 4,925 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding Dependants, a decrease of 23 per cent compared with Q4 2009 (6360). 72 per cent of initial decisions were refusals, 21 per cent were grants of asylum and 7 per cent were grants of Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave.

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Applications	23,430	25,930	24,485	17,790
% change to previous year	-1%	11%	-6%	-27%

Table 2: Asylum applications in the UK by quarter (excl. Dependants)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2010	4,355	4,365	4,440	4,630
2009	8,430	6,110	5,110	4,840
2008	6,645	5,830	6,685	6,775
2007	5,720	4,960	5,885	6,870

Applications by nationality:

Table 3: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries, Q4 2009 & 2010

	Q4 - 2009	Q4 - 2010	% change
Iran	480	560	17%
Sri Lanka	235	405	72%
Pakistan	320	385	20%
Afghanistan	670	370	-45%
China (inc Taiwan)	245	255	4%
Zimbabwe	555	245	-56%
Nigeria	155	200	29%
Eritrea	210	190	-10%
Sudan	60	155	158%
India	130	150	15%

Applications by location

Table 4: Applications by location (excl. Dependants), by quarter

	Q1 2009	Q2 2009	Q3 2009	Q4 2009	Q1 2010	Q2 2010	Q3 2010	Q4 2010
In-country	7,880	5,640	4,605	4,350	3,955	3,950	4,010	4,140
Port	545	470	505	490	395	415	430	490
Total	8,430	6,110	5,110	4,840	4,355	4,365	4,440	4,630

Table 5: Applications by location (excl. Dependants), by year

	2007	2008	2009	2010
In-country	19,795	23,210	22,475	16,060
% change to previous year	-1%	17%	-3%	-29%
Port	3,635	2,720	2,010	1,730
% change to previous year	2%	-25%	-26%	-14%
Total	23,430	25,930	24,485	17,790
% change to previous year	-1%	11%	-6%	-27%

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from Unaccompanied Children, excluding dependants, was 38 per cent lower in Q4 2010 (395) compared with Q4 2009 (635). There was a large decrease in the number of applications from Afghanistan in particular. In the year as a whole there was a 50% drop in the number of applications compared with 2009.

Table 6: Asylum applications by Unaccompanied Children seeking asylum (excl. Dependants)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Applications	3,645	4,285	3,175	1,595
% change to previous year	6%	18%	-26%	-50%

Table 7: Asylum applications by Unaccompanied Children seeking asylum by quarter (excl. Dependants)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2010	405	390	410	395
2009	1,050	755	735	635
2008	1,160	870	1,095	1,160
2007	840	690	875	1,240

- The number of age disputed cases in Q4 2010 was 85, a decrease of 60% from Q4 2009 (210).

Table 8: Age Disputed Asylum applications (excl. Dependants)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Applications	1,915	1,400	1,130	475
% change to previous year	-16%	-27%	-19%	-58%

Decisions:

- 4,925 initial decisions were made in Q4 2010, a 23 per cent decrease from Q4 2009 (6,360).
- 21 per cent of initial decisions in Q4 2010 were to grant asylum, compared with 13% in Q4 2009. 7 per cent of initial decisions in Q4 2010 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 9 per cent in Q4 2009 and 72 per cent of initial decisions in Q4 2010 were refusals compared with 77 per cent in Q4 2009.

Table 9: Initial Decisions (excl. Dependants)

	Q3 2009		Q4 2009		Q1 2010	
Decisions	7,155		6,360		5,445	
Refugee status	865	12%	815	13%	795	15%
Humanitarian Protection	25	0.3%	30	0.5%	20	0.4%
Discretionary Leave	650	9%	600	9%	500	9%
Refused	5,615	78%	4,910	77%	4,130	76%

	Q2 2010		Q3 2010		Q4 2010	
Decisions	5,220		5,060		4,925	
Refugee status	775	15%	895	18%	1,015	21%
Humanitarian Protection	20	0.4%	25	0.5%	25	0.5%
Discretionary Leave	440	8%	360	7%	325	7%
Refused	3,985	76%	3,780	75%	3,560	72%

Table 10: Initial asylum decisions

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave
2010	20,645	3,480	90	1,620
2009	24,285	4,190	95	2,460
2008	19,400	3,725	95	2,075
2007	21,660	3,545	1,125	2,085

Table 11: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q4 2010, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Refusals
Iran	650	195	5	35	410
Afghanistan	470	40	5	85	345
Sri Lanka	430	55	0	10	360
Pakistan	335	35	0	10	295
Zimbabwe	310	65	0	30	210
China	255	20	0	15	220
Eritrea	235	150	0	10	75
Sudan	200	135	0	5	60
Nigeria	195	10	0	10	175
Somalia	165	80	10	10	70

Appeals

- 3,830 appeals were determined in Q4 2010, 18 per cent lower than in Q4 2009 (4,665).
- The proportion of appeals dismissed was 68 per cent in Q4 2010, whilst 27 per cent of appeals were allowed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 12: Appeals, by quarters 2010.

	Q1 2010		Q2 2010		Q3 2010		Q4 2010	
Determined	4,850		4,700		4,540		3,830	
Allowed	1,305	27%	1,290	27%	1,210	27%	1,030	27%
Dismissed	3,305	68%	3,155	67%	3,065	68%	2,560	68%
Withdrawn	240	5%	255	5%	265	6%	240	6%

Table 13: Appeals 2008 to 2010

	2008		2009		2010	
Determined	10,720		14,610		17,930	
Allowed	2,475	23%	4,150	28%	4,835	27%
Dismissed	7,586	71%	9,675	66%	12,090	67%
Withdrawn	660	6%	780	6%	1,101	6%

Asylum Support Applications

- The number of applications for asylum support in Q4 2010 was 3,100, a 21 per cent decrease from Q4 2009 (3,940).
- In Q4 2010, 2,420 (78 per cent of the total) applications were from single adults and 680 (22 per cent of the total) from family groups.

Table 14: Applications for asylum support (excl. Dependants)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Applications	16,175	17,090	15,330	13,650
% change to previous year	-13%	6%	-10%	-11%

- The total number of asylum seekers in receipt of asylum support at the end of Q4 2010 was 22,690, a 22 per cent decrease from the end of Q4 2009 (29,150).
- 3,315 asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q4 2010.
- 18,725 asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q4 2010.
- 650 asylum seekers were supported in initial accommodation at the end of Q4 2010.

Table 15: Asylum seekers in receipt of asylum support (including Dependants)

	End of 2007	End of 2008	End of 2009	End of 2010
Dispersed accommodation	34,150	25,145	23,845	18,725
Subsistence only	8,900	6,195	4,670	3,315
Initial accommodation	1,440	1,240	635	650

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

- 1,440 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q4 2010, no change from Q4 2009 (2,620).
- As at the end of Q4 2010, 3,560 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support, 69 per cent lower than in Q4 2009 (11,655).

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE

Removals (Total)

- In Q4 2010, a total of 13,225 persons were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, a 21 per cent decrease from Q4 2009 (16,785).
- Of those removed or departing voluntarily in Q4 2010, there were 2,150 persons (including dependants) who had claimed asylum (a 22 per cent decrease from Q4 2009) and 11,080 non-asylum cases (a 21 per cent decrease from Q4 2009).
- Of those removed or departing voluntarily in Q4 2010, 4,080 persons were initially refused entry at port (a 35 per cent decrease from Q4 2009), 4,970 were enforced removals and notified voluntary departures (a 4 per cent decrease from Q4 2009), 810 persons left under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes (a 32 per cent decrease from Q4 2009), and 3,365 were other voluntary departures (a 19 per cent decrease from Q4 2009).

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including Dependants, 2,150 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q4 2010, a 22 per cent decrease from Q4 2009 (2,770).
- 1,465 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q4 2010, a 14 per cent decrease from Q4 2009 (1,695).
- 530 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q4 2010, a 23 per cent decrease from Q4 2009 (690).
- 155 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q4 2010, a 60 per cent decrease from Q4 2009 (385).

Table 16: Removals of asylum applicants, including Dependants, by quarter

	Q3 2009	Q4 2009	Q1 2010	Q2 2010	Q3 2010	Q4 2010
Total	2,870	2,605	2,870	2,380	2,450	2,150

DETENTION

Persons leaving detention

- A total of 4,100 people were recorded as leaving the UK upon leaving detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers, in Q4 2010; 1,540 (38 per cent of the total) were asylum detainees.
- 30 children were recorded as leaving detention in Q4 2010. Of these 5 were removed from the UK and 25 were given temporary admission or released.
- Of the 4,100 people recorded as leaving the UK from detention in Q4 2010, 2,725 (66 per cent of the total) left from UK Border Agency Removal Centres and 1,380 (34 per cent of the total) left from UK Border Agency Short Term Holding Facilities.

Persons Detained at the end of Q4 2010

- At the end of Q4 2010 a total of 2,525 persons were detained.
- 2,480 were held at UK Border Agency Removal Centres and 45 at UK Border Agency Short Term Holding Facilities.
- 1,610 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (64 per cent of all detainees)
- 90 per cent of asylum detainees were male.
- There were no people detained solely under Immigration Act powers were recorded as being less than 18 years old.

Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 17: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, Q4 2009 & 2010

	End of Q4 2009	End of Q4 2010	% change
China	230	165	-28%
Afghanistan	210	165	-21%
Pakistan	110	145	32%
India	95	130	37%
Nigeria	100	115	15%
Sri Lanka	40	80	100%
Algeria	50	65	30%
Iraq	105	55	-48%
Bangladesh	65	55	-15%
Jamaica	55	50	-9%
Iran	65	50	-23%

The full detailed statistics can be found on the Home Office website via the following links:

[Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, Oct – Dec 2010](#)

[Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, July – Sept 2010](#)

[Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, April – June 2010](#)

[Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, Jan – March 2010](#)

[Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, Oct – Dec 2009](#)

[Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, July – Sept 2009](#)

[Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2009 Home Office Statistical Bulletin](#)

[Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2008 Home Office Statistical Bulletin](#)

[Full list of, and links to, all Home Office Statistics on Asylum and Immigration](#)