

# Refugee Council

# Asylum statistics 2001

## New asylum applications

There were 11% fewer asylum applications to the UK since 2000.

	2000	2001
<b>Applications</b>	80,315	71,700
% change	+13%	-11%

## Individuals

There was an estimated 11% decrease in the number of individual asylum claimants.

	2000	2001
<b>Individuals</b>	98,900	88,300
% change	Not available	-11%

## Location of applications

The majority of asylum seekers to the UK continue to apply after entry.

	2000	2001
<b>Port</b>	25,935	25,500
% change	+12%	-2%
<b>In-country</b>	54,380	46,200
% change	+23%	-15%

## Top asylum nationalities

The vast majority of asylum seekers continue to come from Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and Sri Lanka.

	2000	2001
Afghanistan	5,555	9,190
Iraq	7,475	6,805
Somalia	6,020	6,500
Sri Lanka	6,395	5,545
Turkey	3,990	3,740
Iran	5,610	3,450
FR Yugoslavia	6,070	3,190
Pakistan	3,165	2,810
China	4,000	2,415
Zimbabwe	1,010	2,085

## Increase by nationality

The countries, from which significantly more asylum seekers have come since 2000 are:

Zimbabwe	+107%
Afghanistan	+65%
Ethiopia	+47%
Sierra Leone	+46%
DR of Congo	+35%
Tanzania	+31%
Angola and Somalia	+29% each

## Asylum decisions

31% asylum seekers received a positive decision in 2001. We estimate that at least 51% asylum seekers were successful either at different appeal levels or where the Home Office overturned its own refusal decision.

	2000	2001
<b>Refugee status</b>	15%	11%
<b>ELR</b>	16%	20%
<b>Positive decision rate</b>	31%	31%
<b>Refusals after full consideration</b>	69%	69%

## Decisions by nationality

	Substantive decisions	Positive decision rate	Refusals
Afghanistan	10,545	89%	11%
Sri Lanka	9,120	21%	79%
Fed Rep Yugoslavia	8,935	26%	74%
Iraq	7,315	36%	64%
Somalia	6,885	69%	31%
Turkey	6,675	7%	93%
Iran	4,855	17%	83%
China	3,030	6%	94%
Pakistan	2,970	11%	89%
Sierra Leone	2,240	69%	31%

Nationalities with fewer substantive decisions but significant positive decisions:	
Rwanda	66%
DR of Congo	29%
Ethiopia	29%
Angola	27%
Sudan	24%

## Non-compliance refusals

The number of asylum applications refused on non-compliance grounds (failure to submit the Statement of Evidence form in time or in a language other than English, or failure to attend or arrive late for an asylum interview) remains high. 18% of all decisions the Home Office made were refused on these grounds. One of the most frequent reasons for applicants refused in this way is their failure to submit the Statement of Evidence form within the ten-day deadline. In 2001, 9% of Afghan nationals who submitted an asylum request were refused on non-compliance grounds – yet 71% actually were granted either refugee status or exceptional leave to remain.

## Asylum appeals

There was an estimated 12% increase in appeals determined to the Immigration Appellate Authority in 2001 to 2000.

	2000	2001
Determined	19,395	43,315
Allowed	17%	19%
Dismissed	80%	79%
Withdrawn	2%	2%

## Detention

The majority of immigration detainees continue to be asylum seekers. 120 more asylum seekers were detained at the end of 2001 than in September. The top five nationalities of asylum seekers currently detained are Zimbabwean, Pakistani, Nigerian, Chinese and Indian. Significant numbers of Sri Lankan nationals continue to be detained, even though they have a good chance of a positive decision.

## Removal

3% more unsuccessful asylum applicants were removed or departed voluntarily in 2001 than in 2000. The number of dependants removed since July 2001 had doubled by the end of December 2001. The nationalities of people the Home Office was most successful in removing between September and December 2001 were from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Pakistan, Albania, India and Romania.

## European comparison

Austria is the European Union country has seen the highest increase in numbers of asylum applications – 65% more applications were submitted in 2001 compared to 2000. The UK ranks 12th in the EU in terms of increase in asylum applications. Finland saw the highest decrease with -48%.

The UK ranks 12th in the EU with 1.5 asylum applications per 1,000 of population. Top of the table is Austria with 3.7 and bottom of the table Portugal with less than 0.1. In terms of actual numbers, Germany ranks first with 88,365, followed by the UK, which has seen 88,300 asylum requests (both including dependants).