

Refugee Council information



Sep 2012

Asylum statistics

APPLICATIONS:

- The number of applications for asylum in the UK, excluding dependants, was 3% higher in Q2 2012 (4,954) than in Q2 2011 (4,801). In 2011 as a whole the number of applications (19,865) was 11% higher than in 2010 (17,916).

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Applications	25,932	24,487	17,916	19,865
% change to previous year	11%	-6%	-27%	+11%

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

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2012	4,818	4,954		
2011	4,877	4,801	4,918	5,269
2010	4,382	4,389	4,486	4,659
2009	8,428	6,111	5,108	4,840
2008	6,644	5,830	6,683	6,775

Applications by nationality:

- In 2011 there was a significant increase in the number of applicants from Libya (722 in the year compared with 90 in 2010). In 2012 the numbers have fallen (50 in Q2 2012). From countries not in the top ten in 2011, applications from Syria increased significantly (355 in 2011 compared with 127 in 2010) and also from Albania (395 in 2011 compared with 174 in 2010)

Table 3: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries, 2011 (Excl. Dependants)

	2010	2011	% change
Iran	1,866	2,477	+33%
Pakistan	1,416	2,418	+71%
Sri Lanka	1,357	1,756	+29%
Afghanistan	1,596	1,271	-20%
Eritrea	711	797	+12%
China	996	778	-22%
Libya	90	722	+702%
Nigeria	798	732	-8%
Sudan	573	688	+20%
Bangladesh	450	616	+37%

Table 4: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries by quarter, Q2 2012 (Excl. Dependants)

	Q2 2011	Q2 2012	% change
Pakistan	544	740	+36%
Iran	492	582	+18%
Sri Lanka	421	443	+5%
Bangladesh	141	264	+87%
India	140	251	+79%
Nigeria	184	221	+20%
Afghanistan	345	220	-36%
Syria	46	177	+285%
Albania	71	174	+145%
China	190	173	-9%

Applications by location

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011
In-country	23,211	22,476	16,176	17,546
% change to previous year	17%	-3%	-28%	+8%
Port	2,721	2,011	1,740	2,319
% change to previous year	-25%	-26%	-13%	+33%
Total	25,932	24,487	17,916	19,865
% change to previous year	11%	-6%	-27%	+11%

Table 6: Applications by location (Excl. Dependants), by quarter

	Q1 2011	Q2 2011	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012
In-country	4,331	4,305	4,307	4,603	4,290	4,416
Port	546	496	611	666	528	538
Total	4,877	4,801	4,918	5,269	4,818	4,954

DECISIONS:

- In Q2 2012, 3,937 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding Dependants, a decrease of 7% compared with Q2 2011 (4,223). In 2011 as a whole 17,380 initial decisions were made. In 2011 67% of initial decisions were refusals, 25% were grants of asylum and 8% were grants of Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave.
- 27% of initial decisions in Q2 2012 were to grant asylum, compared with 23% in Q2 2011. 7% of initial decisions in Q2 2012 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, similar to the figures for Q2 2011 and 66% of initial decisions in Q2 2012 were refusals compared with 69% in Q2 2011.

Table 7: Initial asylum decisions, excl. dependants

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Refusals
2011	17,380	4,312	81	1,256	11,731
2010	20,261	3,488	91	1,616	15,066
2009	24,287	4,188	94	2,460	17,545
2008	19,398	3,727	93	2,073	13,505

Table 8: Initial Decisions (excl. Dependants) by quarter

	Q1 2011		Q2 2011		Q3 2011		Q4 2011		Q1 2012		Q2 2012	
Decisions	4,861		4,223		4,248		4,048		4,496		3,937	
Refugee status	1,055	22%	973	23%	1,161	27%	1,123	28%	1,236	27%	1,060	27%
Humanitarian Protection	23	0.5%	15	0.4%	22	0.5%	21	0.5%	20	0.4%	21	0.5%
Discretionary Leave	349	7%	309	7%	314	7%	284	7%	304	7%	241	6%
Refused	3,434	71%	2,926	69%	2,751	65%	2,620	65%	2,936	65%	2,615	66%

- The countries from which the highest percentages of applicants were given refugee status in 2011 were Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia and Iran, all with recognition rates of 40% or more.

Table9: Asylum decisions by nationality, 2011, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Refusals
Iran	2,223	895	14	102	1,212
Pakistan	1,877	201	5	35	1,636
Sri Lanka	1,604	290	0	33	1,281
Afghanistan	1,364	110	2	276	976
Eritrea	868	615	0	32	221
China	729	54	1	108	566
Sudan	649	482	1	1	165
Nigeria	624	23	0	59	542
Zimbabwe	595	75	1	92	427
Somalia	581	354	18	36	173

Table10: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q2 2012, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Refusals
Pakistan	614	78	0	9	527
Iran	503	242	2	11	248
Sri Lanka	318	79	0	2	237
Afghanistan	203	34	0	41	128
Bangladesh	201	6	0	5	190
Nigeria	173	13	1	15	144
China	149	8	1	18	122
Syria	143	94	2	3	44
India	130	0	0	2	128
Sudan	130	98	0	0	32

APPEALS:

- 2,155 appeals were determined in Q2 2012, 23% fewer than in Q2 2011 (2,812).
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 28% in Q2 2012, while 67% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.
- In 2011 as a whole 26% of appeals were allowed, while 67% were dismissed.

Table 11: Appeals determined 2009 to 2011

	2009		2010		2011	
Determined	12,813		14,723		10,597	
Allowed	3,712	29%	4,029	27%	2,779	26%
Dismissed	8,627	67%	10,061	68%	7,139	67%
Withdrawn	474	4%	633	4%	679	6%

Table 12: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q2 2011		Q3 2011		Q4 2011		Q1 2012		Q2 2012	
Determined	2,812		2,654		2,074		2,207		2,155	
Allowed	741	26%	658	25%	543	26%	607	28%	602	28%
Dismissed	1,840	65%	1,822	69%	1,386	67%	1,458	66%	1,444	67%
Withdrawn	231	8%	174	6%	145	7%	142	6%	109	5%

The figures on appeals differ from those shown in earlier summaries due to changes in the data sources (see note at the end of this summary).

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q2 2012 was 20,639, a 1% decrease from the end of Q2 2011 (20,855).
- 2,657 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q2 2012.
- 17,982 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2012.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2012 was the North West (5,416).
- 847 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q2 2012

Table 13: Asylum seekers in receipt of asylum support (incl. Dependants)

	End of 2007	End of 2008	End of 2009	End of 2010	End of 2011
Dispersed accommodation	34,152	25,145	23,846	18,724	18,108
Subsistence only	8,900	6,194	4,672	3,315	2,786
Initial accommodation	1,441	1,240	634	650	962

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

- 1,067 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q2 2012, a 15% increase from Q2 2011 (929).
- At the end of Q2 2012, 2,360 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support, a 4% decrease from Q2 2011 (2,461).

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Total)

- In Q2 2012, a total of 11,496 persons were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, a 9% decrease from Q2 2011 (12,575).
- Of those removed or departing voluntarily in Q2 2012, there were 2,142 persons (including dependants) who had claimed asylum (a 7% increase from Q2 2011) and 9,354 non-asylum cases (a 12% decrease from Q2 2011).
- Of those removed or departing voluntarily in Q2 2012, 3,113 persons were initially refused entry at port (a 21% decrease from Q2 2011), 5,009 were enforced removals and notified voluntary departures (a 4% decrease from Q2 2011), 854 persons left under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes (an 88% increase from Q2 2011), and 2,520 were other voluntary departures (a 14% decrease from Q2 2011).

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 2,142 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q2 2012, a 7% increase from Q2 2011 (1,994). In 2011 as a whole 10,077 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily, a 3% decrease from 2010 (10,394).
- 1,469 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q2 2012, a 7% decrease from Q2 2011 (1,579).
- 580 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q2 2012, a 93% increase from Q2 2011 (301). (The numbers leaving in Q2 2011 were unusually low.)

- 93 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q2 2012, an 18% decrease from Q2 2011 (114).

Table 14: Removals and voluntary departures of Asylum Applicants, incl. dependants

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Enforced + Notified Vol.	7,848	6,897	6,656	7,339
Assisted Voluntary	2,658	2,983	2,698	2,071
Other Voluntary	2,368	1,756	1,040	667
Total	12,874	11,636	10,394	10,077

Table 15: Removals and voluntary departures of asylum applicants, incl. Dependants, by quarter

	Q1 2011	Q2 2011	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012
Total	2,637	1,994	2,402	3,044	2,453	2,142

Detention

Persons leaving detention

- A total of 4,275 people were recorded as removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q2 2012; 1,476 (35% of the total) were asylum detainees. In 2011 as a whole 16,836 people were removed upon leaving detention of whom 37% were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q2 2012, 1,159 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,716 had been detained for 28 days or less. 4 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 7 for 24 months or more.

Persons Detained at the end of Q2 2012

- At the end of Q2 2012 a total of 2,993 persons were detained, including 4 children.
- 1,588 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (53% of all detainees)
- 89% of all detainees were male.

Children In Detention

- 60 children were recorded as leaving detention in Q2 2012. Of these 45 were asylum detainees.
- In 2011 as a whole 127 children entered detention, of whom 92 were asylum detainees. 34 of these children were detained at Cedars House in pre-departure accommodation, and 47 at Tinsley House.
- 2 families, each with 1 child, were recorded as detained at the end of Q2 2012.

Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 16: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q2 2012

	End of Q2 2011	End of Q2 2012	% change
Pakistan	191	207	+8%
India	133	195	+47%
Bangladesh	76	162	+113%
Afghanistan	132	116	-12%
China	117	101	-14%
Nigeria	86	96	+12%
Sri Lanka	77	74	-4%
Algeria	69	62	-10%
Iran	60	50	-17%
Sudan	31	36	+16%

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from Unaccompanied Children, excluding dependants, was 35% lower in Q2 2012 (244) than in Q2 2011 (373).
- In 2011 as a whole the number of applications was 19% lower than in 2010.

Table 17: Asylum applications by Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (excl. Dependants)

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Applications	4,285	3,174	1,717	1,398
% change to previous year	18%	-26%	-50%	-19%

Table 18: Asylum applications by Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children by quarter (excl. Dependants)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2012	259	244		
2011	379	373	312	334
2010	452	406	432	427
2009	1,050	755	736	633
2008	1,159	870	1,095	1,161

- In 2011 Afghanistan remained the country of origin for the largest number of unaccompanied children (30% of all applications), but the number of applications from Afghanistan was significantly lower than in 2008 and 2009. The downward trend in total applications since 2008 is continuing. 68% of all applications in 2011 were from 5 countries. Applications from Albania increased significantly.

Table 19: Top five child asylum applicant producing countries, 2011 (Excl. Dependants)

	2009	2010	2011	% change 2010-2011
Afghanistan	1,629	547	417	-24%
Iran	212	202	192	-5%
Albania	60	36	131	+264%
Eritrea	242	138	123	-11%
Vietnam	96	122	92	-25%

- In 2011 89% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to earlier years.

Age Disputed Cases

- The number of age disputed cases in Q2 2012 was 96, a small decrease from the number in Q2 2011 (109). Afghanistan (25), Vietnam (13), Iran (12), and Albania (10) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q2 2012.

Table 20: Age Disputed Asylum applications (excl. Dependants)

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Applications	1,401	1,129	489	374
% change to previous year	-27%	-19%	-58%	-24%

Decisions

- The majority of decisions on asylum applications by unaccompanied children under the age of 17 are grants of discretionary leave. In 2011 48% of all grants of discretionary leave were to children aged 17 and under, although they accounted for only just over 5% of total decisions. For decisions on unaccompanied children who have reached the age of 18 there was a refusal rate of 82% in 2011.

Table 21: Initial asylum decisions on unaccompanied children aged 17 and under

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Refusals
2011	959	186	6	603	164
2010	1,688	264	11	1,096	317
2009	2,700	298	19	1,937	446
2008	2,673	285	14	1,789	585

Table 22: Initial asylum decisions on unaccompanied children who have reached the age of 18

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Refusals
2011	394	54	4	14	322
2010	671	63	1	17	590
2009	779	47	1	6	725
2008	704	50	3	7	644

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In 2011 there were 6,033 applications from dependants, an increase of 28% from 2010 (4728).
- The majority of dependants are under the age of 18 (67% in 2011).
- The majority of applications by dependants aged 18 and over are by women, in 2011 they comprised 77% of the total.
- Dependant applications from under 18's are generally split more or less equally between boys and girls. (52% male in 2011)

Table 23: Applications by Dependants by age

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Under 5	1,883	2,163	1,530	1,904
5 – 9 yo	956	1054	829	1,061
10 – 13 yo	583	654	470	587
14 – 15 yo	229	271	200	257
16 – 17 yo	196	220	158	201
18+ yo	1,172	1,366	1,129	1,667

Table 24: Applications by dependants aged 18 and over

	Total Applications	Male dependants	Female dependants	% Female
2011	1,667	379	1,288	77%
2010	1,129	314	815	72%
2009	1,366	366	1,000	73%
2008	1,172	303	869	74%

N.B. There are a number of cases (approx. 5%) where the age of dependants is recorded as unknown.

WOMEN AND GIRLS:

Applications

- In 2011 27% of asylum applications were made by women. This is a slightly smaller percentage than in previous years.

Table 25: Applications by women (Excl. Dependants)

	Total Applications	Applications by women	% by women
2011	19,865	5,392	27%
2010	17,916	5,329	30%
2009	24,487	8,049	33%
2008	25,932	7,390	28%

- The proportion of women applicants varies considerable from country to country. For a few countries there are more women applicants than men, or a roughly equal number, whereas in others the proportion of women applicants is low.

Table 26: Women asylum applicants from the top ten applicant producing countries 2011

	Total Applications	Applications by women	% by women
Iran	2,477	512	21%
Pakistan	2,418	704	29%
Sri Lanka	1,756	287	16%
Afghanistan	1,271	90	7%
Eritrea	797	346	43%
China	778	344	44%
Libya	722	80	11%
Nigeria	732	366	50%
Sudan	688	53	8%
Bangladesh	616	56	9%

Table 27: Top ten countries for women asylum applicants 2011

	Applications by women	% of total by women	Change in no. from 2010
Pakistan	704	29%	+281
Iran	512	21%	+212
Nigeria	366	50%	+5
Eritrea	346	43%	+71
China	344	44%	-109
Sri Lanka	287	16%	+15
Somalia	275	48%	-10
Zimbabwe	275	50%	-529
The Gambia	164	61%	+8
Uganda	149	55%	+34

- In Q2 2012 15% (37) of asylum applications by unaccompanied children were by girls, the same percentage as in Q2 2011. In 2011 as a whole 18% of applications were by girls.

Table 28: Applications by unaccompanied asylum seeking children

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
2011	1,398	247	18%
2010	1,717	315	18%
2009	3,174	360	11%
2008	4,285	529	12%
2007	3,645	705	19%
2006	3,451	863	25%

- The main countries of origin for unaccompanied girls seeking asylum in 2011 were those shown in the table below. There were less than 10 girls applying from every other country in 2011.

Table 29: Applications by unaccompanied asylum seeking children (girls only)

	2009	2010	2011
Eritrea	56	47	65
Somalia	70	36	29
Vietnam	25	33	27
Nigeria	25	25	24
Albania	3	5	10
Ethiopia	2	8	10

Decisions

Women asylum seekers are more likely than men to be granted asylum, but in recent years, other than 2011, have been less likely to be granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. The refusal rates for men and women are similar with women marginally less likely to be refused.

Table 30 Decisions by gender

	Granted Asylum		Granted HP or DL		Refused	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
2011	24%	27%	7%	9%	69%	64%
2010	16%	19%	9%	7%	75%	74%
2009	14%	23%	13%	5%	73%	72%
2008	17%	25%	14%	6%	70%	69%
2007	14%	22%	11%	7%	75%	71%

Appeals

Women asylum seekers are more likely than men to win appeals. In each of the last 5 years the percentage of allowed appeals has been at least 5% higher for women than for men.

Table 31 Appeal decisions by gender

	Appeal Allowed		Appeal Dismissed		Appeal Withdrawn	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
2011	25%	30%	69%	64%	6%	6%
2010	25%	32%	71%	63%	4%	4%
2009	24%	37%	72%	59%	4%	4%
2008	21%	27%	75%	68%	4%	5%
2007	20%	27%	75%	68%	5%	5%

Removals

In 2011 there were 16,443 women who were either removed from the UK or left on a voluntary basis. Over 90% of these were non-asylum cases (15,140 non-asylum cases as opposed to 1,483 asylum cases).

Of the asylum enforced removals 13% were female (767 from a total of 5774) and of asylum voluntary departures 17% were female.

Detention

In Q2 2012 of the 4,275 people recorded as removed from the UK on leaving detention in 20% (657) were female.

At the end of Q2 2012 there were 336 women and 2 girls recorded as detained. 11% of all detainees were female.

NOTE

Figures given in this summary may differ from those in earlier summaries. In some cases this is because of rounding which was done in Home Office Statistical Bulletins which is no longer done, and in other cases, particularly for more recent statistics, because of adjustments made as a result of more complete and accurate information becoming available.

There are significant changes in the figures on appeals. These are now sourced from the UKBA database and are for main asylum applicants. The quarterly data used to be sourced from the Tribunals Service. The Tribunals Service figures were higher as they had a wider definition of asylum appeals, including, for example, some human rights cases and also included some individuals classed as dependants by UKBA. For a fuller explanation see the Control of Immigration quarterly statistical summary for the first quarter of 2011:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/control-immigration-q1-2011-t/?view=Standard&pubID=891312>

The full detailed statistics covering recent periods can be found on the Home Office website via the following link:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/?d-7095067-p=1>

Older research publications which have now been archived can be found via this link:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>