

Refugee Council information



May 2012

Asylum statistics

APPLICATIONS:

- The number of applications for asylum in the UK, excluding dependants, was 0.5% lower in Q1 2012 (4,818) than in Q1 2011 (4,844). In 2011 as a whole the number of applications (19,804) 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	19,804
% 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			
2011	4,844	4,787	4,912	5,261
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 (721 in the year compared with 90 in 2010). From countries not in the top ten in 2011, applications from Syria increased significantly (353 in 2011 compared with 127 in 2010) and also from Albania (391 in 2011 compared with 174 in 2010)

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

	2010	2011	% change
Iran	1,866	2,485	+33%
Pakistan	1,416	2,411	+70%
Sri Lanka	1,357	1,758	+30%
Afghanistan	1,596	1,271	-20%
Eritrea	711	810	+14%
China	996	777	-22%
Libya	90	721	+701%
Nigeria	798	714	-11%
Sudan	573	689	+20%
Bangladesh	450	612	+36%

Table 4: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries by quarter, Q1 2012 (Incl. Dependants)

	Q1 2011	Q1 2012	% change
Pakistan	802	1,159	+45%
Iran	698	696	-0.3%
Sri Lanka	554	473	-15%
Nigeria	308	302	-2%
Bangladesh	111	282	+154%
India	160	250	+56%
Afghanistan	363	248	-32%
China	256	197	-23%
Syria	36	189	+425%
Sudan	210	180	-14%

Applications by location

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011
In-country	23,2101	22,476	16,176	17,486
% change to previous year	17%	-3%	-28%	+8%
Port	2,721	2,011	1,740	2,318
% change to previous year	-25%	-26%	-14%	+33%
Total	25,932	24,487	17,916	19,804
% change to previous year	11%	-6%	-27%	+11%

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

	Q4 2010	Q1 2011	Q2 2011	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012
In-country	4,169	4,298	4,288	4,303	4,597	4,290
Port	490	546	499	609	664	528
Total	4,659	4,844	4,787	4,912	5,261	4,818

DECISIONS:

- In Q1 2012, 4,496 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding Dependants, a decrease of 8% compared with Q1 2011 (4,894). In 2011 as a whole 17,496 initial decisions were made. In 2011 68% 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 Q1 2012 were to grant asylum, compared with 22% in Q1 2011. 7% of initial decisions in Q1 2012 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, the same as in Q1 2011 and 65% of initial decisions in Q1 2012 were refusals compared with 71% in Q4 2010.

Table 7: Initial asylum decisions, excl. dependants

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Refusals
2011	17,496	4,309	81	1,258	11,848
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

	Q4 2010		Q1 2011		Q2 2011		Q3 2011		Q4 2011		Q1 2012	
Decisions	4,906		4,894		4,253		4,276		4,073		4,496	
Refugee status	1,017	21%	1,056	22%	970	23%	1,160	27%	1,123	28%	1,236	27%
Humanitarian Protection	26	0.5%	23	0.5%	15	0.4%	22	0.5%	21	0.5%	20	0.4%
Discretionary Leave	320	7%	350	7%	307	7%	316	7%	285	7%	304	7%
Refused	3,543	72%	3,465	71%	2,961	70%	2,778	65%	2,644	65%	2,936	65%

- 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	2,239	893	14	101	1,231
Pakistan	1,883	201	5	37	1,640
Sri Lanka	1,613	291	0	33	1,289
Afghanistan	1,380	110	2	275	993
Eritrea	890	615	0	32	243
China	742	54	1	108	579
Sudan	650	480	1	1	168
Nigeria	628	23	0	59	546
Zimbabwe	592	75	1	93	423
Somalia	589	354	18	36	181

Table10: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q1 2012, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Refusals
Iran	649	275	6	25	343
Pakistan	612	68	0	15	529
Sri Lanka	360	79	0	9	272
Afghanistan	253	31	1	53	168
Eritrea	193	139	0	5	49
Sudan	166	115	0	0	51
Syria	165	80	0	7	78
Nigeria	159	12	0	8	139
China	157	7	0	29	121
Bangladesh	151	7	2	4	138

APPEALS:

- 2,207 appeals were determined in Q1 2012, 27% lower than in Q1 2011 (3,027).
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 28% in Q1 2012, while 66% 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	12,815		14,720		10,521	
Allowed	3,710	29%	4,030	27%	2,785	26%
Dismissed	8,625	67%	10,060	68%	7,085	67%
Withdrawn	475	4%	635	4%	651	6%

Table 12: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q1 2011		Q2 2011		Q3 2011		Q4 2011		Q1 2012	
Determined	3,027		2,806		2,655		2,033		2,207	
Allowed	837	28%	743	26%	661	25%	544	27%	607	28%
Dismissed	2,075	69%	1,835	65%	1,825	69%	1,350	66%	1,458	66%
Withdrawn	115	4%	228	8%	169	6%	139	7%	142	6%

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 Q1 2012 was 20,993, a 1% decrease from the end of Q1 2011 (21,223).
- 2,761 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q1 2012.
- 18,232 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q1 2012.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q1 2012 was the North West (5,596).
- 668 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q1 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	34,133	25,135	23,840	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

- 875 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q1 2012, a 28% decrease from Q1 2011 (1,210).
- At the end of Q1 2012, 2,232 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support, 17% lower than in Q1 2011 (2,702).

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Total)

- In Q1 2012, a total of 13,386 persons were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, a 6% decrease from Q1 2011 (14,224).
- Of those removed or departing voluntarily in Q1 2012, there were 2,453 persons (including dependants) who had claimed asylum (a 6% decrease from Q1 2011) and 10,933 non-asylum cases (a 6% decrease from Q1 2011).
- Of those removed or departing voluntarily in Q1 2012, 3,095 persons were initially refused entry at port (an 19% decrease from Q1 2011), 5,229 were enforced removals and notified voluntary departures (a 6% increase from Q1 2011), 973 persons left under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes (an 11% increase from Q1 2011), and 4,089 were other voluntary departures (a 4% decrease from Q1 2011).

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 2,453 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q1 2012, a 6% decrease from Q1 2011 (2600). In 2011 as a whole 8,869 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily, a 15% decrease from 2010 (10,394).
- 1,621 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q1 2012, a 10 decrease from Q1 2011 (1,811).
- 681 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q1 2012, a 6% increase from Q1 2011 (642).

- 151 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q1 2012, a 3% decrease from Q1 2011 (147).

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Enforced + Notified Vol.	7,848	6,897	6,656	6,384
Assisted Voluntary	2,658	2,983	2,698	2,003
Other Voluntary	2,368	1,756	1,040	482
Total	12,874	11,636	10,394	8,869

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

	Q4 2010	Q1 2011	Q2 2011	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012
Total	2,290	2,600	1,828	2,120	2,321	2,453

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 Q1 2012; 1,420 (33% of the total) were asylum detainees. In 2011 as a whole 16,825 people were removed upon leaving detention of whom 37% were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q1 2012, 1,307 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,665 had been detained for 28 days or less. 20 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 8 for 24 months or more.

Persons Detained at the end of Q1 2012

- At the end of Q1 2012 a total of 3,034 persons were detained.
- 1,634 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (54% of all detainees)
- 89% of all detainees were male.

Children In Detention

- 53 children were recorded as leaving detention in Q1 2012. Of these 47 were asylum detainees.
- In 2011 as a whole 99 children entered detention, of whom 64 were asylum detainees. 34 of these children were detained at Cedars House in pre-departure accommodation, and 45 at Tinsley House.
- 1 family with a child was recorded as detained at the end of Q1 2012.

Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 16: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q1 2012

	End of Q1 2011	End of Q1 2012	% change
Pakistan	178	204	+15%
Afghanistan	124	185	+49%
India	133	165	+24%
China	147	141	-4%
Bangladesh	69	135	+96%
Nigeria	96	88	-8%
Algeria	64	68	+6%
Sri Lanka	81	65	-20%
Iran	53	45	-15%
Sudan	35	45	+29%
Vietnam	31	45	+45%

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from Unaccompanied Children, excluding dependants, was 25% lower in Q1 2012 (259) than in Q1 2011 (344).
- In 2011 as a whole the number of applications was 26% 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	1,277
% change to previous year	18%	-26%	-50%	-26%

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

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2012	259			
2011	344	339	285	309
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. 69% of all applications in 2011 were from 5 countries. Applications from Albania increased.

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

	2009	2010	2011	% change 2010-2011
Afghanistan	1,629	547	388	-29%
Iran	212	202	180	-11%
Eritrea	242	138	116	-16%
Albania	60	36	108	+200%
Vietnam	96	122	83	+32%

- In 2011 82% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to earlier years.

Age Disputed Cases

- The number of age disputed cases in Q1 2012 was 80, a small increase from the number in Q1 2011 (71). Afghanistan (17) and Albania (13) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q1 2012.

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Applications	1,401	1,129	489	354
% change to previous year	-27%	-19%	-58%	-28%

Decisions

- The majority of decisions on asylum applications by unaccompanied children under the age of 17 are grants of discretionary leave. In 2011 47% of all grants of discretionary leave were to children aged 17 and under, although they accounted for only 5% of total decisions. For decisions on unaccompanied children who have reached the age of 18 there was a refusal rate of 83% in 2011.

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

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Refusals
2011	950	186	6	593	165
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	406	53	4	14	335
2010	671	63	1	17	590
2009	779	47	1	6	725
2008	704	63	1	17	590

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>