

## Asylum statistics

### APPLICATIONS:

- The number of applications for asylum in the UK, excluding dependants, was 18% higher in Q4 2012 (6,216) than in Q4 2011 (5,269). In 2012 as a whole the number of applications (21,785) was 10% higher than in 2011 (19,865).

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Applications	25,932	24,487	17,916	19,865	21,785
% change from previous year	11%	-6%	-27%	+11%	+10%

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

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2012	4,818	4,954	5,797	6,216
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 2012 there were significant increases in the number of applicants from Albania, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Syria. The number of applications from Libya fell in 2012 (219 compared with 722 in 2011), so that Libya is no longer in the top ten countries for number of applicants.

Table 3: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries, 2012 (excl. Dependants)

	2011	2012	% change
Pakistan	2,418	3,262	+35%
Iran	2,477	2,667	+8%
Sri Lanka	1,756	1,747	-1%
India	553	1,084	+96%
Bangladesh	616	1,053	+71%
Afghanistan	1,271	1,011	-20%
Syria	355	992	+179%
Nigeria	732	948	+30%
Albania	395	814	+106%
Eritrea	797	736	-8%

Table 4: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries by quarter, Q4 2012 (excl. Dependants)

	Q4 2011	Q4 2012	% change
Pakistan	755	911	+21%
Iran	768	834	+9%
Sri Lanka	446	448	+0.5%
Syria	149	332	+123%
India	158	293	+85%
Albania	172	285	+66%
Bangladesh	202	282	+40%
Nigeria	185	258	+39%
Afghanistan	327	255	-22%
Eritrea	156	215	+38%

## Applications by location

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>In-country</b>	23,211	22,476	16,176	17,546	19,140
% change from previous year	+17%	-3%	-28%	+8%	+9%
<b>Port</b>	2,721	2,011	1,740	2,319	2,645
% change from previous year	-25%	-26%	-13%	+33%	+14%
<b>Total</b>	25,932	24,487	17,916	19,865	21,785
% change from previous year	+11%	-6%	-27%	+11%	+10%

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

	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012
In-country	4,307	4,603	4,290	4,416	5,042	5,392
Port	611	666	528	538	755	824
Total	4,918	5,269	4,818	4,954	5,797	6,216

## DECISIONS:

- In Q4 2012, 4,274 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants, an increase of 6% compared with Q4 2011 (4,048). In 2012 as a whole 16,918 initial decisions were made. In 2012 64% of initial decisions were refusals, 30% were grants of asylum, 5% were grants of Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, and 0.5% were grants of leave to remain under family or private life rules, a category introduced into the statistical bulletin in 2011.
- 33% of initial decisions in Q4 2012 were to grant asylum, compared with 27% in Q4 2011. 2.5% of initial decisions in Q4 2012 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 7.5% in Q4 2011 and 64% of initial decisions in Q4 2012 were refusals compared with 65% in Q4 2011.

Table 7: Initial asylum decisions (excl. Dependants)

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
<b>2012</b>	16,918	5,139	88	752	86	10,853
<b>2011</b>	17,380	4,312	81	1,256		11,731
<b>2010</b>	20,261	3,488	91	1,616		15,066

<b>2009</b>	24,287	4,188	94	2,460		17,545
<b>2008</b>	19,398	3,727	93	2,073		13,505

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

	<b>Q3 2011</b>		<b>Q4 2011</b>		<b>Q1 2012</b>		<b>Q2 2012</b>		<b>Q3 2012</b>		<b>Q4 2012</b>	
<b>Decisions</b>	4,248		4,048		4,496		3,937		4,211		4,274	
<b>Refugee status</b>	1,161	27%	1,123	27%	1,236	27%	1,060	27%	1,435	34%	1,408	33%
<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	22	0.5%	21	0.5%	20	0.4%	21	0.5%	25	0.6%	22	0.5%
<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	314	7%	284	7%	304	7%	241	6%	119	3%	88	2%
<b>Family / Private Life</b>									53	1.3%	33	0.8%
<b>Refused</b>	2,751	65%	2,620	65%	2,936	65%	2,615	66%	2,579	61%	2,723	64%

- Among the countries with large numbers of asylum applicants those from which the highest percentages were given refugee status, humanitarian protection, or discretionary leave in 2012 were Eritrea, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, and Syria; all grants of status of 50% or more.

Table9: Asylum decisions by nationality, 2012, top ten countries for number of decisions

	<b>Decisions</b>	<b>Refugee status</b>	<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	<b>Family or Private Life</b>	<b>Refusals</b>
Pakistan	2,467	341	0	31	5	2,090
Iran	2,287	1,115	17	60	1	1,094
Sri Lanka	1,396	314	1	17	1	1,063
Afghanistan	884	142	3	139	4	596
Syria	854	626	25	11	0	192
Nigeria	715	61	1	32	14	607
Eritrea	713	582	0	7	0	124
Bangladesh	707	28	3	15	0	661
Sudan	591	428	0	1	0	162
China	554	28	1	57	13	455

Table10: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q4 2012, top ten countries for number of decisions

	<b>Decisions</b>	<b>Refugee status</b>	<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	<b>Family or Private Life</b>	<b>Refusals</b>
Pakistan	642	116	0	2	3	521
Iran	584	297	3	7	0	277
Sri Lanka	326	66	1	3	1	255
Syria	292	243	14	0	0	35
Eritrea	205	176	0	0	0	29
Afghanistan	204	30	1	19	1	153
Bangladesh	188	6	0	6	0	176
Nigeria	187	14	0	3	2	168
India	165	2	0	0	1	162
Sudan	157	121	0	0	0	36

## APPEALS:

- 1,862 appeals were determined in Q4 2012, 10% fewer than in Q4 2011 (2,074).
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 25% in Q4 2012, while 66% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.
- In 2012 as a whole 27% of appeals were allowed, while 66% were dismissed.

Table 11: Appeals determined 2010 to 2012

	2010		2011		2012	
Determined	14,723		10,597		8,229	
Allowed	4,029	27%	2,779	26%	2,192	27%
Dismissed	10,061	68%	7,139	67%	5,447	66%
Withdrawn	633	4%	679	6%	590	7%

Table 12: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q4 2011		Q1 2012		Q2 2012		Q3 2012		Q4 2012	
Determined	2,074		2,207		2,155		2,005		1,862	
Allowed	543	26%	607	28%	602	28%	521	26%	462	25%
Dismissed	1,386	67%	1,458	66%	1,444	67%	1,325	66%	1,220	66%
Withdrawn	145	7%	142	6%	109	5%	159	8%	180	10%

The figures on appeals may 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 Q4 2012 was 20,182, a 3% decrease from the end of Q4 2011 (20,894).
- 2,588 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q4 2012.
- 17,594 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q4 2012.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q4 2012 was the North West (4,768).

- 1,067 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q4 2012

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

	End of 2008	End of 2009	End of 2010	End of 2011	End of 2012
Dispersed accommodation	25,145	23,846	18,724	18,108	17,594
Subsistence only	6,194	4,672	3,315	2,786	2,588
Initial accommodation	1,240	634	650	962	1,067

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

- 1,442 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q4 2012, an 81% increase from Q4 2011 (796).
- At the end of Q4 2012, 2,757 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support, a 19% increase from Q4 2011 (2,310).

## ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

### Removals (Total)

- In Q4 2012, a total of 13,088 persons were removed, refused entry at port, or departed voluntarily from the UK, a 15% decrease from Q4 2011 (15,377).
- Of those removed or departing voluntarily in Q4 2012, there were 2,092 persons (including dependants) who had claimed asylum (a 31% decrease from Q4 2011) and 10,996 non-asylum cases (an 11% decrease from Q4 2011).
- Of those removed or departing voluntarily in Q4 2012, 3,596 persons were initially refused entry at port (a 3% decrease from Q4 2011), 4,834 were enforced removals and notified voluntary departures (a 21% decrease from Q4 2011), 925 persons left under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes (exactly the same as Q4 2011), and 3,733 were other voluntary departures (a 20% decrease from Q4 2011).

### Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 2,092 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q4 2012, a 31% decrease from Q4 2011 (3,044). In 2012 as a whole 8,764 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily, a 13% decrease from 2011 (10,077).
- 1,389 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q4 2012, a 38% decrease from Q4 2011 (2,235).

- 618 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q4 2012, a 7% increase from Q4 2011 (579).
- 85 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q4 2012, a 63% decrease from Q4 2011 (230).

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Enforced</b>	7,169	6,432	6,174	5,774	4,919
<b>Notified Voluntary</b>	679	465	482	1,565	821
<b>Assisted Voluntary</b>	2,658	2,983	2,698	2,071	2,524
<b>Other Voluntary</b>	2,368	1,756	1,040	667	500
<b>Total</b>	12,874	11,636	10,394	10,077	8,764

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

	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012
Total	2,402	3,044	2,526	2,183	1,963	2,092

## Detention

### Persons leaving detention

- A total of 4,416 people were recorded as removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q4 2012; 1,517 (34% of the total) were asylum detainees. In 2012 as a whole 17,243 people were removed upon leaving detention of whom 34% were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q4 2012, 1,349 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,646 had been detained for 28 days or less. 44 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 4 people for 24 months or more.

### Persons Detained at the end of Q4 2012

- At the end of Q4 2012 a total of 2,685 persons were detained, of whom 1 was a child.
- 1,676 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (62% of all detainees)
- 90% of all detainees were male.

### Children in Detention

- 61 children were recorded as entering detention in Q4 2012. Of these 36 were asylum detainees. In the same period 59 children left detention.

- In 2012 as a whole 222 children entered detention, of whom 167 were asylum detainees. 121 of these children were detained at the Cedars pre-departure accommodation, and 83 at Tinsley House.

## Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 16: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q4 2012

	End of Q4 2011	End of Q4 2012	% change
Pakistan	149	296	+99%
India	128	185	+45%
Bangladesh	76	173	+128%
Afghanistan	117	131	+12%
Nigeria	58	105	+81%
China	148	105	-29%
Algeria	69	55	-20%
Iran	70	55	-21%
Albania	24	48	+100%
Sri Lanka	71	45	-37%

## CHILDREN:

### Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from Unaccompanied Children, excluding dependants, was almost identical in Q4 2012 (333) to Q4 2011 (334).
- In 2012 as a whole the number of applications was 16% lower than in 2011.

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Applications	4,285	3,174	1,717	1,398	1,168
% change to previous year	18%	-26%	-46%	-19%	-16%

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

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2012	259	244	332	333
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 2012 Afghanistan remained the country of origin for the largest number of unaccompanied children (22% of all applications), but the number of applications from Albania is now almost as

many. Year by year there has been a downward trend in total applications since 2008. 67% of all applications in 2012 were from 5 countries.

Table 19: Top five child asylum applicant producing countries, 2012 (excl. Dependants)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	% change 2011-2012
Afghanistan	1,629	547	417	253	-39%
Albania	60	36	131	240	+83%
Iran	212	202	192	125	-35%
Vietnam	96	122	92	88	-4%
Eritrea	242	138	123	81	-34%

- In 2012 82% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to earlier years.

## Age Disputed Cases

- The number of age disputed cases in Q4 2012 was 77, a small increase from the number in Q4 2011 (74). Albania (16) and Vietnam (16) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q4 2012.

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Applications	1,401	1,129	489	374	328
% change to previous year	-27%	-19%	-58%	-24%	-12%

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 17 are grants of discretionary leave. In 2012 44% of all grants of discretionary leave were to children aged 17 and under, although they accounted for only 3.5% of total decisions. For decisions on unaccompanied children who have reached the age of 18 there was a refusal rate of 78% in 2012.

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

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Refusals
2012	591	160	3	332	96
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



	<b>Total</b>	<b>Refugee status</b>	<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	<b>Refusals</b>
<b>2012</b>	279	46	1	13	218
<b>2011</b>	394	54	4	14	322
<b>2010</b>	671	63	1	17	590
<b>2009</b>	779	47	1	6	725
<b>2008</b>	704	50	3	7	644

## **ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):**

Most of the detailed data on dependants for 2012 is not yet available and is due to be published in August 2013.

- 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 18s are generally split more or less equally between boys and girls. (52% male in 2011)

*Table 23: Applications by Dependants by age*

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

*Table 24: Applications by dependants aged 18 and over*

	<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Male dependants</b>	<b>Female dependants</b>	<b>% Female</b>
<b>2011</b>	1,667	379	1,288	77%
<b>2010</b>	1,129	314	815	72%
<b>2009</b>	1,366	366	1,000	73%
<b>2008</b>	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:**

Some of the detailed data on women and girls for 2012 is not yet available. It will be published in August 2013.

## Applications

- In 2011 27% of asylum applications were made by women.

Table 25: Applications by women (Excl. Dependants)

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

- The proportion of women applicants varies considerably 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

	<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Applications by women</b>	<b>% by women</b>
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

	<b>Applications by women</b>	<b>% of total by women</b>	<b>Change in no. from 2010</b>
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 Q4 2012 17% (56) of asylum applications by unaccompanied children were by girls, a small decrease compared with the Q4 2011 (22%). In 2012 as a whole 17% of applications were by girls.

Table 28: Applications by unaccompanied asylum seeking children

	<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Applications by girls</b>	<b>% Female</b>
<b>2012</b>	1,168	203	17%
<b>2011</b>	1,398	247	18%
<b>2010</b>	1,717	315	18%
<b>2009</b>	3,174	360	11%
<b>2008</b>	4,285	529	12%

- The main countries of origin for unaccompanied girls seeking asylum in 2012 were those shown in the table below. There were less than 10 girls applying from every other country in 2012.

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

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Eritrea</b>	56	47	65	49
<b>Somalia</b>	70	36	29	21
<b>Vietnam</b>	25	33	27	18
<b>Nigeria</b>	25	25	24	18
<b>Albania</b>	3	5	10	16
<b>Congo (DRC)</b>	17	18	5	11

## 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

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

## 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
<b>2012</b>	25%	30%	68%	62%	7%	8%
<b>2011</b>	25%	30%	69%	64%	6%	6%
<b>2010</b>	25%	32%	71%	63%	4%	4%
<b>2009</b>	24%	37%	72%	59%	4%	4%
<b>2008</b>	21%	27%	75%	68%	4%	5%

## Removals

In 2012 there were 14,986 women who were either removed from the UK or left on a voluntary basis. Over 90% of these were non-asylum cases (13,643 non-asylum cases as opposed to 1,343 asylum cases).

Of the asylum enforced removals 15% were female (719 from a total of 4,919) and of asylum voluntary departures 16% were female.

## Detention

In Q4 2012 of the 4,416 people recorded as removed from the UK on leaving detention 15% (642) were female.

At the end of Q4 2012 there were 273 women recorded as detained. 10% 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 have been 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>