

Feb 2014

## Asylum statistics

### APPLICATIONS:

- The number of applications for asylum in the UK, excluding dependants, was 4% lower in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2013 (5,964) than in Q4 2012 (6,222). In 2013 the number of applications (23,507) was 8% higher than in 2012 (21,843).

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Applications	24,487	17,916	19,865	21,843	23,507
% change from previous year	-6%	-27%	+11%	+10%	+8%

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

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2013	5,625	5,840	6,078	5,964
2012	4,838	4,971	5,812	6,222
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

### Applications by nationality:

- In 2013 there were significant increases in the number of applicants from Albania, Eritrea and Syria.

Table 3: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries, 2013 (excl. Dependants)

	2012	2013	% change
Pakistan	3,280	3,343	+2%
Iran	2,659	2,417	-9%
Sri Lanka	1,744	1,808	+4%
Syria	988	1,669	+69%
Eritrea	728	1,377	+89%
Albania	819	1,326	+62%
Bangladesh	1,057	1,123	+6%
Afghanistan	1,008	1,040	+3%
India	1,087	965	-11%
Nigeria	959	915	-5%

Table 4: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries by quarter, Q4 2013 (excl. Dependants)

	Q4 2012	Q4 2013	% change
Pakistan	914	797	-13%
Iran	831	616	-26%
Eritrea	214	572	+167%
Syria	330	433	+31%
Sri Lanka	448	420	-6%
Albania	285	412	+45%
Afghanistan	253	277	+9%
Sudan	189	219	+16%
Bangladesh	280	210	-25%
Nigeria	262	180	-31%

## Applications by location

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>In-country</b>	22,476	16,176	17,546	19,202	20,715
% change from previous year	-3%	-28%	+8%	+9%	+8%
<b>Port</b>	2,011	1,740	2,319	2,641	2,792
% change from previous year	-26%	-13	+33%	+14%	+6%
<b>Total</b>	24,487	17,916	19,865	21,843	23,507
% change from previous year	-6%	-27%	+11%	+10%	+8%

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

	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013
In-country	4,310	4,434	5,057	5,401	4,925	5,140	5,342	5,308
Port	528	537	755	821	700	700	736	656
Total	4,838	4,971	5,812	6,222	5,625	5,840	6,078	5,964

## DECISIONS:

- In Q4 2013, 3,070 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants, a decrease of 28% compared with Q4 2012 (4,253). In 2013 as a whole 17,647 initial decisions were made. In 2013 63% of initial decisions were refusals, 32% were grants of asylum, 3% were grants of Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, and 1% were grants of leave to remain under family or private life rules, a category introduced into the statistical bulletin in 2011.
- 34% of initial decisions in Q4 2013 were to grant asylum, compared with 33% in Q4 2012. 1% of initial decisions in Q4 2013 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 3% in Q4 2012 and 64% of initial decisions in Q4 2013 were refusals, the same as in Q4 2012.

Table 7: Initial asylum decisions (excl. Dependants)

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
2013	17,647	5,734	53	540	215	11,105
2012	16,744	5,135	88	751	85	10,715
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

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

	Q3 2012		Q4 2012		Q1 2013		Q2 2013		Q3 2013		Q4 2013	
<b>Decisions</b>	4,173		4,253		5,284		5,086		4,207		3,070	
<b>Refugee status</b>	1,435	34%	1,407	33%	1,816	34%	1,540	30%	1,336	32%	1,042	34%
<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	25	0.6%	22	0.5 %	19	0.4%	13	0.3%	12	0.3%	9	0.3%
<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	119	3%	88	2%	203	4%	206	4%	101	2%	30	1%
<b>Family / Private Life</b>	52	1.2%	33	0.8%	53	1%	75	1.5%	50	1%	37	1%
<b>Refused</b>	2,542	61%	2,542	61%	3,193	60%	3,252	64%	2,708	64%	1,952	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 2013 were Eritrea, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Uganda, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe; all with grants of status of 50% or more.

Table9: Asylum decisions by nationality, 2013, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
Pakistan	2,632	557	4	16	12	2,043
Iran	1,935	1,014	9	37	4	871
Syria	1,328	1,106	7	3	0	212
Sri Lanka	1,289	244	1	9	7	1,028
Eritrea	964	777	1	6	1	179
Afghanistan	901	172	5	120	10	594
Bangladesh	760	26	1	16	7	710
Nigeria	745	66	4	17	18	640
Albania	740	58	0	159	9	514
Sudan	596	430	0	2	0	164

Table 10: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q4 2013, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
Pakistan	501	89	1	2	2	407
Syria	282	232	2	0	0	48
Eritrea	253	200	1	0	0	52
Iran	226	118	0	1	1	106
Sri Lanka	222	23	0	3	2	194
Afghanistan	176	42	0	3	0	131
Nigeria	124	15	0	4	2	103
Albania	113	14	0	1	3	95
India	110	0	0	0	2	108
Bangladesh	109	5	0	2	1	101

## APPEALS:

- 1,811 appeals were determined in Q4 2013, 3% fewer than in Q4 2012 (1,868).
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 25% in Q4 2013, while 69% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.
- In 2013 as a whole 25% of appeals were allowed, while 68% were dismissed.

Table 11: Appeals determined 2011 to 2013

	2011		2012		2013	
Determined	10,597		8,285		8,293	
Allowed	2,779	26%	2,208	27%	2,079	25%
Dismissed	7,139	67%	5,472	66%	5,645	68%
Withdrawn	679	6%	605	7%	569	7%

Table 12: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q4 2012		Q1 2013		Q2 2013		Q3 2013		Q4 2013	
Determined	1,868		1,914		2,304		2,264		1,811	
Allowed	463	25%	481	25%	586	25%	561	25%	451	25%
Dismissed	1,221	66%	1,291	67%	1,546	67%	1,564	69%	1,244	69%
Withdrawn	184	10%	142	7%	172	7%	139	6%	116	6%

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 2013 was 23,459, a 16% increase from the end of Q4 2012 (20,182).
- 2,772 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q4 2013.
- 20,687 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q4 2013.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q4 2013 was the North West (5215).
- 1,197 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q4 2013

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

	End of 2009	End of 2010	End of 2011	End of 2012	End of 2013
Dispersed accommodation	23,846	18,724	18,108	17,594	20,687
Subsistence only	4,672	3,315	2,786	2,588	2772
Initial accommodation	634	650	962	1,067	1,197

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

- 1,442 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q4 2013, exactly the same as in Q4 2012.
- At the end of Q4 2013 3,488 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support, a 27% increase from Q4 2012 (2,757). 1,343 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

## ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

### Removals (Total)

- In Q4 2013, a total of 14,125 persons were removed, refused entry at port, or departed voluntarily from the UK, a 5% decrease from Q4 2012 (14,870).
- Of those removed or departing voluntarily in Q4 2013, there were 1,952 persons (including dependants) who had claimed asylum (a 9% decrease from Q4 2012) and 12,173 non-asylum cases (a 4% decrease from Q4 2012).
- Of those removed or departing voluntarily in Q4 2013, 3,619 persons were initially refused entry at port (almost the same as from Q4 2012), 5,385 were enforced removals and notified voluntary departures (a 7% increase from Q4 2012), 1,063 persons left under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes (a 14% increase compared with Q4 2012), and 4,058 were other voluntary departures (a 23% decrease from Q4 2012).

## Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 1,952 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q4 2013, a 9% decrease from Q4 2012 (2,150). In 2013 as a whole 8,630 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily, a 4% decrease from 2012 (9,031).
- 1,217 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q4 2013, a 15% decrease from Q4 2012 (1,315).
- 656 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q4 2013, a 6% increase from Q4 2012 (620).

79 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q4 2013, a 31% decrease from Q4 2012 (115).

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Enforced</b>	6,432	6,174	5,774	5,068	4,671
<b>Notified Voluntary</b>	465	482	1,565	841	533
<b>Assisted Voluntary</b>	2,983	2,698	2,071	2,529	2,930
<b>Other Voluntary</b>	1,756	1,040	667	593	496
<b>Total</b>	11,636	10,394	10,077	9,031	8,630

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

	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013
Total	2,082	2,150	2,296	2,311	2,068	1,952

## Detention

### Persons leaving detention

- A total of 4,208 people were recorded as removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q4 2013; 1476 (35% of the total) were asylum detainees. In 2013 as a whole 16,925 people were removed upon leaving detention of whom 37% were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q4 2013, 1,422 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,140 had been detained for 28 days or less. 22 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and no people for 24 months or more.

## Persons Detained at the end of Q4 2013

- At the end of Q4 2013 a total of 2,796 persons were detained, of whom none were children.
- 1,684 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (60% of all immigration detainees)
- 90% of all detainees were male.

## Children in Detention

- 63 children were recorded as entering detention in Q4 2013. Of these 43 were asylum detainees. In the same period 67 children left detention.
- In 2013 as a whole 203 children entered detention, of whom 141 were asylum detainees. 99 of these children were detained at the Cedars pre-departure accommodation, and 92 at Tinsley House Family Unit.

## Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 16: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q4 2013

	End of Q4 2012	End of Q4 2013	% change
Pakistan	296	383	+29%
Bangladesh	173	175	+1%
India	185	150	-19%
Afghanistan	131	137	+5%
Sri Lanka	45	93	+107%
Albania	48	89	+85%
China	105	75	-29%
Nigeria	105	75	-29%
Eritrea	21	45	+114%
Sudan	32	27	-16%

## CHILDREN:

### Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from Unaccompanied Children, excluding dependants, was 339 in Q4 2013, a 10% increase compared with Q4 2012 (308).
- *Figures for years before 2012 are not comparable to 2012 and 2013 figures because of a change in the way the statistics have been compiled. There is a link at the end of this document to the Home Office publication explaining the change. All the data below relating to unaccompanied children is affected by this change in methodology.*

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Applications	3,174	1,717	1,398	1,125	1,174
% change to previous year	-26%	-46%	-19%	-16%	+4%

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

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2013	259	269	307	339
2012	263	244	310	308
2011	379	373	312	334
2010	452	406	432	427
2009	1,050	755	736	633
2008	1,159	870	1,095	1,161

- Albania is now the country of origin for the largest number of unaccompanied children (38% of all applications in 2013). The number of applications from Afghanistan has declined sharply in recent years. 76% of all applications in 2013 were from 6 countries.

Table 19: Top child asylum applicant producing countries, 2013 (excl. Dependants)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Albania	60	36	131	265	445
Afghanistan	1629	547	417	235	139
Eritrea	242	138	123	80	115
Iran	212	202	192	119	70
Vietnam	96	122	92	62	65
Syria				21	61

- In 2013 86% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to earlier years.

## Age Disputed Cases

- The number of age disputed cases raised in Q4 2013 was 96, an increase from Q4 2012 (75). Albania (18), Afghanistan (22) and Eritrea (15) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q4 2013.

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Applications	1,129	489	374	337	324
% change to previous year	-19%	-58%	-24%	-10%	-4%

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 18 have been grants of discretionary leave. In 2013 72% 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 70% in 2013. For unaccompanied children a new category, UASC leave, is replacing discretionary leave.

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

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
2013	825	238	4	388	18	177
2012	594	159	3	342	0	90
2011	959	186	6	603		164
2010	1,688	264	11	1,096		317
2009	2,700	298	19	1,937		446

Table 22: Initial asylum decisions on unaccompanied children aged 17 and under by Quarter

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
Q4 2013	84	54	0	0	1	29
Q3 2013	153	53	1	56	1	42
Q2 2013	296	61	1	171	15	48
Q1 2013	292	70	2	161	1	58
Q4 2012	87	24	2	50	0	11
Q3 2012	159	58	0	75	0	26

Table 23: Initial asylum decisions on unaccompanied children who have reached the age of 18

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
2013	188	50	0	4	2	132
2012	87	26	0	8	0	53
2011	394	54	4	14		322
2010	671	63	1	17		590
2009	779	47	1	6		725

Table 24: Initial asylum decisions on unaccompanied children who have reached the age of 18 by Quarter

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
Q4 2013	37	12	0	0	1	24
Q3 2013	54	14	0	1	0	39
Q2 2013	51	11	0	2	1	37
Q1 2013	46	13	0	1	0	32
Q4 2012	14	8	0	0	0	6
Q3 2012	22	9	0	1	0	12

## ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In 2013 there were 5,888 applications from dependants.
- The majority of dependants are under the age of 18.
- The majority of applications by dependants aged 18 and over are by women.
- Dependant applications from under 18s are generally split more or less equally between boys and girls.
- The detailed information on dependants is only available for 2012. The 2013 statistics will be published in August 2014.

Table 25: Applications by Dependants by age

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Under 5</b>	1,883	2,163	1,530	1,904	2,030
<b>5 – 9 yo</b>	956	1054	829	1,061	1,094
<b>10 – 13 yo</b>	583	654	470	587	566
<b>14 – 15 yo</b>	229	271	200	257	247
<b>16 – 17 yo</b>	196	220	158	201	191
<b>18+ yo</b>	1,172	1,366	1,129	1,667	1,658

Table 26: Applications by dependants aged 18 and over

	Total Applications	Male dependants	Female dependants	% Female
<b>2012</b>	1,658	385	1,273	77%
<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 or sex of dependants is recorded as unknown.

## WOMEN AND GIRLS:

### .Applications

- In 2012 28% of asylum applications were made by women. Most of the data for 2013 relating to women will be published in August 2014.

Table 27: Applications by women (Excl. Dependants)

	Total Applications	Applications by women	% by women
<b>2012</b>	21,843	6,071	28%
<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 28: Women asylum applicants from the top ten applicant producing countries 2012

	<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Applications by women</b>	<b>% by women</b>
Pakistan	3,280	810	25%
Iran	2,659	716	27%
Sri Lanka	1,744	295	17%
India	1,087	128	12%
Bangladesh	1057	79	7%
Afghanistan	1008	126	13%
Syria	988	134	14%
Nigeria	959	436	45%
Albania	819	254	31%
Eritrea	728	375	52%

Table 29: Top ten countries for women asylum applicants 2012

	<b>Applications by women</b>	<b>% of total by women</b>	<b>Change in no. from 2011</b>
Pakistan	810	25%	+106
Iran	716	27%	+204
Nigeria	436	45%	+70
Eritrea	375	52%	+29
China	326	47%	-18
Sri Lanka	295	17%	+8
Somalia	277	46%	+2
Albania	254	31%	+147
Zimbabwe	254	60%	-21
The Gambia	179	60%	+15

- In Q4 2013 13% (43) of asylum applications by unaccompanied children were by girls, a small decrease compared with the Q4 2012 (16%). In 2013 as a whole 14% of applications were by girls.

Table 30: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>Applications by girls</b>	<b>% Female</b>
<b>2013</b>	1,174	165	14%
<b>2012</b>	1,125	188	17%
<b>2011</b>	1,398	247	18%
<b>2010</b>	1,717	315	18%
<b>2009</b>	3,174	360	11%

- The main countries of origin for unaccompanied girls seeking asylum in 2013 were those shown in the table below. There were fewer than 10 girls applying from every other country in 2013.

Table 31: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum (girls only)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Eritrea</b>	56	47	65	44	31
<b>Vietnam</b>	25	33	27	13	25
<b>Albania</b>	3	5	10	14	22
<b>Somalia</b>	70	36	29	19	17
<b>Congo (DRC)</b>	17	18	5	12	13

## Decisions

Women asylum seekers are more likely than men to be granted asylum, but in recent years, other than 2011 and 2012, have been less likely to be granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave. The refusal rates for men and women are similar with women slightly less likely to be refused.

Table 32 Decisions by gender

	Granted Asylum		Granted HP or DL		Refused	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>2012</b>	29%	35%	5%	6%	66%	58%
<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 33 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 2013 there were 12,271 women who were either removed from the UK or left on a voluntary basis. 90% of these were non-asylum cases (11,097 non-asylum cases as opposed to 1,174 asylum cases).

Of the asylum enforced removals 13% were female (614 from a total of 4,671) and of asylum voluntary departures 14% were female (560 from a total of 3959).

## **Detention**

In Q4 2013 of the people recorded as removed from the UK on leaving detention 17% (711) were female.

At the end of Q4 2013 there were 291 women recorded as detained. 10.5% of adult 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 change in the method of counting Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children is explained in the Home Office publication accompanying the statistics published in August 2013. See Page 66.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/232217/user-guide-immig-statistics.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/232217/user-guide-immig-statistics.pdf)

The full detailed statistics covering the most recent period can be found on the Gov.UK website via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2013>

For older statistics follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/migration-statistics>

## About the Refugee Council

The Refugee Council is the largest organisation in the UK working with asylum seekers and refugees. We give help and support to asylum seekers and refugees, and also work with them to ensure their needs and concerns are addressed by decision-makers.