

September 2014

## Quarterly asylum statistics

*This briefing covers the latest asylum statistics. For annual and longer term trends see the Refugee Council briefing on asylum trends.*

### APPLICATIONS:

- The number of applications for asylum in the UK, excluding dependants, has shown a gradual decline over the past year.

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

Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014
5,859	6,094	6,001	5,849	5,535

### Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2013 there was a very large increase in the number of applicants from Eritrea, and also Sudan, with significant decreases for a number of countries.

*Table 2: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries by quarter, Q2 2014 (excl. Dependants)*

	Q2 2013	Q2 2014	% change
Eritrea	202	739	+266%
Pakistan	823	610	-26%
Iran	625	432	-31%
Syria	367	374	+2%
Albania	296	339	+15%
Sudan	169	332	+96%
Sri Lanka	518	299	-42%
Afghanistan	243	236	-3%
Nigeria	248	208	-16%
Bangladesh	371	174	-53%

## Applications by location

- The proportion of applications made at ports and in-country has changed only marginally in the past year.

Table 3: Applications by location (excl. Dependants), by quarter

	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014
In-country	5,157	5,358	5,349	5,328	4,943
Port	702	736	652	521	592
Total	5,859	6,094	6,001	5,849	5,535

## DECISIONS:

- In Q2 2014, 3,758 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants, a decrease of 25% compared with Q2 2013 (5,048) but an increase on the previous two quarters.
- 35% of initial decisions in Q2 2014 were to grant asylum, compared with 31% in Q2 2013. 1% of initial decisions in Q2 2014 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 4% in Q2 2013 and 61% of were refusals, compared with 64% in Q2 2013.

Table 4: Initial Decisions (excl. Dependants) by quarter

	Q2 2013		Q3 2013		Q4 2013		Q1 2014		Q2 2014	
<b>Decisions</b>	5,048		4,189		3,068		2,846		3,758	
<b>Refugee status</b>	1,540	31%	1,338	32%	1,042	34%	908	32%	1,316	35%
<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	13	0.3 %	12	0.3%	9	0.3%	11	0.4%	9	0.2%
<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	202	4%	101	2%	29	1%	26	1%	35	1%
<b>Family / Private Life</b>	80	1.6%	50	1%	37	1%	37	1%	106	3%
<b>Refused</b>	3,213	64%	2,688	64%	1,951	64%	1,864	65%	2,292	61%

- Countries with a high percentage of applicants granted protection in Q2 2014 included Eritrea, Syria and Sudan.

Table5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q2 2014, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Pakistan	530	106	0	2	3	419
Eritrea	364	282	0	0	2	80
Iran	321	185	2	1	5	128
Syria	296	248	3	0	1	44
Sri Lanka	266	37	0	4	5	220
Afghanistan	211	57	1	4	13	136
Albania	200	1	0	4	28	167
Sudan	162	118	0	0	0	44
Nigeria	155	25	0	2	8	120
Bangladesh	138	3	0	0	1	134

## APPEALS:

- 1,484 appeals were determined in Q2 2014, 36% fewer than in Q2 2013 (2,311). The number of appeals heard has been steadily declining over the past year.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 25% in Q2 2014, while 70% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q2 2013		Q3 2013		Q4 2013		Q1 2014		Q2 2014	
Determined	2,311		2,274		1,810		1,520		1,484	
Allowed	586	25%	560	25%	451	25%	441	29%	374	25%
Dismissed	1,555	67%	1,571	69%	1,247	69%	1,006	66%	1,032	70%
Withdrawn	170	7%	143	6%	112	6%	73	5%	78	5%

## ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q2 2014 was 26,720. There has been a steady increase in the numbers over the past year.
- 3,090 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q2 2014.
- 23,620 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2014.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2014 was the North West (6,130).
- 1,262 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q2 2014

Table 7: Asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of each quarter (incl. Dependants)

	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014
Dispersed accommodation	18,700	19,307	20,687	22,408	23,620
Subsistence only	2,723	2,715	2,772	2,947	3,090
Initial accommodation	956	1,125	1,197	1,085	1,262

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

- 1,378 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q2 2014, a small decrease compared to recent quarters.
- At the end of Q2 2014 3,531 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,331 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014
Number of grants	1,466	1,476	1,442	1,479	1,378

Table 9: Numbers in receipt of Section 4 Support at the end of the quarter (excl. Dependants)

	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014
Number supported	3,195	3,401	3,488	3,526	3,531

## ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

### Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 1,737 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q2 2014, a 27% decrease from Q2 2013 (2,386).
- 1,269 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q2 2014, a 9% decrease from Q2 2013 (1,398).
- 389 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q2 2014, a 50% decrease from Q2 2013 (784).
- 79 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q2 2014, a 61% decrease from Q2 2013 (204).

Table 10: Removals and voluntary departures of asylum applicants, incl. Dependants, by quarter

	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014
<b>Enforced</b>	1,294	1,123	1,106	980	1,070
<b>Notified Voluntary</b>	104	141	153	162	199
<b>Assisted Voluntary</b>	784	764	662	688	389
<b>Other Voluntary</b>	204	120	119	119	79
<b>Total</b>	2,386	2,148	2,040	1,949	1,737

## Detention

### Persons leaving detention

- A total of 3,854 people were recorded as removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q2 2014; 1,240 (32% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q2 2014, 1,227 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,114 had been detained for 28 days or less. 19 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 1 person for 24 months or more.

## Persons Detained at the end of Q2 2014

- At the end of Q2 2014 a total of 3,079 persons were detained, of whom none were children.
- 1,683 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (55% of all immigration detainees)
- 90% of all detainees at the end of Q2 2014 were male.

## Children in Detention

- 19 children were recorded as entering detention in Q2 2014. Of these 12 were asylum detainees. In the same period 20 children left detention.

## Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q2 2014

	End of Q2 2013	End of Q2 2014	% change
Pakistan	375	344	-8%
Bangladesh	248	153	-38%
India	228	125	-45%
Afghanistan	125	118	-6%
China	117	117	0%
Sri Lanka	41	93	+127%
Nigeria	104	84	-19%
Albania	58	63	+9%
Eritrea	23	60	+161%
Iran	30	34	+13%

## CHILDREN:

### Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from Unaccompanied Children, excluding dependants, was 372 in Q2 2014, a 29% increase compared with Q2 2013 (288). There has been a gradual increase in numbers over recent quarters.

Table 12: Asylum applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum (excl. Dependants)

	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014
Applications	288	327	368	373	372

- Albania is now the country of origin for the largest number of unaccompanied children (37% of all applications in Q2 2014). Eritrea accounted for 22% of applications. 79% of all applications in Q2 2014 were from 6 countries. (Albania, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Syria, Vietnam, and Sudan).
- In Q2 2014 86% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to earlier quarters.
- In Q2 2014 14% (52) of asylum applications by unaccompanied children were by girls, a similar percentage to recent quarters.

Table 13: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
<b>Q2 2014</b>	372	52	14%
<b>Q1 2014</b>	373	53	14%
<b>Q4 2013</b>	368	47	13%
<b>Q3 2013</b>	327	39	12%
<b>Q2 2013</b>	288	43	15%

For the detailed statistics on the main countries of origin for unaccompanied girls seeking asylum see the Refugee Council briefing on annual trends in statistics.

## Age Disputed Cases

- The number of age disputed cases raised in Q2 2014 was 75, similar to Q2 2013 (72). Albania (8), Afghanistan (15) and Eritrea (18) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q2 2014.

Table 14: Age Disputed Asylum applications (excl. Dependants)

	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014
Applications	72	80	95	70	75

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, for example, 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 now being used in cases where the only reason for giving leave is that the applicant is a child who cannot be returned, and this will mean there are far fewer grants of discretionary leave.

Table 15: Initial asylum decisions on unaccompanied children aged 17 and under by Quarter

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	UASC Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
<b>Q2 2014</b>	130	57	1	5	47	2	18
<b>Q1 2014</b>	110	45	1	1	48	2	13
<b>Q4 2013</b>	155	54	0	0	72	1	28
<b>Q3 2013</b>	198	51	1	56	46	1	43
<b>Q2 2013</b>	291	61	1	164	1	15	49

Table 16: Initial asylum decisions on unaccompanied children who have reached the age of 18 by Quarter

	Total	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	UASC Leave	Family or Private Life	Refusals
<b>Q2 2014</b>	47	12	0	0	0	0	35
<b>Q1 2014</b>	54	26	0	0	0	0	28
<b>Q4 2013</b>	35	12	0	0	0	1	22
<b>Q3 2013</b>	52	14	0	1	0	0	37
<b>Q2 2013</b>	46	11	0	1	0	1	33

## ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q2 2014 there were 1,350 dependants included in asylum applications.
- The statistics dealing with the age and gender of dependants are published only in annual statistics, and not on a quarterly basis. These statistics are published in August each year.

Table 17: Dependants included in asylum applications

	Q2 2013	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014
Number of main applicants	5,859	6,094	6,001	5,849	5,535
Number of dependants	1,471	1,672	1,627	1,630	1,350

For the detailed statistics on dependants see the Refugee Council briefing on annual trends in statistics.

## WOMEN AND GIRLS:

- The detailed data relating to asylum applications by women, including countries of origin, decisions, and appeals is published only on an annual basis, in August of each year. There are no quarterly statistics available.

For the detailed statistics on women and girls see the Refugee Council briefing on annual trends in statistics.

## **NOTE**

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/statistics/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2014-data-tables>

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.

British Refugee Council, (commonly called the Refugee Council) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, [No 2727514] and a registered charity, [No 1014576].

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