

November 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, until Q3 when there was an increase.

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

Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014
6,094	6,001	5,849	5,535	6,872

Applications by nationality:

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

Table 2: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries by quarter, Q3 2014 (excl. Dependants)

	Q3 2013	Q3 2014	% change
Eritrea	416	1,233	+196%
Pakistan	844	654	-23%
Syria	526	612	+16%
Iran	547	505	-8%
Sudan	195	471	+141%
Afghanistan	275	360	+31%
Albania	308	358	+16%
Sri Lanka	460	272	-41%
Nigeria	260	219	-16%
Iraq	74	197	+166%

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

	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014
In-country	5,358	5,349	5,328	4,943	6,124
Port	736	652	521	592	748
Total	6,094	6,001	5,849	5,535	6,872

DECISIONS:

- In Q3 2014, 6,107 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants, an increase of 46% compared with Q3 2013 (4,189) and a significant increase on the previous two quarters.
- 35% of initial decisions in Q3 2014 were to grant asylum, compared with 32% in Q3 2013. 1.4% of initial decisions in Q3 2014 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 2.3% in Q3 2013 and 62% were refusals, compared with 64% in Q3 2013.

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

	Q3 2013		Q4 2013		Q1 2014		Q2 2014		Q3 2014	
Decisions	4,189		3,068		2,846		3,758		6,107	
Refugee status	1,338	32%	1,042	34%	908	32%	1,316	35%	2,112	35%
Humanitarian Protection	12	0.3 %	9	0.3%	11	0.4%	9	0.2%	24	0.4%
Discretionary Leave	101	2%	29	1%	26	1%	35	1%	58	1%
Other Grants	50	1%	37	1%	37	1%	106	3%	156	3%
Refused	2,688	64%	1,951	64%	1,864	65%	2,292	61%	3,757	62%

- Countries with a high percentage of applicants granted protection in Q3 2014 included Eritrea, Syria and Sudan.

Table5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q3 2014, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Eritrea	730	639	1	1	4	85
Iran	604	284	6	3	4	307
Pakistan	574	127	1	2	7	437
Syria	412	350	6	0	1	55
Albania	375	2	0	9	55	309
Sri Lanka	363	41	0	1	0	321
Nigeria	296	39	0	10	8	239
Sudan	278	205	0	0	1	72
India	243	1	2	3	0	237
Afghanistan	232	44	0	4	20	164

APPEALS:

- 1,416 appeals were determined in Q3 2014, 38% fewer than in Q3 2013 (2,274). The number of appeals heard has been steadily declining over the past year.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 30% in Q3 2014, while 64% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q3 2013		Q4 2013		Q1 2014		Q2 2014		Q3 2014	
Determined	2,274		1,810		1,520		1,484		1,416	
Allowed	560	25%	451	25%	441	29%	374	25%	426	30%
Dismissed	1,571	69%	1,247	69%	1,006	66%	1,032	70%	909	64%
Withdrawn	143	6%	112	6%	73	5%	78	5%	81	5%

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q3 2014 was 27,815. There has been a steady increase in the numbers over the past year.
- 3,249 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q3 2014.
- 24,566 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2014.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2014 was the North West (6,298).
- 1,765 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q3 2014

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

	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014
Dispersed accommodation	19,307	20,687	22,408	23,630	24,566
Subsistence only	2,715	2,772	2,947	3,090	3,249
Initial accommodation	1,125	1,197	1,085	1,262	1,765

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

- 1,398 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q3 2014, a similar number to recent quarters.

- At the end of Q3 2014 3,566 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,319 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014
Number of grants	1,476	1,442	1,479	1,378	1,398

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

	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014
Number supported	3,401	3,488	3,526	3,531	3,566

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 1,547 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q3 2014, a 28% decrease from Q3 2013 (2,148).
- 1,292 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q3 2014, a 2% increase from Q3 2013 (1,264).
- 198 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q3 2014, a 74% decrease from Q3 2013 (764).
- 57 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q3 2014, a 53% decrease from Q3 2013 (120).

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

	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014
Enforced	1,123	1,106	980	1,070	1,133
Notified Voluntary	141	153	164	204	159
Assisted Voluntary	764	662	688	389	198
Other Voluntary	120	119	121	96	57
Total	2,148	2,040	1,953	1,759	1,547

Detention

Persons leaving detention

- A total of 3,954 people were recorded as removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q3 2014; 1,205 (30% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q3 2014, 1,320 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,137 had been detained for 28 days or less. 13 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 1 person for 24 months or more.

Persons Detained at the end of Q3 2014

- At the end of Q3 2014 a total of 3,378 persons were detained, of whom none were children.
- 1,688 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (50% of all immigration detainees)
- 90% of all detainees at the end of Q3 2014 were male.

Children in Detention

- 26 children were recorded as entering detention in Q3 2014. Of these 10 were asylum detainees. In the same period 27 children left detention.

Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q3 2014

	End of Q3 2013	End of Q3 2014	% change
Pakistan	405	315	-22%
India	163	152	-7%
Bangladesh	202	128	-37%
Nigeria	121	120	-1%
Sri Lanka	70	99	+41%
Afghanistan	94	92	-2%
Albania	61	69	+13%
China	100	68	-32%
Iran	38	52	+37%
Vietnam	36	41	+14%

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 538 in Q3 2014, a 65% increase compared with Q3 2013 (327). There has been an increase in numbers over recent quarters.

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

	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014
Applications	327	368	373	372	538

- Eritrea was the country of origin for the largest number of unaccompanied children (32% of all applications in Q3 2014). Albania accounted for 25% of applications. 83% of all applications in Q3 2014 were from 6 countries. (Albania, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Syria, Vietnam, and Iran).
- In Q3 2014 90% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to earlier quarters.
- In Q3 2014 9% (50) 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
Q3 2014	538	50	9%
Q2 2014	372	52	14%
Q1 2014	373	53	14%
Q4 2013	368	47	13%
Q3 2013	327	39	12%

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 Q3 2014 was 83, similar to Q3 2013 (80). Afghanistan (14), Eritrea (20), and Syria (10) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q3 2014.

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

	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014
Applications	80	95	70	75	83

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 used to be 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
Q3 2014	307	135	3	7	101	0	61
Q2 2014	130	57	1	5	47	2	18
Q1 2014	110	45	1	1	48	2	13
Q4 2013	155	54	0	0	72	1	28
Q3 2013	198	51	1	56	46	1	43

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
Q3 2014	107	12	1	0	0	0	94
Q2 2014	47	12	0	0	0	0	35
Q1 2014	54	26	0	0	0	0	28
Q4 2013	35	12	0	0	0	1	22
Q3 2013	52	14	0	1	0	0	37

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q3 2014 there were 1,952 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

	Q3 2013	Q4 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014
Number of main applicants	6,094	6,001	5,849	5,535	6,872
Number of dependants	1,672	1,627	1,630	1,350	1,952

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-july-to-september-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 one of the leading organisations 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.

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