

## Quarterly asylum statistics

February 2016

*This briefing covers the latest quarterly 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 increased in Q4 2015 compared with Q4 2014, but was marginally fewer than the previous quarter in 2015.

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

Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015
6,710	5,955	6,203	10,156	10,100

### Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2014 there was a large increase in the number of applicants from Iran. Iraq, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and India. All of the top ten countries of origin showed an increase except for Albania.

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

	Q4 2014	Q4 2015	% change
Iran	625	1,466	+135%
Iraq	194	1,111	+482%
Syria	704	911	+29%
Eritrea	884	887	+0.3%
Afghanistan	274	794	+190%
Pakistan	627	677	+8%
Sudan	452	528	+17%
Bangladesh	172	419	+144%
Albania	449	406	-10%
India	160	354	+121%

## Applications by location

- The proportion of applications made at ports and in-country has changed only marginally in the past year, and for in-country applications was 90% in Q4 2015.

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

	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015
In-country	5,959	5,374	5,694	9,361	9,065
Port	751	581	509	795	1,035
Total	6,710	5,955	6,203	10,156	10,100

## DECISIONS:

- In Q4 2015, 6,901 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; a decrease of 4% compared with Q4 2014 (7,197) but a small increase compared to the previous quarter.
- 35% of initial decisions in Q4 2015 were to grant asylum, compared with 41% in Q4 2014. 1.2% of initial decisions in Q4 2015 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 1.3% in Q4 2014 and 61% were refusals, compared with 54% in Q4 2014.

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

	Q4 2014		Q1 2015		Q2 2015		Q3 2015		Q4 2015	
<b>Decisions</b>	7,197		8,976		6,318		6,755		6,901	
<b>Refugee status</b>	2,933	41%	2,784	31%	2,360	37%	2,450	36%	2,381	35%
<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	24	0.3 %	18	0.2%	29	0.5%	24	0.4%	38	0.6 %
<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	80	1%	94	1%	42	0.7%	52	0.8%	40	0.6%
<b>Other Grants</b>	262	4%	336	4%	289	5%	234	3%	248	4%
<b>Refused</b>	3898	54%	5,744	64%	3,598	57%	3,995	59%	4,194	61%

- Countries with a high percentage of applicants granted protection in Q4 2015 included Sudan and Syria. The refusal rate for Eritrea is significantly higher than a year ago.

Table5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q4 2015, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Sudan	993	835	2	0	0	156
Eritrea	658	244	22	1	45	346
Iran	560	222	0	1	5	332
Pakistan	519	88	0	3	3	425
Syria	408	339	0	0	5	64
Afghanistan	395	72	0	5	47	271
Iraq	390	34	3	2	6	345
Albania	383	1	0	6	83	293
Sri Lanka	248	18	0	1	2	227
Ethiopia	229	124	0	1	5	99

## APPEALS:

- 2,013 appeals were determined in Q4 2015, 17% more than in Q4 2014 (1,721). The number of appeals heard had been steadily declining until Q4 2014 but has increased since then until Q4 2015, when it decreased.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 43% in Q4 2015, while 52% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q4 2014		Q1 2015		Q2 2015		Q3 2015		Q4 2015	
Determined	1,721		2,242		2,299		2,561		2,013	
Allowed	509	30%	645	29%	744	32%	971	38%	874	43%
Dismissed	1,106	64%	1,490	66%	1,425	62%	1,463	57%	1,044	52%
Withdrawn	106	6%	107	5%	130	6%	127	5%	95	5%

## ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q4 2015 was 34,363, an increase of 15% from Q4 2014.
- 2,931 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q4 2015.
- 31,432 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q4 2015.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q4 2015 was the North West (8,076).
- 1,985 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q4 2015

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

	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015
Dispersed accommodation	26,350	27,003	26,984	28,620	31,432
Subsistence only	3,403	3,473	3,473	3,276	2,931
Initial accommodation	1,476	889	989	1,660	1,985

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

- 1,137 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q4 2015, a decrease compared to recent quarters.

- At the end of Q4 2015 2,525 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,296 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015
Number of grants	1,303	1,320	1,386	1,284	1,137

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

	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015
Number supported	3,655	3,616	3,318	2,834	2,525

## ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

### Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 1,138 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q4 2015, a 25% decrease from Q4 2014 (1,520).
- 855 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q4 2015, a 32% decrease from Q4 2014 (1,258).
- 211 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q4 2015, a 24% increase from Q4 2014 (170).
- 72 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q4 2015, a 22% decrease from Q4 2014 (92).

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

	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015
<b>Enforced</b>	1,076	1,020	923	627	694
<b>Assisted Voluntary</b>	170	192	216	235	211
<b>Notified Voluntary</b>	182	170	186	207	161
<b>Other Voluntary</b>	92	95	68	107	72
<b>Total</b>	1,520	1,477	1,393	1,176	1,138

## Detention

### Persons leaving detention

- A total of 3,795 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q4 2015; 776 (20% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q4 2015, 1,296 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,214 had been detained for 28 days or less. 29 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 5 people for 24 months or more.

## Persons Detained at the end of Q4 2015

- At the end of Q4 2015 a total of 2,607 persons were detained, none of whom were children.
- 1,250 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (48% of all immigration detainees)
- 90% of all detainees at the end of Q4 2015 were male.

## Children in Detention

- 18 children were recorded as entering detention in Q4 2015. Of these 11 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 Q4 2015

	End of Q4 2014	End of Q4 2015
India	150	157
Bangladesh	128	107
Pakistan	279	99
Iraq	36	97
Iran	46	70
China	66	68
Nigeria	122	67
Albania	74	66
Afghanistan	116	59
Sri Lanka	102	46

## CHILDREN:

### Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 1,080 in Q4 2015, an 80% increase compared with Q3 2014 (551), and an increase compared with recent quarters.

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

	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015
Applications	601	498	518	947	1,080

- Afghanistan was the top country of origin for number of unaccompanied children (25% of all applications in Q4 2015). Eritrea accounted for 18% of applications, Albania for 12%, and Iran for 11%. Together these four countries accounted for 66% of all applications in Q4 2015.
- In Q4 2015 93% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to earlier quarters.
- In Q4 2015 79 asylum applications by unaccompanied children were made by girls.

Table 13: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
Q4 2015	1080	79	7%
Q3 2015	947	80	8%
Q2 2015	518	46	9%
Q1 2015	498	70	14%
Q4 2014	601	69	11%

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 Q4 2015 was 259, an increase compared with Q4 2014 (83). Afghanistan (74), Iran (52) and Iraq (52) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q4 2015.

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

	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015
Applications	83	108	129	270	259

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, has been used since 2013 in cases where the only reason for giving leave is that the applicant is a child who cannot be returned, and this means 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>Q4 2015</b>	423	110	7	4	208	0	94
<b>Q3 2015</b>	342	81	2	7	183	0	69
<b>Q2 2015</b>	411	67	8	8	233	0	95
<b>Q1 2015</b>	383	98	1	18	181	0	85
<b>Q4 2014</b>	446	180	4	11	183	0	68

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>Q4 2015</b>	75	13	0	1	0	0	61
<b>Q3 2015</b>	62	8	0	0	0	0	54
<b>Q2 2015</b>	55	13	0	2	0	0	40
<b>Q1 2015</b>	181	29	1	0	0	0	151
<b>Q4 2014</b>	76	18	0	0	0	2	56

## ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q4 2015 there were 1,730 dependants included in asylum applications.
- Statistics which deal 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

	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015
Number of main applicants	6,710	5,955	6,203	10,156	10,100
Number of dependants	1,716	1,498	1,364	1,872	1,730

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/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2015/list-of-tables#asylum>

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.

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].

Registered office: : Gredley House, 11 Broadway, Stratford, E15 4BQ, United Kingdom VAT reg no: 936 519 988