

Quarterly asylum statistics

December 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 decreased in Q3 2016 compared with Q3 2015, and also compared with earlier quarters in 2016.

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

Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016
10,231	10,196	8,228	7,810	7,146

Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2015 there was a decrease in the number of applicants from Sudan and Eritrea. All of the top ten countries of origin showed a decrease except for Bangladesh and India.

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

	Q3 2015	Q3 2016	% change
Iran	858	770	-10%
Pakistan	755	700	-7%
Afghanistan	754	631	-16%
Iraq	645	573	-11%
Bangladesh	295	487	+65%
India	295	374	+27%
Albania	385	334	-13%
Sudan	1516	329	-78%
Syria	776	315	-59%
Eritrea	1378	272	-80%

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 86% in Q3 2016.

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

	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016
In-country	9,439	9,156	7,304	7,029	6,125
Port	792	1,040	924	781	1,021
Total	10,231	10,196	8,228	7,810	7,146

DECISIONS:

- In Q3 2016, 6,067 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; a decrease compared with Q3 2015 (6,653) and fewer than the previous three quarters.
- 24% of initial decisions in Q3 2016 were to grant asylum, compared with 38% in Q3 2015. 2.3% of initial decisions in Q3 2016 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 1.2% in Q3 2015 and 71% were refusals, a 13% increase on Q3 2015.

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

	Q3 2015		Q4 2015		Q1 2016		Q2 2016		Q3 2016	
Decisions	6,653		6,868		6,644		6,185		6,067	
Refugee status	2,449	38%	2,382	35%	1,963	30%	1,794	29%	1,426	24%
Humanitarian Protection	25	0.4 %	38	0.6%	16	0.2%	26	0.4%	109	1.8 %
Discretionary Leave	52	0.8%	40	0.6%	36	0.5%	23	0.4%	31	0.5%
Other Grants	235	4%	247	4%	347	5%	284	5%	202	3%
Refused	3,892	58%	4,161	61%	4,282	64%	4,058	66%	4,299	71%

- Countries with a high percentage of applicants granted protection in Q3 2016 included Sudan and Syria. Several countries had very high refusal rates.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q3 2016, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	1,107	376	1	3	37	690
Iraq	556	38	7	1	33	477
Pakistan	540	83	0	0	3	454
Eritrea	479	102	88	1	4	284
Afghanistan	368	53	2	1	55	257
Syria	355	299	0	0	1	55
Bangladesh	339	25	0	1	1	312
India	248	2	0	1	1	244
Sudan	210	167	1	0	0	42
Nigeria	200	16	0	2	3	179

APPEALS:

- 3,317 appeals were determined in Q3 2016, a significant increase on all the previous four quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 41% in Q3 2016, while 56% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q3 2015		Q4 2015		Q1 2016		Q2 2016		Q3 2016	
Determined	2,576		2,026		1,974		2,936		3,317	
Allowed	972	38%	877	43%	840	43%	1,359	46%	1,368	41%
Dismissed	1,478	57%	1,056	52%	1,036	52%	1,470	50%	1,855	56%
Withdrawn	126	5%	93	5%	98	5%	107	4%	94	3%

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q3 2016 was 37,958, an increase of 33% from Q3 2015.
- 2,704 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q3 2016.
- 35,254 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2016.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2016 was the North West (9,129).
- 1,993 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q3 2016

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

	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016
Dispersed accommodation	28,620	31,432	32,935	34,367	35,254
Subsistence only	3,276	2,931	2,748	2,663	2,704
Initial accommodation	1,660	1,985	2,240	1,889	1,993

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

- 1,218 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q3 2016, a small increase compared with the previous quarter.
- At the end of Q3 2016 2,441 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,324 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016
Number of grants	1,284	1,137	937	1,104	1,218

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

	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016
Number supported	2,834	2,525	2,366	2,419	2,441

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Asylum applicants)

- Including dependants, 770 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q3 2016, a 39% decrease from Q3 2015 (1,271).
- 585 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q3 2016, a 37% decrease from Q3 2015 (926).
- 124 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q3 2016, a 48% decrease from Q3 2015 (238).
- 61 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q3 2016, a 43% decrease from Q3 2015 (107).

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

	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016
Enforced	704	747	567	546	466
Assisted Voluntary	238	215	58	117	124
Notified Voluntary	222	197	209	143	119
Other Voluntary	107	104	113	83	61
Total	1,271	1,263	947	889	770

Detention

Persons leaving detention

- A total of 3,204 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q3 2016; 673 (21% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q3 2016, 1,215 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,086 had been detained for 28 days or less. 37 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 6 people for 24 months or more.

Persons Detained at the end of Q3 2016

- At the end of Q3 2016 a total of 2,998 persons were detained, at this point none of these were children.
- 1,473 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (49% of all immigration detainees)
- 91% of all detainees at the end of Q3 2016 were male.

Children in Detention

- 21 children were recorded as entering detention in Q3 2016. Of these 17 were asylum detainees. In the same period 21 children left detention.

Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q3 2016

	End of Q3 2015	End of Q3 2016
India	191	199
Pakistan	193	158
Bangladesh	126	122
Afghanistan	119	112
Iraq	88	85
Nigeria	79	83
Albania	82	73
China	88	51
Iran	74	51
Vietnam	39	43

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 695 in Q3 2016, a 32% decrease compared with Q3 2015 (1,023), but similar to the previous two quarters of 2016.

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

	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016
Applications	1,023	1,130	661	658	695

- Afghanistan was the top country of origin for the number of unaccompanied children (29% of all applications in Q3 2016). Albania and Eritrea each accounted for 13% of applications, and Iraq and Syria for 8% each. Together these five countries accounted for 71% of all applications in Q3 2016.
- In Q3 2016 91% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to earlier quarters.
- In Q3 2016 64 asylum applications by unaccompanied children were made by girls.

Table 13: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
Q3 2016	695	64	9%
Q2 2016	658	45	7%
Q1 2016	661	43	7%
Q4 2015	1,130	84	7%
Q3 2015	1,023	86	8%

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 2016 was 217, a decrease compared with Q3 2015 (277), but almost identical to Q2 2016. Afghanistan (98), Eritrea (29), and Iran (25) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q3 2016.

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

	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016
Applications	277	271	296	216	217

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 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
Q3 2016	312	76	21	3	160	0	52
Q2 2016	463	131	15	2	235	2	78
Q1 2016	550	160	6	9	290	0	85
Q4 2015	424	110	7	4	208	0	95
Q3 2015	342	81	2	7	183	0	69

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 2016	58	14	3	0	0	2	39
Q2 2016	105	37	1	1	0	1	65
Q1 2016	64	25	1	0	1	0	37
Q4 2015	74	13	0	1	0	0	60
Q3 2015	62	9	0	0	0	0	53

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q3 2016 there were 2,122 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

	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016
Number of main applicants	10,231	10,196	8,228	7,810	7,146
Number of dependants	2,080	1,838	1,910	2,030	2,122

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-july-to-september-2016/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