

## Quarterly asylum statistics

May 2017

*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 Q1 2017 compared with Q1 2016, and also compared with the other three quarters in 2016.

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

Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017
8,228	7,810	7,146	7,419	6,516

### Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2016 there was either a decrease in the number of applicants or a small increase from most of the top ten countries of origin, the exceptions being Sudan and Vietnam which had large percentage increases, but not the largest numbers.

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

	Q1 2016	Q1 2017	% change
Iran	1,492	664	-55%
Pakistan	763	663	-13%
Iraq	831	602	-28%
Bangladesh	500	480	-4%
India	388	389	+0.3%
Albania	369	357	-3%
Nigeria	303	308	+2%
Sudan	198	289	+46%
Afghanistan	489	287	-41%
Vietnam	163	263	+61%

## 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 Q1 2017.

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

	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017
In-country	7,304	7,029	6,125	6,259	5,632
Port	924	781	1,021	1,160	884
Total	8,228	7,810	7,146	7,419	6,516

## DECISIONS:

- In Q1 2017, 5,953 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; a decrease compared with Q1 2016 (6,644) and similar to the previous two quarters.
- 31% of initial decisions in Q1 2017 were to grant asylum, compared with 30% in Q1 2016. 0.8% of initial decisions in Q1 2017 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 0.7% in Q1 2016 and 66% were refusals, a 2% increase on Q1 2016.

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

	Q1 2016		Q2 2016		Q3 2016		Q4 2016		Q1 2017	
<b>Decisions</b>	6,644		6,185		6,067		6,088		5,953	
<b>Refugee status</b>	1,963	30%	1,794	29%	1,426	24%	1,953	32%	1,825	31%
<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	16	0.2 %	26	0.4%	109	1.8%	38	0.6%	17	0.3%
<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	36	0.5%	23	0.4%	31	0.5%	25	0.4%	31	0.5%
<b>Other Grants</b>	347	5%	284	5%	202	3%	193	3%	147	2.5%
<b>Refused</b>	4,282	64%	4,058	66%	4,299	71%	3,879	64%	3,933	66%

- Countries with a high percentage of applicants granted protection in Q1 2017 included Eritrea, Sudan and Syria. Several countries had very high refusal rates.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q1 2017, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	804	323	1	0	8	472
Eritrea	608	483	1	0	1	123
Pakistan	551	77	0	1	5	468
Iraq	500	46	3	8	22	421
Afghanistan	424	89	3	0	56	276
Sudan	369	304	1	0	0	64
Bangladesh	317	11	0	0	2	304
Syria	283	220	0	0	2	61
India	216	0	0	2	2	212
Nigeria	190	12	0	2	2	174

## APPEALS:

- 5,205 appeals were determined in Q1 2017, a significant increase on all the previous four quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 35% in Q1 2017, while 60% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q1 2016		Q2 2016		Q3 2016		Q4 2016		Q1 2017	
Determined	1,974		2,936		3,317		4,077		5,205	
Allowed	840	43%	1,359	46%	1,368	41%	1,435	35%	1,806	35%
Dismissed	1,036	52%	1,470	50%	1,855	56%	2,337	57%	3,111	60%
Withdrawn	98	5%	107	4%	94	3%	305	8%	288	6%

## ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q1 2017 was 39,365, an increase of 10% from Q1 2016.
- 2,861 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q1 2017.
- 36,504 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q1 2017.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q1 2017 was the North West (9,524).
- 1,563 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q1 2017

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

	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017
Dispersed accommodation	32,935	34,367	35,254	36,626	36,504
Subsistence only	2,748	2,663	2,704	2,763	2,861
Initial accommodation	2,240	1,889	1,993	1,990	1,563

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

- 1,193 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q1 2017, a small decrease compared with the previous quarter.
- At the end of Q1 2017 2,462 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,359 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017
Number of grants	937	1,104	1,218	1,271	1,193

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

	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017
Number supported	2,366	2,419	2,441	2,424	2,462

## ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

### Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 1,049 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q1 2017, an 11% increase from Q1 2016 (947).
- 761 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q1 2017, a 2% decrease from Q1 2016 (776).
- 196 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q1 2017, a 6% decrease from Q1 2016 (209).
- 122 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q1 2017, an 8% increase from Q1 2016 (113).

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

	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017
<b>Enforced</b>	567	546	470	534	565
<b>Assisted Voluntary</b>	58	117	143	92	166
<b>Notified Voluntary</b>	209	151	131	173	196
<b>Other Voluntary</b>	113	88	111	115	122
<b>Total</b>	947	902	855	914	1,049

## Detention

### Persons leaving detention

- A total of 3,587 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q1 2017; 845 (24% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q1 2017, 1,289 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,239 had been detained for 28 days or less. 17 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 3 for 24 months or more.

## Persons Detained at the end of Q1 2017

- At the end of Q1 2017 a total of 2,930 persons were detained, at this point none of these were children.
- 1,763 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 at the end of Q1 2017 were male.

## Children in Detention

- 3 children were recorded as entering detention in Q1 2017. Two of them were asylum detainees. In the same period 3 children left detention.

## Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q1 2016

	End of Q1 2016	End of Q1 2017
Pakistan	175	189
India	193	171
Bangladesh	139	150
Nigeria	98	120
Iraq	97	117
Afghanistan	93	95
Vietnam	80	90
Albania	91	77
China	78	71
Jamaica	42	70

## CHILDREN:

### Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 1,166 in Q1 2017, a significant increase compared with Q1 2016 (661), but very similar to Q4 of 2016.

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

	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017
Applications	661	658	695	1,161	1,166

- Afghanistan was the top country of origin for the number of unaccompanied children (20% of all applications in Q1 2017). Eritrea accounted for 20% of applications, Sudan for 18%, Albania for 11% and Ethiopia for 7%. Together these five countries accounted for over 75% of all applications in Q1 2017.
- In Q1 2017 86% of applicants were male, a lower percentage than earlier quarters of 2016.
- In Q1 2017 168 asylum applications by unaccompanied children were made by girls.

Table 13: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
Q1 2017	1,166	168	14%
Q4 2016	1,161	162	14%
Q3 2016	695	64	9%
Q2 2016	658	45	7%
Q1 2016	661	43	7%

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 Q1 2017 was 189, a decrease compared with Q1 2016 (296), but very similar to Q4 2016. Afghanistan (45), Iraq (28), Eritrea (25), Iran (25) and Sudan (21) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q1 2017.

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

	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017
Applications	296	216	217	189	193

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
<b>Q1 2017</b>	327	130	8	0	149	0	40
<b>Q4 2016</b>	330	130	8	0	151	0	41
<b>Q3 2016</b>	312	76	21	3	160	0	52
<b>Q2 2016</b>	463	131	15	2	235	2	78
<b>Q1 2016</b>	550	160	6	9	290	0	85

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>Q1 2017</b>	75	41	2	0	0	0	32
<b>Q4 2016</b>	77	41	2	0	0	0	34
<b>Q3 2016</b>	58	14	3	0	0	2	39
<b>Q2 2016</b>	105	37	1	1	0	1	65
<b>Q1 2016</b>	64	25	1	0	1	0	37

## ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q1 2017 there were 1,852 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

	Q1 2016	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017
Number of main applicants	8,228	7,810	7,146	7,419	6,516
Number of dependants	1,910	2,030	2,122	1,852	1,951

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-january-to-march-2017/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

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