

## Quarterly asylum statistics

August 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 Q2 2017 compared with Q2 2016, and also compared with each of the last four quarters.

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

Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017
7,839	7,186	7,442	6,516	6,172

### 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.

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

	Q2 2016	Q2 2017	% change
Pakistan	790	622	-21%
Iran	1,097	582	-47%
Sudan	277	460	+66%
Iraq	603	458	-24%
Bangladesh	515	410	-20%
India	370	385	+1%
Albania	370	359	-3%
Afghanistan	645	299	-54%
Vietnam	187	280	+50%
Nigeria	302	254	-16%

## Applications by location

- The proportion of applications made at ports and in-country has changed only marginally in the past year. 86% of applications were made in-country in Q2 2017.

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

	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017
In-country	7,062	6,160	6,285	5,632	5,335
Port	777	1,026	1,157	884	837
Total	7,839	7,186	7,442	6,516	6,172

## DECISIONS:

- In Q2 2017, 4,883 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; a decrease compared with Q2 2016 (6,160) and lower than any of the previous four quarters.
- 32% of initial decisions in Q2 2017 were to grant asylum, compared with 29% in Q2 2016. 0.7% of initial decisions in Q2 2017 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 0.8% in Q2 2016, and 65% were refusals, a 1% decrease on Q2 2016.

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

	Q2 2016		Q3 2016		Q4 2016		Q1 2017		Q2 2017	
<b>Decisions</b>	6,160		6,066		6,080		5,953		4,883	
<b>Refugee status</b>	1,792	29%	1,426	24%	1,953	32%	1,825	31%	1,541	32%
<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	24	0.4%	109	1.8%	38	0.6%	17	0.3%	26	0.5%
<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	23	0.4%	30	0.5%	25	0.4%	31	0.5%	12	0.2%
<b>Other Grants</b>	284	5%	202	3%	194	3%	147	2.5%	132	2.7%
<b>Refused</b>	4,037	66%	4,299	71%	3,870	64%	3,933	66%	3,172	65%

- Countries with a high percentage of applicants granted protection in Q2 2017 included Eritrea, Sudan and Syria. Several countries had very high refusal rates.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q2 2017, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	695	332	2	0	15	346
Iraq	417	45	8	0	26	338
Pakistan	410	55	0	2	1	352
Sudan	335	267	0	0	0	68
Eritrea	314	259	1	0	0	54
Afghanistan	302	100	4	2	44	152
Bangladesh	269	6	0	0	1	262
India	226	1	0	2	0	223
Syria	214	179	0	0	2	33
Nigeria	203	17	0	1	8	177

## APPEALS:

- 3,455 appeals were determined in Q2 2017, a significant decrease on the previous two quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 34% in Q2 2017, while 62% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q2 2016		Q3 2016		Q4 2016		Q1 2017		Q2 2017	
Determined	2,967		3,409		4,195		5,205		3,455	
Allowed	1,368	46%	1,384	41%	1,450	35%	1,806	35%	1,175	34%
Dismissed	1,484	50%	1,922	56%	2,450	58%	3,111	60%	2,143	62%
Withdrawn	115	4%	103	3%	295	7%	288	6%	137	4%

## ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of people (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q2 2017 was 38,954, an increase of 5% from Q2 2016.
- 2,827 of these were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q2 2017.
- 36,127 of these were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2017.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2017 was the North West (9,335).
- 1,447 people were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q2 2017

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

	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017
Dispersed accommodation	34,367	35,254	36,626	36,504	36,127
Subsistence only	2,663	2,704	2,763	2,861	2,827
Initial accommodation	1,889	1,993	1,990	1,563	1,447

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

- 1,311 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q2 2017, an increase compared with the previous four quarters.
- At the end of Q2 2017 2,493 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,383 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017
Number of grants	1,104	1,218	1,271	1,193	1,311

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

	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017
Number supported	2,419	2,441	2,424	2,462	2,493

## ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

### Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 759 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q2 2017, a 36% decrease from Q2 2016 (1,195).
- 620 left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q2 2017, a 30% decrease from Q2 2016 (883).
- 79 left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q2 2017, a 53% decrease from Q2 2016 (168).
- 60 left via other types of voluntary departures in Q2 2017, a 58% decrease from Q2 2016 (144).

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

	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017
<b>Enforced</b>	692	470	533	568	399
<b>Assisted Voluntary</b>	168	145	92	166	79
<b>Notified Voluntary</b>	191	132	173	214	221
<b>Other Voluntary</b>	144	110	120	134	60
<b>Total</b>	1,195	857	918	1,082	759

## Detention

### Persons leaving detention

- A total of 3,154 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q2 2017; 788 (25% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q2 2017, 1,115 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,082 had been detained for 28 days or less. 14 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 4 for 24 months or more.

## Persons Detained at the end of Q2 2017

- At the end of Q2 2017 a total of 2,992 persons were detained, at this point 2 of them were children.
- 1,784 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (60% of all immigration detainees)
- 89% of all detainees at the end of Q2 2017 were male.

## Children in Detention

- 9 children were recorded as entering detention in Q2 2017. Two of them were asylum detainees. In the same period 8 children left detention.

## Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q2 2017

	End of Q2 2016	End of Q2 2017
India	200	235
Pakistan	162	223
Bangladesh	126	160
Nigeria	91	135
Albania	77	108
Afghanistan	108	87
Vietnam	45	76
China	86	67
Iraq	74	63
Jamaica	16	52

## CHILDREN:

### Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 547 in Q2 2017, a decrease compared with Q2 2016 (699), and much lower than Q4 of 2016.

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

	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017
Applications	699	722	1,176	499	547

- Sudan was the top country of origin for unaccompanied children (18% of all applications in Q2 2017). Eritrea accounted for 14% of applications, Iraq for 14%, Vietnam for 12%, Afghanistan for 10% and Albania for 10%. Together these six countries accounted for over 75% of all applications in Q2 2017.

- In Q2 2017 90% of applicants were male, a higher percentage than the previous two quarters.
- In Q2 2017 53 asylum applications by unaccompanied children were made by girls.

Table 13: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
Q2 2017	547	53	10%
Q1 2017	499	69	14%
Q4 2016	1,176	170	14%
Q3 2016	722	70	10%
Q2 2016	699	48	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 Q2 2017 was 167, a decrease compared with Q2 2016 (220), but similar to Q1 2017. Afghanistan (32), Sudan (32), Eritrea (22), Iran (19) and Iran (1821) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q2 2017.

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

	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017
Applications	220	216	193	147	167

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
Q2 2017	367	213	7	1	91	0	55
Q1 2017	274	135	4	0	102	1	32
Q4 2016	327	130	8	0	149	0	41
Q3 2016	308	76	21	3	156	0	52
Q2 2016	466	131	15	2	233	2	83

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 2017</b>	217	138	5	0	0	0	74
<b>Q1 2017</b>	66	36	1	0	0	0	29
<b>Q4 2016</b>	75	41	2	0	0	0	32
<b>Q3 2016</b>	57	14	3	0	0	1	39
<b>Q2 2016</b>	101	38	0	1	0	1	61

## ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q2 2017 there were 1,606 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

	Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017
Number of main applicants	7,839	7,186	7,442	6,516	6,172
Number of dependants	2,241	2,262	1,968	1,951	1,606

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-april-to-june-2017/list-of-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.