

Quarterly asylum statistics

November 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 Q3 2017 compared with Q3 2016, but increased slightly compared with the previous quarter.

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

Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
7,186	7,442	6,516	6,172	6,487

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 China which had large percentage increases.

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

	Q3 2016	Q3 2017	% change
Iran	770	649	-16%
Pakistan	701	591	-16%
Iraq	577	538	-7%
Sudan	326	487	+49%
Bangladesh	487	429	-12%
Afghanistan	633	364	-42%
Albania	335	340	+1%
India	375	281	-25%
China	151	246	+63%
Eritrea	272	241	-11%

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 84% in Q3 2017.

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

	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
In-country	6,160	6,285	5,632	5,335	5,443
Port	1,026	1,157	884	837	1,044
Total	7,186	7,442	6,516	6,172	6,487

DECISIONS:

- In Q3 2017, 5,000 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; a decrease compared with Q3 2016 (6,160) but a small increase over the previous quarter.
- 26% of initial decisions in Q3 2017 were to grant asylum, compared with 24% in Q3 2016. 1.7% of initial decisions in Q3 2017 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 2.3% in Q3 2016 and 69% were refusals, a small decrease on Q3 2016.

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

	Q3 2016		Q4 2016		Q1 2017		Q2 2017		Q3 2017	
Decisions	6,066		6,080		5,953		4,883		5,000	
Refugee status	1,426	24%	1,953	32%	1,825	31%	1,541	32%	1,297	26%
Humanitarian Protection	109	1.8%	38	0.6%	17	0.3%	26	0.5%	64	1.3%
Discretionary Leave	30	0.5%	25	0.4%	31	0.5%	12	0.2%	21	0.4%
Other Grants	202	3%	194	3%	147	2.5%	132	2.7%	144	2.9%
Refused	4,299	71%	3,870	64%	3,933	66%	3,172	65%	3,474	69%

- Countries with a high percentage of applicants granted protection in Q3 2017 included Eritrea and Iran. Several countries had very high refusal rates.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q3 2017, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	627	313	1	0	17	296
Pakistan	496	71	0	3	3	419
Iraq	466	64	12	1	41	348
Bangladesh	363	12	0	2	0	349
Afghanistan	277	86	1	1	27	162
Eritrea	244	202	0	0	2	40
India	232	0	0	4	0	228
Sudan	223	94	0	0	3	126
Nigeria	219	19	0	2	8	190
Sri Lanka	169	11	0	0	1	157

APPEALS:

- 2,850 appeals were determined in Q3 2017, a significant decrease on the previous two quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 37% in Q3 2017, while 59% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarters

	Q3 2016		Q4 2016		Q1 2017		Q2 2017		Q3 2017	
Determined	3,409		4,195		5,205		3,455		2,850	
Allowed	1,384	41%	1,450	35%	1,806	35%	1,175	34%	1,050	37%
Dismissed	1,922	56%	2,450	58%	3,111	60%	2,143	62%	1,690	59%
Withdrawn	103	3%	295	7%	288	6%	137	4%	110	4%

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q3 2017 was 39,414, an increase of 4% from Q3 2016.
- 2,904 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q3 2017.
- 36,510 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2017.
- The region of the UK with the largest number in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2017 was the North West (9,472).
- 1,618 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q3 2017

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

	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
Dispersed accommodation	35,254	36,626	36,504	36,127	36,510
Subsistence only	2,704	2,763	2,861	2,827	2,904
Initial accommodation	1,993	1,990	1,563	1,447	1,618

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

- 1,364 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q3 2017, an increase compared with the previous four quarters.
- At the end of Q3 2017 2,531 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,392 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
Number of grants	1,218	1,271	1,193	1,311	1,364

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

	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
Number supported	2,441	2,424	2,462	2,493	2,531

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 767 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q3 2017, an 11% decrease from Q3 2016 (857).
- 579 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q3 2017, a 4% decrease from Q3 2016 (602).
- 118 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q3 2017, a 19% decrease from Q3 2016 (145).
- 70 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q3 2017, a 36% decrease from Q3 2016 (110).

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

	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
Enforced	470	533	681	417	418
Assisted Voluntary	145	92	184	133	118
Notified Voluntary	132	173	263	184	161
Other Voluntary	110	120	157	73	70
Total	857	918	1,285	807	767

Note: The most recent figures are often revised in later statistical releases, usually upwards.

Detention

Persons leaving detention

- A total of 3,198 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q3 2017; 798 (25% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q3 2017, 1,012 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,156 had been detained for 28 days or less. 17 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 2 for 24 months or more.

Persons Detained at the end of Q3 2017

- At the end of Q3 2017 a total of 3,455 persons were detained, at this point none of them were children.
- 2,083 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 Q3 2017 were male.

Children in Detention

- 21 children were recorded as entering detention in Q3 2017. 16 of them were asylum detainees. In the same period 24 children left detention.

Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q3 2017

	End of Q3 2016	End of Q3 2017
Bangladesh	122	274
Pakistan	158	257
India	199	250
Albania	73	113
China	51	110
Nigeria	83	104
Afghanistan	112	82
Iraq	85	79
Vietnam	43	75
Jamaica	16	56

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 543 in Q3 2017, a decrease compared with Q3 2016 (722), and much lower than Q4 of 2016.

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

	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
Applications	722	1,176	499	547	543

- Sudan was the top country of origin for the number of unaccompanied children (22% of all applications in Q3 2017). Eritrea accounted for 12% of applications, Vietnam for 11%, Iran for 11%, Albania for 9%, Iraq for 8% and Afghanistan for 7%. Together these seven countries accounted for 80% of all applications in Q3 2017.

- In Q3 2017 89% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to the previous quarter.
- In Q3 2017 61 asylum applications by unaccompanied children were made by girls.

Table 13: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
Q3 2017	543	61	11%
Q2 2017	547	53	10%
Q1 2017	499	69	14%
Q4 2016	1,176	170	14%
Q3 2016	722	70	10%

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 2017 was 188, a decrease compared with Q3 2016 (216), but similar to Q2 2017. Eritrea (29), Sudan (29), Afghanistan (25), Iraq (25), and Iran (23) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q3 2017.

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

	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
Applications	216	193	147	167	188

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 2017	351	201	15	0	91	0	44
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

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 2017	101	56	2	0	0	1	42
Q2 2017	217	138	5	0	0	0	74
Q1 2017	66	36	1	0	0	0	29
Q4 2016	75	41	2	0	0	0	32
Q3 2016	57	14	3	0	0	1	39

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q3 2017 there were 1,759 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 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017
Number of main applicants	7,186	7,442	6,516	6,172	6,487
Number of dependants	2,262	1,968	1,951	1,606	1,759

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-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.