

## Quarterly asylum statistics

February 2018

*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 Q4 2017 compared with Q4 2016, but increased compared with earlier quarters of 2017.

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

Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
7,442	6,516	6,172	6,487	7,175

### Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2016 there was a decrease in the number of applicants from most of the top ten countries of origin, the exceptions being Iraq, Vietnam and China, which had a large percentage increase.

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

	Q4 2016	Q4 2017	% change
Iraq	660	786	+19%
Iran	829	674	-19%
Pakistan	610	607	-0.5%
Sudan	512	446	-13%
Eritrea	435	412	-5%
Bangladesh	437	383	-12%
Afghanistan	568	362	-36%
Albania	420	361	-14%
Vietnam	233	279	+19%
China	161	274	+70%

## 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 82% in Q4 2017.

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

	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
In-country	6,285	5,632	5,335	5,443	5,885
Port	1,157	884	837	1,044	1,290
Total	7,442	6,516	6,172	6,487	7,175

## DECISIONS:

- In Q4 2017, 5,454 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; a decrease compared with Q4 2016 (6,080) but an increase over the previous quarter.
- 24% of initial decisions in Q4 2017 were to grant asylum, compared with 32% in Q4 2016. 1.1% of initial decisions in Q4 2017 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 1% in Q4 2016 and 72% were refusals, an increase on recent quarters.

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

	Q4 2016		Q1 2017		Q2 2017		Q3 2017		Q4 2017	
<b>Decisions</b>	6,080		5,953		4,883		5,000		5,454	
<b>Refugee status</b>	1,953	32%	1,825	31%	1,541	32%	1,297	26%	1,294	24%
<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	38	0.6%	17	0.3%	26	0.5%	64	1.3%	39	0.7%
<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	25	0.4%	31	0.5%	12	0.2%	21	0.4%	22	0.4%
<b>Other Grants</b>	194	3%	147	2.5%	132	2.7%	144	2.9%	166	3%
<b>Refused</b>	3,870	64%	3,933	66%	3,172	65%	3,474	69%	3,933	72%

- Countries with an above average percentage of applicants granted protection in Q4 2017 included Eritrea and Iran. Several countries had very high refusal rates.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q4 2017, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Pakistan	582	61	0	1	6	514
Iran	564	230	0	0	17	317
Iraq	461	47	7	4	34	369
Bangladesh	432	17	0	1	1	413
Sudan	397	142	1	0	5	249
Afghanistan	316	74	8	1	28	205
Eritrea	249	195	0	0	1	53
India	221	0	0	1	0	220
Nigeria	219	19	0	4	6	190
Sri Lanka	205	18	0	2	2	183

## APPEALS:

- 2,639 appeals were determined in Q4 2017, a decrease on the previous four quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 38% in Q4 2017, while 59% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarter

	Q4 2016		Q1 2017		Q2 2017		Q3 2017		Q4 2017	
Determined	4,195		5,205		3,455		2,850		2,639	
Allowed	1,450	35%	1,806	35%	1,175	34%	1,050	37%	991	38%
Dismissed	2,450	58%	3,111	60%	2,143	62%	1,690	59%	1,568	59%
Withdrawn	295	7%	288	6%	137	4%	110	4%	80	3%

## ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q4 2017 was 40,736, an increase of 11% from Q4 2016.
- 3,020 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q4 2017.
- 37,716 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q4 2017.
- The region of the UK with the largest number of people in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q4 2017 was the North West (9,739).
- 1,802 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q4 2017

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

	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2018
Dispersed accommodation	36,626	36,504	36,127	36,510	37,716
Subsistence only	2,763	2,861	2,827	2,904	3,020
Initial accommodation	1,990	1,563	1,447	1,618	1,802

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

- 1,389 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q4 2017, an increase compared with the previous four quarters.
- At the end of Q4 2017 2,689 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,425 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
Number of grants	1,271	1,193	1,311	1,364	1,389

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

	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
Number supported	2,424	2,462	2,493	2,531	2,689

## ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

### Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 948 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q4 2017, a 3% increase from Q4 2016 (918).
- 738 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q4 2017, a 5% increase from Q4 2016 (706).
- 139 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q4 2017, a 51% increase from Q4 2016 (92).
- 71 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q4 2017, a 41% decrease from Q4 2016 (120).

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

	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
<b>Enforced</b>	533	681	626	642	486
<b>Assisted Voluntary</b>	92	184	172	163	139
<b>Notified Voluntary</b>	173	263	278	267	252
<b>Other Voluntary</b>	120	157	106	114	71
<b>Total</b>	918	1,285	1,182	1,186	948

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

## Detention

### Persons leaving detention

- A total of 3,234 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q4 2017; 740 (23% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q4 2017, 1,052 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,191 had been detained for 28 days or less. 13 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 2 for 24 months or more.

## Persons Detained at the end of Q4 2017

- At the end of Q4 2017 a total of 2,545 persons were detained, at this point none of those detained were children.
- 1,508 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (59% of all immigration detainees)
- 89% of all detainees at the end of Q4 2017 were male.

## Children in Detention

- 9 children were recorded as entering detention in Q4 2017. 7 of them were asylum detainees. In the same period 9 children left detention.

## Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q4 2017

	End of Q4 2016	End of Q4 2017
India	193	195
Bangladesh	139	183
Pakistan	175	167
Nigeria	98	97
Albania	91	92
China	78	81
Vietnam	80	51
Somalia	25	49
Algeria	39	47
Iraq	97	45

## CHILDREN:

### Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 617 in Q4 2017, a decrease compared with Q4 2016 (1,176).

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

	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
Applications	1,176	499	547	543	617

- Eritrea was the top country of origin for the number of unaccompanied children (17% of all applications in Q4 2017). Sudan accounted for 15% of applications, Vietnam for 12%, Albania for 12%, Afghanistan for 11%, Iran for 10% and Iraq for 9%. Together these seven countries accounted for well over 80% of all applications in Q4 2017.

- In Q4 2017 91% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to the previous quarter.
- In Q4 2017 58 asylum applications by unaccompanied children were made by girls.

Table 13: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
Q4 2017	617	58	9%
Q3 2017	543	61	11%
Q2 2017	547	53	10%
Q1 2017	499	69	14%
Q4 2016	1,176	170	14%

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 2017 was 210, a small increase compared with Q4 2016 (193) and Q2 2017 (188). Eritrea (43), Afghanistan (31), Iraq (29), and Iran (24) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q4 2017.

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

	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
Applications	193	147	167	188	210

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

- If an unaccompanied child's claim for international protection is refused, they may be granted UASC leave. Since 2013 this leave is granted in cases where the only reason for giving leave is that the applicant is a child who cannot be returned. It is not granted for anyone over the age of 17 and a half.

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
Q4 2017	422	245	10	1	94	1	71
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

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
Q4 2017	200	76	4	1	0	0	119
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

## ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q4 2017 there were 1,846 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 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
Number of main applicants	7,442	6,516	6,172	6,487	7,175
Number of dependants	1,968	1,951	1,606	1,759	1,846

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-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.

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