

Quarterly asylum statistics

August 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 increased slightly in Q2 2018 compared with Q2 2017.

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

Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018
6,234	6,522	7,225	6,713	6,584

Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2017 there was a decrease in the number of applicants from seven of the top ten countries of origin. The largest percentage increases were from Eritrea and Albania, particularly Eritrea.

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

	Q2 2017	Q2 2018	% change
Eritrea	233	576	+147%
Iran	586	543	-7%
Pakistan	625	524	-16%
Iraq	462	465	+0.6%
Albania	363	433	+19%
Bangladesh	413	366	-11%
Sudan	462	347	-25%
India	389	327	-16%
Afghanistan	302	282	-7%
Vietnam	290	269	-7%

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 80% in Q2 2018.

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

	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018
In-country	5,390	5,476	5,930	5,545	5,256
Port	844	1,046	1,295	1,168	1,328
Total	6,234	6,522	7,225	6,713	6,584

DECISIONS:

- In Q2 2018, 5,223 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; an increase compared with Q2 2017 (4,877) but a 13% decrease from the previous quarter.
- 23% of initial decisions in Q2 2018 were to grant asylum, compared with 32% in Q2 2017. 3.2% of initial decisions in Q2 2018 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 0.7% in Q2 2017 and 69% were refusals, a decrease from recent quarters.

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

	Q2 2017		Q3 2017		Q4 2017		Q1 2018		Q2 2018	
Decisions	4,877		5,005		5,448		5,990		5,223	
Refugee status	1,540	32%	1,298	26%	1,294	24%	1,164	19%	1,225	23%
Humanitarian Protection	26	0.5%	64	1.3%	39	0.7%	165	3%	138	2.6%
Discretionary Leave	11	0.2%	21	0.4%	22	0.4%	28	0.5%	33	0.6%
Other Grants	132	2.7%	146	2.9%	166	3%	213	3.5%	220	4%
Refused	3,168	65%	3,476	69%	3,927	72%	4,420	74%	3,607	69%

- Countries with an above average percentage of applicants granted protection in Q2 2018 included Eritrea, Iran and Syria. Several countries had very high refusal rates.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q1 2018, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	582	177	1	0	19	385
Iraq	529	68	14	6	40	401
Pakistan	486	82	0	0	6	398
Bangladesh	302	12	1	1	4	284
Afghanistan	284	74	1	0	39	170
Eritrea	261	179	0	0	4	78
Sudan	259	69	1	2	11	176
Nigeria	193	14	0	5	21	153
Albania	189	2	0	1	13	173
Syria	142	123	0	1	0	18

APPEALS:

- 2,867 appeals were determined in Q2 2018, similar to the previous three quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 40% in Q2 2018, while 56% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarter

	Q2 2017		Q3 2017		Q4 2017		Q1 2018		Q2 2018	
Determined	3,469		2,889		2,675		3,030		2,867	
Allowed	1,182	34%	1,057	36.5%	998	37%	1,116	37%	1,136	40%
Dismissed	2,155	62%	1,726	60%	1,596	60%	1,785	59%	1,617	56%
Withdrawn	132	4%	106	3.5%	81	3%	129	4%	114	4%

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q2 2018 was 42,808, an increase of 10% from Q2 2017.
- 2,932 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q2 2018.
- 39,876 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2018.
- The region of the UK with the largest number of people in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2018 was the North West (10,227).
- 1,738 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q2 2018

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

	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018
Dispersed accommodation	36,127	36,510	37,716	39,132	39,876
Subsistence only	2,827	2,904	3,020	3,220	2,932
Initial accommodation	1,447	1,618	1,802	1,562	1,738

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

- 404 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q2 2018, the number of grants has reduced sharply in the last two quarters.
- At the end of Q2 2018 2,809 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,370 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018
Number of grants	1,311	1,364	1,389	618	404

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

	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018
Number supported	2,493	2,531	2,689	2,890	2,809

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 817 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q2 2018, a 38% decrease from Q2 2017 (1,318).
- 595 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q2 2018, a 40% decrease from Q2 2017 (985).
- 196 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q2 2018, a 6% increase from Q2 2017 (185).
- 26 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q2 2018, an 82% decrease from Q2 2017 (148).

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

	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018
Enforced	672	694	618	590	373
Assisted Voluntary	185	187	166	227	196
Notified Voluntary	313	298	325	299	222
Other Voluntary	148	152	113	129	26
Total	1,318	1,331	1,222	1,245	817

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

Detention

Persons leaving detention

- A total of 2,785 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q2 2018; 570 (20% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q2 2018, 996 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,030 had been detained for 28 days or less. 14 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months. None had been detained for 24 months or more.

Persons Detained at the end of Q2 2018

- At the end of Q2 2018 a total of 2,226 persons were detained, at this point none of those detained were children.
- 1,421 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (64% of all immigration detainees)
- 92% of all detainees at the end of Q2 2018 were male.

Children in Detention

- 22 children were recorded as entering detention in Q2 2018. 18 of them were asylum detainees. In the same period 22 children left detention.

Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q2 2018

	End of Q2 2017	End of Q2 2018
India	235	173
Bangladesh	160	150
Pakistan	223	128
Albania	108	120
China	67	101
Iraq	63	81
Nigeria	135	77
Vietnam	76	53
Afghanistan	87	40
Sudan	28	36

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 573 in Q2 2018, a small decrease compared with Q2 2017 (602), and from the previous quarter.

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

	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018
Applications	602	588	663	600	573

- Eritrea was the top country of origin for unaccompanied children (24% of all applications in Q2 2018). Sudan accounted for 15% of applications, Vietnam for 11%, Albania for 9%, Iraq for 9%, Afghanistan for 7%, Ethiopia for 6% and Iran for 5%. Together these eight countries accounted for 86% of all applications in Q2 2018.

- In Q2 2018 89% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to the previous quarter.
- In Q2 2018 61 asylum applications by unaccompanied children were made by girls.

Table 13: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
Q2 2018	573	61	11%
Q1 2018	600	61	10%
Q4 2017	663	62	9%
Q3 2017	588	66	11%
Q2 2017	602	59	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 Q2 2018 was 157, a decrease compared with recent quarters. Eritrea (44), Sudan (25), Vietnam (18), Afghanistan (15) and Iran (15) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q2 2018.

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

	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018
Applications	171	187	211	190	157

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
Q2 2018	332	171	8	1	106	0	46
Q1 2018	328	176	7	0	98	0	47
Q4 2017	421	245	10	1	94	1	70
Q3 2017	391	224	15	0	99	0	53
Q2 2017	369	214	7	1	90	0	57

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
Q2 2018	230	74	5	0	0	1	150
Q1 2018	232	79	5	0	0	1	147
Q4 2017	201	76	4	1	0	0	120
Q3 2017	105	58	2	0	0	1	44
Q2 2017	214	137	5	0	0	0	72

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q2 2018 there were 1,793 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 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018
Number of main applicants	6,234	6522	7225	6,713	6584
Number of dependants	1,805	1,949	1,975	1,903	1,793

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/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018-data-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.