

## Quarterly asylum statistics

November 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 in Q3 2018 compared with Q3 2017 and with each of the earlier quarters of 2018.

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

Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
6,522	7,225	6,713	6,584	7,444

### Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2017 there was an increase in the number of applicants from six of the top ten countries of origin. The largest percentage increases were from Iran, Eritrea, Eritrea, Albania and Vietnam, particularly Eritrea.

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

	Q3 2017	Q3 2018	% change
Iran	643	857	+33%
Iraq	546	677	+24%
Eritrea	239	630	+164%
Albania	344	502	+46%
Sudan	489	474	-3%
Pakistan	596	471	-21%
Afghanistan	367	353	-4%
India	282	317	+12%
Bangladesh	431	303	-30%
Vietnam	232	303	+31%

## 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 Q3 2018.

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

	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
In-country	5,476	5,930	5,545	5,256	5,940
Port	1,046	1,295	1,168	1,328	1,504
Total	6,522	7,225	6,713	6,584	7,444

## DECISIONS:

- In Q3 2018 5,100 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; a small increase compared with Q3 2017 (5,005) but a small decrease from the previous quarter.
- 30% of initial decisions in Q3 2018 were to grant asylum, compared with 26% in Q3 2017. 3.3% of initial decisions in Q3 2018 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 1.7% in Q3 2017 and 64% were refusals, a decrease from recent quarters.

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

	Q3 2017		Q4 2017		Q1 2018		Q2 2018		Q3 2018	
<b>Decisions</b>	5,005		5,448		5,990		5,223		5,100	
<b>Refugee status</b>	1,298	26%	1,294	24%	1,164	19%	1,225	23%	1,519	30%
<b>Humanitarian Protection</b>	64	1.3%	39	0.7%	165	3.0%	138	2.6%	145	2.8%
<b>Discretionary Leave</b>	21	0.4%	22	0.4%	28	0.5%	33	0.6%	24	0.5%
<b>Other Grants</b>	146	2.9%	166	3.0%	213	3.5%	220	4.0%	144	2.8%
<b>Refused</b>	3,476	69%	3,927	72%	4,420	74%	3,607	69%	3,268	64%

- Countries with an above average percentage of applicants granted protection in Q3 2018 included Eritrea, Iran and Sudan. Several countries had very high refusal rates.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q3 2018, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	580	267	5	0	22	286
Iraq	533	78	14	4	34	403
Pakistan	386	77	1	1	5	302
Eritrea	315	188	0	0	0	127
Sudan	309	151	1	0	2	155
Afghanistan	308	117	8	2	22	159
Bangladesh	260	15	0	1	6	238
Albania	203	1	0	1	7	194
Nigeria	162	15	0	2	6	139
Vietnam	158	82	0	0	2	74

## APPEALS:

- 2,818 appeals were determined in Q3 2018, similar to the previous three quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 39% in Q3 2018, while 56% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarter

	Q3 2017		Q4 2017		Q1 2018		Q2 2018		Q3 2018	
Determined	2,889		2,675		3,030		2,867		2,818	
Allowed	1,067	36.5%	998	37%	1,116	37%	1,136	40%	1,100	39%
Dismissed	1,726	60%	1,596	60%	1,785	59%	1,617	56%	1,576	56%
Withdrawn	106	3.5%	81	3%	129	4%	114	4%	142	5%

## ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q3 2018 was 43,383, an increase of 10% from Q3 2017.
- 2,902 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q3 2018.
- 40,481 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2018.
- The region of the UK with the largest number of people in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2018 was the North West (10,289).
- 2,089 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q3 2018

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

	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
Dispersed accommodation	36,510	37,716	39,132	39,876	40,481
Subsistence only	2,904	3,020	3,220	2,932	2,902
Initial accommodation	1,618	1,802	1,562	1,738	2,089

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

- 492 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q3 2018, the number of grants has reduced during 2018.
- At the end of Q3 2018 2,757 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,307 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
Number of grants	1,364	1,389	618	404	492

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

	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
Number supported	2,531	2,689	2,890	2,809	2,757

## ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

### Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 754 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q3 2018, a 43% decrease from Q3 2017 (1,331).
- 572 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q3 2018, a 42% decrease from Q3 2017 (992).
- 141 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q3 2018, a 25% decrease from Q3 2017 (187).
- 41 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q3 2018, a 73% decrease from Q3 2017 (152).

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

	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
<b>Enforced</b>	694	618	590	431	372
<b>Assisted Voluntary</b>	187	166	228	213	141
<b>Notified Voluntary</b>	298	325	300	287	200
<b>Other Voluntary</b>	152	113	133	61	41
<b>Total</b>	1,331	1,222	1,251	992	754

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

## Detention

### Persons leaving detention

- A total of 2,572 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q3 2018; 568 (22% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q3 2018, 1,004 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 966 had been detained for 28 days or less. 13 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months. 1 person had been detained for 24 months or more.

## Persons Detained at the end of Q3 2018

- At the end of Q3 2018 a total of 2,049 persons were detained, at this point none of those detained were children.
- 1,283 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (63% of all immigration detainees)
- 89% of all detainees at the end of Q3 2018 were male.

## Children in Detention

- 10 children were recorded as entering detention in Q3 2018. 7 of them were asylum detainees. In the same period 10 children left detention.

## Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries of origin with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q3 2018

	End of Q3 2017	End of Q3 2018
India	250	163
Albania	113	138
China	110	126
Bangladesh	274	116
Pakistan	257	112
Iraq	79	61
Vietnam	75	58
Nigeria	104	53
Afghanistan	82	34
Ukraine	18	29

## CHILDREN:

### Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 799 in Q3 2018, an increase compared with the previous four quarters.

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

	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
Applications	588	663	600	573	799

- Eritrea was the top country of origin for unaccompanied children (23% of all applications in Q3 2018). Sudan accounted for 17% of applications, Vietnam for 11%, Albania for 11%, Iraq for 10%, Iran for 8%, Afghanistan for 7%, and Ethiopia for 5%. Together these eight countries accounted for over 90% of all applications in Q3 2018.

- In Q3 2018 88% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to the previous quarter.
- In Q3 2018 90 asylum applications by unaccompanied children were made by girls.
- There are a small number of applications recorded as sex unknown.

Table 13: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
Q3 2018	799	90	11%
Q2 2018	573	61	11%
Q1 2018	600	61	10%
Q4 2017	663	62	9%
Q3 2017	588	66	11%

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 2018 was 237, an increase compared with recent quarters. Eritrea (72), Sudan (40), Afghanistan (33) Iraq (24), Vietnam (15) and Iran (15) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q3 2018.

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

	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
Applications	187	211	190	157	237

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
Q3 2018	365	219	9	0	68	1	68
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

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>Q3 2018</b>	198	68	8	1	0	0	121
<b>Q2 2018</b>	230	74	5	0	0	1	150
<b>Q1 2018</b>	232	79	5	0	0	1	147
<b>Q4 2017</b>	201	76	4	1	0	0	120
<b>Q3 2017</b>	105	58	2	0	0	1	44

## ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q3 2018 there were 2,196 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 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018
Number of main applicants	6522	7225	6,713	6,584	7,444
Number of dependants	1,949	1,975	1,903	1,793	2,196

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-september-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.