

Quarterly asylum statistics

May 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 Q1 2018 compared with Q1 2017.

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

Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
6,516	6,172	6,487	7,175	6,713

Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2017 there was a decrease in the number of applicants from half of the top ten countries of origin, and an increase from half. The largest percentage increases were from Eritrea, Afghanistan, and Sudan.

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

	Q1 2017	Q1 2018	% change
Iraq	602	627	-4%
Pakistan	663	581	-12%
Iran	664	577	-13%
Albania	357	397	+11%
Afghanistan	287	367	+28%
Sudan	289	361	+25%
India	389	321	-17%
Bangladesh	480	320	-33%
Eritrea	205	304	+48%
Vietnam	263	285	+8%

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 83% in Q1 2018.

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

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
In-country	5,632	5,335	5,443	5,885	5,545
Port	884	837	1,044	1,290	1,168
Total	6,516	6,172	6,487	7,175	6,713

DECISIONS:

- In Q1 2018, 5,990 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; a marginal decrease compared with Q1 2017 (5,953) and a 10% increase over the previous quarter.
- 19% of initial decisions in Q1 2018 were to grant asylum, compared with 31% in Q1 2017. 3.5% of initial decisions in Q1 2018 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 0.8% in Q1 2017 and 74% were refusals, an increase on recent quarters.

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

	Q1 2017		Q2 2017		Q3 2017		Q4 2017		Q1 2018	
Decisions	5,953		4,883		5,000		5,454		5,990	
Refugee status	1,825	31%	1,541	32%	1,297	26%	1,294	24%	1,164	19%
Humanitarian Protection	17	0.3%	26	0.5%	64	1.3%	39	0.7%	165	3%
Discretionary Leave	31	0.5%	12	0.2%	21	0.4%	22	0.4%	28	0.5%
Other Grants	147	2.5%	132	2.7%	144	2.2%	166	3%	213	3.5%
Refused	3,933	66%	3,172	65%	3,474	69%	3,933	72%	4,420	74%

- Countries with an above average percentage of applicants granted protection in Q1 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	614	194	1	2	18	399
Iraq	593	41	7	11	29	505
Pakistan	476	55	0	1	5	415
Bangladesh	364	12	0	0	3	349
Sudan	357	92	0	0	5	260
Afghanistan	352	82	3	1	37	229
Albania	278	8	0	2	17	251
Eritrea	246	161	1	0	1	83
Nigeria	226	16	0	2	21	187
Syria	185	148	0	0	0	37

APPEALS:

- 3,030 appeals were determined in Q1 2018, an increase on the previous two quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 37% in Q1 2018, while 59% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarter

	Q1 2017		Q2 2017		Q3 2017		Q4 2017		Q1 2018	
Determined	5,205		3,455		2,850		2,639		3,030	
Allowed	1,806	35%	1,175	34%	1,050	37%	991	38%	1,116	37%
Dismissed	3,111	60%	2,143	62%	1,690	59%	1,568	59%	1,785	59%
Withdrawn	288	6%	137	4%	110	4%	80	3%	129	4%

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q1 2018 was 42,352, an increase of 8% from Q1 2017.
- 3,220 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q1 2018.
- 39,132 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q1 2018.
- The region of the UK with the largest number of people in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q1 2018 was the North West (10,111).
- 1,562 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q1 2018

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

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
Dispersed accommodation	36,504	36,127	36,510	37,716	39,132
Subsistence only	2,861	2,827	2,904	3,020	3,220
Initial accommodation	1,563	1,447	1,618	1,802	1,562

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

- 1,314 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q1 2018, similar to the previous three quarters.
- At the end of Q1 2018 2,890 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,443 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
Number of grants	1,193	1,311	1,364	1,389	1,314

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

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
Number supported	2,462	2,493	2,531	2,689	2,890

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 1,002 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q1 2018, a 22% decrease from Q1 2017 (1,285).
- 738 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q1 2018, a 22% decrease from Q1 2017 (944).
- 190 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q1 2018, a 3% increase from Q1 2017 (184).
- 74 asylum seekers left via other types of voluntary departures in Q1 2018, a 53% decrease from Q1 2017 (157).

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

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
Enforced	681	626	636	598	484
Assisted Voluntary	184	172	162	162	190
Notified Voluntary	263	278	278	313	254
Other Voluntary	157	106	128	98	74
Total	1,285	1,182	1,204	1,171	1,002

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

Detention

Persons leaving detention

- A total of 3,067 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q1 2018; 705 (23% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q1 2018, 1,043 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 1,180 had been detained for 28 days or less. 18 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months and 1 for 24 months or more.

Persons Detained at the end of Q1 2018

- At the end of Q1 2018 a total of 2,758 persons were detained, at this point none of those detained were children.
- 1,610 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (58% of all immigration detainees)
- 89% of all detainees at the end of Q1 2018 were male.

Children in Detention

- 17 children were recorded as entering detention in Q1 2018. 10 of them were asylum detainees. In the same period 17 children left detention.

Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q1 2018

	End of Q1 2017	End of Q1 2018
India	171	200
Pakistan	189	182
Bangladesh	150	163
Albania	77	123
China	71	118
Nigeria	120	109
Iraq	117	59
Afghanistan	95	56
Vietnam	90	56
Somalia	30	46

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 600 in Q1 2018, an increase compared with Q1 2017 (499), but similar to the previous quarter.

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

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
Applications	499	547	543	617	600

- Sudan was the top country of origin for the number of unaccompanied children (19% of all applications in Q1 2018). Eritrea accounted for 14% of applications, Iraq for 12%, Vietnam for 11%, Afghanistan for 10%, Albania for 10% and Iran for 9%. Together these seven countries accounted for well over 80% of all applications in Q1 2018.

- In Q1 2018 90% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to the previous quarter.
- In Q1 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
Q1 2018	600	61	10%
Q4 2017	617	58	9%
Q3 2017	543	61	11%
Q2 2017	547	53	10%
Q1 2017	499	69	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 Q1 2018 was 190, an increase compared with Q1 2017, but similar to recent quarters. Eritrea (46), Afghanistan (32), Sudan (28), Vietnam (21) and Iraq (20) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q1 2018.

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

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
Applications	147	167	188	210	190

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
Q1 2018	328	176	7	0	98	0	47
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

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
Q1 2018	232	79	5	0	0	1	147
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

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q1 2018 there were 1,903 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

	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017	Q1 2018
Number of main applicants	6,516	6,172	6,487	7,175	6,713
Number of dependants	1,951	1,606	1,759	1,846	1,903

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-march-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.