

Quarterly asylum statistics

May 2019

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 Q1 2019 compared with Q1 2018 and with each of the earlier quarters of 2018.

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

Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
6,713	6,584	7,444	8,639	8,922

Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2018 there was an increase in the number of applicants from eight of the top ten countries of origin. The largest percentage increases were from Iran, Albania and Eritrea.

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

	Q1 2018	Q1 2019	% change
Iran	577	1,126	+95%
Iraq	627	874	+39%
Albania	397	873	+120%
Eritrea	304	573	+88%
Pakistan	581	496	-15%
Sudan	361	453	+25%
India	321	387	+21%
Vietnam	285	373	+31%
Bangladesh	320	353	+10%
Afghanistan	367	317	-14%

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 Q1 2019.

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

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
In-country	5,545	5,256	5,940	6,742	7,283
Port	1,168	1,328	1,504	1,897	1,639
Total	6,713	6,584	7,444	8,639	8,922

DECISIONS:

- In Q1 2019 5,346 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; an increase compared with the three previous quarters.
- 43% of initial decisions in Q1 2019 were to grant asylum, compared with only 19% in Q1 2018. 3% of initial decisions in Q1 2019 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 3.5% in Q1 2018 and 51% were refusals, a decrease from recent quarters.

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

	Q1 2018		Q2 2018		Q3 2018		Q4 2018		Q1 2019	
Decisions	5,990		5,223		5,100		4,806		5,346	
Refugee status	1,164	19%	1,225	23%	1,519	30%	1,650	34%	2,286	43%
Humanitarian Protection	165	3%	138	2.6%	145	2.8%	136	2.8%	134	2.5%
Discretionary Leave	28	0.5%	33	0.6%	24	0.5%	19	0.4%	24	0.5%
Other Grants	213	3.5%	220	4%	144	2.8%	110	2.3%	153	3%
Refused	4,420	74%	3,607	69%	3,268	64%	2,891	60%	2,749	51%

- Countries with an above average percentage of applicants granted protection in Q1 2019 included Iran, Eritrea, Sudan and Syria. Several countries had very high refusal rates.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q1 2019, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	955	592	0	0	7	356
Eritrea	559	439	0	0	2	118
Iraq	489	78	31	3	17	360
Sudan	439	332	0	0	0	107
Albania	335	31	1	2	25	276
Afghanistan	317	152	18	0	11	136
Pakistan	228	59	1	1	8	159
Vietnam	179	60	14	1	9	95
Nigeria	174	28	0	5	25	116
Syria	140	117	0	0	0	19

APPEALS:

- 2,654 appeals were determined in Q1 2019, a slight decrease from the previous three quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 39% in Q1 2019, while 55% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarter

	Q1 2018		Q2 2018		Q3 2018		Q4 2018		Q1 2019	
Determined	3,030		2,867		2,818		2,707		2,654	
Allowed	1,116	37%	1,136	40%	1,100	39%	1,027	38%	1,044	39%
Dismissed	1,785	59%	1,617	56%	1,976	56%	1,532	57%	1,458	55%
Withdrawn	129	4%	114	4%	142	5%	148	5%	152	6%

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q1 2019 was 45,643, a small increase from Q1 2018.
- 3,046 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q1 2019.
- 42,597 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q1 2019.
- The region of the UK with the largest number of people in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q1 2019 was the North West (10,582).
- 1,832 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q1 2019

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

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
Dispersed accommodation	39,132	39,876	40,481	41,309	42,597
Subsistence only	3,220	2,932	2,902	2,949	3,046
Initial accommodation	1,562	1,738	2,089	2,129	1,832

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

- 521 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q1 2019, the number of grants had reduced during 2018.
- At the end of Q1 2019 2,744 applicants, excluding dependants, were receiving Section 4 support. 1,282 dependants were also receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
Number of grants	618	404	492	493	521

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

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
Number supported	2,890	2,809	2,757	2,744	2,718

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 786 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q1 2019, a 37% decrease from Q1 2018 (1,251).
- 479 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q1 2019, a 46% decrease from Q1 2018 (890).
- 162 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q1 2019, a 29% decrease from Q1 2018 (228).
- 66 asylum seekers left via other types of verified voluntary departures in Q1 2019, a 50% decrease from Q1 2018 (133).

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

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
Enforced	590	431	442	364	317
Assisted Voluntary	228	211	233	223	241
Notified Voluntary	300	293	191	160	162
Other Verified Returns	133	62	80	87	66
Total	1,251	997	946	834	786

Note: The most recent figures are often revised in later statistical releases, usually upwards, so percentage decreases can change significantly when this happens.

Detention

Persons leaving detention

- A total of 2,395 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q1 2019; 462 (19% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q1 2019, 1,044 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 816 had been detained for 28 days or less. 9 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months. 1 person had been detained for over 24 months.

Persons Detained at the end of Q1 2019

- At the end of Q1 2019 a total of 1,839 persons were detained, at this point none of those detained were children.
- 1,132 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (62% of all immigration detainees)
- 92% of all detainees at the end of Q1 2019 were male.

Children in Detention

- 21 children were recorded as entering detention in Q1 2019. 9 of them were asylum detainees. In the same period 21 children left detention.

Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries of origin with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q1 2019

	End of Q1 2018	End of Q1 2019
Albania	123	144
India	126	129
Pakistan	82	91
China	105	88
Vietnam	53	73
Bangladesh	94	72
Iraq	52	62
Iran	20	53
Nigeria	39	35
Somalia	34	28

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 951 in Q1 2019, an increase compared with the previous four quarters.

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

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
Applications	600	573	799	900	951

- Eritrea was the top country of origin for unaccompanied children (21% of all applications in Q1 2019). Iraq accounted for 17% of applications, Iran for 15%, Sudan for 13%, Vietnam for 9%, Albania and Afghanistan for 7% each. Together these seven countries accounted for almost 90% of all applications in Q1 2019.

- In Q1 2019 88% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to the previous quarter.
- In Q1 2019 110 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
Q1 2019	951	110	12%
Q4 2018	900	107	12%
Q3 2018	799	90	11%
Q2 2018	573	61	11%
Q1 2018	600	61	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 Q1 2019 was 285, similar to the previous quarter. Eritrea (83), Sudan (39), Iran (32), Iraq (32), and Afghanistan (30) were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q1 2019.

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

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
Applications	190	157	237	288	285

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 2019	392	297	16	0	47	0	32
Q4 2018	302	205	20	1	47	0	29
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

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 2019	398	205	25	1	0	2	165
Q4 2018	164	78	11	1	0	1	73
Q3 2018	198	68	8	1	0	0	121
Q2 2018	230	74	5	0	0	1	150
Q1 2018	232	79	5	0	0	1	147

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q1 2019 there were 2,258 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 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019
Number of main applicants	6,713	6,584	7,444	8,629	8,922
Number of dependants	1,903	1,793	2,196	2,191	2,258

For the detailed statistics on dependants see the Refugee Council briefing on annual trends in statistics.

FAMILY REUNION:

Adults who have been granted refugee status or humanitarian are entitled to apply for family reunion. Immediate family members, defined as spouses or partners and children under the age of 18 are eligible to obtain entry to the UK.

Table 18: Family reunion entry clearance visa grants by quarter

	Total	Under 18	18 and Over
Q1 2019	1,643	866	777
Q4 2018	1,379	713	666
Q3 2018	1,384	594	790
Q2 2018	1,256	593	663
Q1 2018	1,881	881	1,000

The majority of the outstanding family reunion applications at the end of Q1 2019 have been waiting for a decision for less than 6 months.

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-2019-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.

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