

Quarterly asylum statistics

August 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 Q2 2019 compared with Q2 2018 but decreased compared with the previous two quarters.

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

Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
6,608	7,479	8,659	8,922	7,633

Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2018 there was an increase in the number of applicants from four of the top ten countries of origin. The largest percentage increases were from Iran and Albania. Several countries showed significant decreases in numbers.

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

	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	% change
Iran	649	874	+35%
Albania	502	754	+50%
Iraq	647	702	+9%
Pakistan	644	452	-30%
Eritrea	589	394	-33%
India	415	363	-13%
Sudan	387	332	-14%
Afghanistan	422	326	-23%
Vietnam	275	314	+14%
Bangladesh	408	288	-29%

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 2019.

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

	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
In-country	5,256	5,940	6,742	7,283	6,140
Port	1,328	1,504	1,897	1,639	1,493
Total	6,584	7,444	8,639	8,922	7,633

DECISIONS:

- In Q2 2019 5,011 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; a slight decrease compared with three of the previous four quarters.
- 46% of initial decisions in Q2 2019 were to grant asylum, compared with only 23% in Q2 2018. 3.4% of initial decisions in Q2 2019 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, compared with 3.2% in Q2 2018 and 48% were refusals, a decrease from recent quarters.

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

	Q2 2018		Q3 2018		Q4 2018		Q1 2019		Q2 2019	
Decisions	5,223		5,100		4,806		5,462		5,011	
Refugee status	1,225	23%	1,519	30%	1,650	34%	2,286	42%	2,285	46%
Humanitarian Protection	138	2.6%	145	2.8%	136	2.8%	134	2.5%	154	3%
Discretionary Leave	33	0.6%	24	0.5%	19	0.4%	24	0.4%	19	0.4%
Other Grants	220	4%	144	2.8%	110	2.3%	269	5%	136	2.7%
Refused	3,607	69%	3,268	64%	2,891	60%	2,749	50%	2,417	48%

- Countries with an above average percentage of applicants granted protection in Q2 2019 included Iran, Eritrea, Sudan, Afghanistan and Turkey. Several countries had very high refusal rates.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q2 2019, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	880	570	3	3	10	294
Iraq	818	168	53	1	17	579
Eritrea	504	448	0	0	0	56
Sudan	447	385	0	0	10	52
Albania	444	58	0	3	32	351
Afghanistan	423	271	13	0	6	133
Nigeria	311	42	2	13	55	199
Pakistan	310	79	0	1	14	216
Turkey	238	185	0	0	1	52
India	207	3	0	4	19	181

APPEALS:

- 2,389 appeals were determined in Q2 2019, a decrease from the previous three quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 42% in Q2 2019, while 51% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarter

	Q2 2018		Q3 2018		Q4 2018		Q1 2019		Q2 2019	
Determined	2,948		2,834		2,728		2,654		2,389	
Allowed	1,157	39%	1,115	39%	1,041	38%	1,044	39%	1,000	42%
Dismissed	1,687	57%	1,586	56%	1,546	57%	1,458	55%	1,226	51%
Withdrawn	104	4%	133	5%	141	5%	152	6%	163	7%

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q2 2019 was 45,203, an increase from Q2 2018.
- 3,021 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q2 2019.
- 42,182 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2019.
- The region of the UK with the largest number of people in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2019 was the North West (10,243).
- 1,583 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q2 2019

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

	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Dispersed accommodation	39,876	40,481	41,316	42,602	42,182
Subsistence only	2,932	2,902	2,949	3,046	3,021
Initial accommodation	1,738	2,089	2,129	1,832	1,583

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

- 580 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q2 2019, the number of grants had reduced during 2018.
- At the end of Q2 2019 3,893 applicants, including dependants, were receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Number of grants	404	492	493	521	580

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

	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Number supported	4,179	4,064	4,032	3,903	3,893

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- Including dependants, 722 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK in Q2 2019, a 28% decrease from Q2 2018 (1009).
- 443 asylum seekers left via enforced removals and notified voluntary departures from the UK in Q2 2019, a 32% decrease from Q2 2018 (656).
- 215 asylum seekers left under Assisted Voluntary Return schemes in Q2 2019, a 23% decrease from Q2 2018 (281).
- 64 asylum seekers left via other types of verified voluntary departures in Q2 2019, an 11% decrease from Q2 2018 (72).

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

	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Enforced	434	441	364	381	313
Assisted Voluntary	281	233	223	259	215
Notified Voluntary	222	192	161	220	130
Other Verified Returns	72	81	88	106	64
Total	1009	947	836	966	722

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 2,249 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q2 2019; 365 (16% of the total) were asylum detainees.
- Of those removed from the UK from detention in Q2 2019, 978 people had been detained for 3 days or less and a further 741 had been detained for 28 days or less. 15 people had been detained for 12 – 24 months. No one had been detained for over 24 months.

Persons Detained at the end of Q2 2019

- At the end of Q2 2019 a total of 1,727 persons were detained, at this point none of those detained were children.
- 1,124 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (65% of all immigration detainees)
- 92% of all detainees at the end of Q2 2019 were male.

Children in Detention

- 22 children were recorded as entering detention in Q2 2019. 17 of them were asylum detainees. In the same period 22 children left detention.

Detained Asylum Seekers by Nationality

Table 11: Countries of origin with largest numbers of asylum detainees, end of Q2 2019

	End of Q2 2018	End of Q2 2019
Albania	120	161
India	173	126
China	101	106
Pakistan	128	87
Bangladesh	150	75
Iraq	81	55
Vietnam	53	46
Iran	20	42
Afghanistan	40	33
Nigeria	77	32

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 753 in Q2 2019, a decrease compared with the previous three quarters.

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

	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Applications	573	799	900	951	753

- Eritrea was the top country of origin for unaccompanied children (17% of all applications in Q2 2019). Sudan accounted for 15%, Iraq for 14%, Iran for 13%, Vietnam and Afghanistan for 10% each and Albania for 6%. Together these seven countries accounted for almost well over 80% of all applications in Q2 2019.

- In Q2 2019 90% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to the previous quarter.
- In Q2 2019 73 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
Q2 2019	753	72	10%
Q1 2019	951	110	12%
Q4 2018	900	107	12%
Q3 2018	799	90	11%
Q2 2018	573	61	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 Q2 2019 was 144, a significant decrease compared with the previous three quarters. Eritrea (35), Afghanistan (21), Sudan (21), Iran (17) and Iraq (16), were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q2 2019.

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

	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Applications	157	240	290	285	144

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 2019	521	401	22	0	41	2	55
Q1 2019	475	297	16	0	47	83	32
Q4 2018	302	207	20	1	46	0	28
Q3 2018	365	219	9	0	68	1	68
Q2 2018	329	172	8	1	104	0	44

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 2019	330	153	18	3	0	1	155
Q1 2019	398	205	25	1	0	2	165
Q4 2018	165	79	11	1	0	1	73
Q3 2018	199	68	9	1	0	0	121
Q2 2018	229	73	5	0	0	1	150

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q2 2019 there were 1,873 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 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Number of main applicants	6,584	7,444	8,629	8,922	7,633
Number of dependants	1,793	2,196	2,191	2,258	1,873

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 protection 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
Q2 2019	1,735	885	850
Q1 2019	1,607	817	790
Q4 2018	1,323	661	662
Q3 2018	1,328	550	778
Q2 2018	1,220	551	669

The majority of the outstanding family reunion applications at the end of Q2 2019 have been waiting for a decision for less than 6 months.

WOMEN AND GIRLS:

- In Q2 of 2019 there were 2,023 applications where the main applicant was a woman or girl. This represents 27% of all applications, a similar figure to previous quarters.

Table 19: Applications by women or girls by quarter

	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019
Total	6,608	7,479	8,659	8,922	7,633
Female	1,888	1,997	2,170	2,258	2,023
% Female	29%	27%	25%	25%	27%

- The proportion of female applicants varies considerably from country to country. For a very small number of countries there are more female than male applicants whereas in many countries the percentage of female applicants is low. Among the countries with the largest number of female applicants in Q2 2019 China, Nigeria and Namibia have high percentages.

Table 20: Female applicants from the top ten applicant producing countries Q2 2019

	Female Applicants	Total	% Female
Iran	166	874	19%
Albania	214	754	28%
Iraq	133	702	19%
Pakistan	94	452	21%
Eritrea	99	394	25%
India	77	363	21%
Sudan	42	332	13%
Afghanistan	48	326	15%
Vietnam	113	314	36%
Bangladesh	30	288	10%

Table 21: Top ten countries for female applicants Q2 2019

	Female Applicants	% Female
Albania	214	28%
Iran	166	19%
China	146	46%
Iraq	133	19%
Vietnam	113	36%
Eritrea	99	25%
Pakistan	94	21%
Nigeria	93	51%
India	77	21%
Namibia	58	51%

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/statistical-data-sets/immigration-statistics-data-tables-year-ending-june-2019#asylum-and-resettlement>

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.