

Quarterly asylum statistics

August 2022

This briefing covers the latest quarterly asylum statistics. For annual and longer term trends see the Refugee Council briefing on asylum trends.

The most recent period for which statistics have been published is the second quarter of 2022. Many of the figures in recent quarters show the impact of coronavirus and the lockdown restrictions and differ significantly from previous quarters as a result.

APPLICATIONS:

- The number of applications for asylum in the UK in Q4 2021 was the highest quarterly figure since 2003. The numbers reduced in Q1 2022 but rose again in Q2.

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

Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
8,977	15,573	19,502	12,508	15,506

Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2021 there were large increases in the number of applicants from all the top ten countries of origin except Eritrea, Sudan and Syria.

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

	Q2 2021	Q2 2022	% change
Albania	1,042	3,082	+196%
Iran	1,019	1,439	+41%
Afghanistan	397	1,303	+228%
Bangladesh	207	901	+335%
Iraq	593	895	+51%
Eritrea	1,060	702	-34%
Sudan	636	651	+2%
India	189	638	+238%
Syria	556	621	+12%
Pakistan	228	472	+107%

Applications by location

- The proportion of applications made at ports and in-country changed only marginally before Q2 2020 but increased hugely to 97% in-country in Q2 2020 and remained high, at 89%, in Q3 and then fell to 79% in Q4 but rose again during 2021, and was 83% in Q1 2022 and 86% in Q2 2022.

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

	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
In-country	8,009	14,088	17,155	10,421	13,285
Port	968	1,485	2,347	2,087	2,221
Total	8,977	15,573	19,502	12,508	15,506

DECISIONS:

- In Q2 2022 3,825 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; similar to the previous four quarters.
- 73% of initial decisions in Q2 2022 were to grant asylum, similar to the previous three quarters. 3.2% of initial decisions in Q2 2022 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, and 23% were refusals, similar to Q4 2021 and Q1 2022 and a significant decrease from earlier quarters.

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

	Q2 2021		Q3 2021		Q4 2021		Q1 2022		Q2 2022	
Decisions	3,705		3,475		3,528		3,877		3,825	
Refugee status	2,452	66%	2,430	70%	2,473	70%	2,786	72%	2,782	73%
Humanitarian Protection	131	3.5%	111	3%	146	4%	181	5%	108	3%
Discretionary Leave	5	0.1%	5	0.1%	9	0.3%	3	0.1%	8	0.2%
Other Grants	61	2%	26	0.8%	28	0.8%	23	0.6%	33	0.9%
Refused	1,056	28.5%	903	26%	872	25%	885	23%	894	23%

- Countries with an above average percentage of applicants granted protection in Q2 2022 included Iran, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan and Syria.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q2 2022, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	697	528	0	0	0	169
Eritrea	601	589	1	1	0	10
Afghanistan	314	309	0	1	0	4
Syria	244	234	0	1	0	9
Sudan	243	219	1	0	1	22
Vietnam	216	164	0	0	1	51
Iraq	198	84	30	1	4	79
Albania	173	75	3	1	2	92
Pakistan	85	46	0	0	2	37
El Salvador	76	14	12	0	0	50

APPEALS:

- 1,001 appeals were determined in Q2 2022, similar to recent quarters but still lower than in previous years.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 47% in Q2 2022, while 41% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarter

	Q2 2021		Q3 2021		Q4 2021		Q1 2022		Q2 2022	
Determined	1,038		918		995		963		1,001	
Allowed	448	43%	409	44.5%	355	35.5%	421	44%	469	47%
Dismissed	507	49%	432	47%	355	35.5%	410	43%	413	41%
Withdrawn	83	8%	77	8.4%	285	29%	132	14%	119	12%

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q2 2022 was 77,359, a significant increase from earlier quarters.
- 4,795 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q2 2022.
- 72,564 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2022.
- The region of the UK with the largest number of people in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q2 2022 was London (18,103) having previously been North West England for some time.
- 33,364 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q2 2022, a large increase from earlier quarters.

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

	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Dispersed accommodation	41,633	40,940	49,949	48,097	72,564
Subsistence only	4,621	4,917	4,720	4,618	4,795
Initial accommodation (s98)	10,682	16,794	24,175	26,859	33,364

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

- At the end of Q2 2022 5,386 applicants, including dependants, were receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Numbers in receipt of Section 4 Support at the end of the quarter (incl. dependants).

	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Number supported	5,935	6,096	5,613	5,433	5,386

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- In the year ending March 2022 794 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, a 20% decrease from the year ending March 2021 (996).
- 128 asylum seekers left via enforced removals from the UK in the year ending March 2022, a 48% decrease from the year ending March 2021 (244).
- 666 asylum seekers left under Voluntary Return schemes in the year ending March 2022, a 11% decrease from the year ending March 2021 (752).

Note: The most recent figures are often revised in subsequent statistical releases, usually upwards, so percentage decreases can change significantly when this happens. The figures for the year ending June 2022 have not yet been published.

Detention

Persons entering and leaving detention

In the year ending June 2022 a total of 24,004 people were recorded as entering detention of whom 18,949 were asylum cases. In the same period 23,529 people left detention of whom 18,754 were asylum cases. Some people may have been in detention more than once.

Persons Detained at the end of Q2 2022

- At the end of Q2 2022 a total of 2,038 persons were detained, at this point there were no children in detention.
- 1,317 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (56% of all immigration detainees).
- 317 children were recorded as entering detention during the year ending June 2022.

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 1,088 in Q2 2022, an increase from the previous quarter but lower than the latter part of 2021.

Table 9: Asylum applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum (excl. dependants)

	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Applications	828	1,445	1,528	835	1,088

- Afghanistan was the top country of origin for unaccompanied children (25% of all applications in Q2 2022). Sudan accounted for 16%, Iran for 14%, Eritrea for 12%, Albania for 9% and Syria for 5%. These six countries accounted for over 80% of all applications in Q2 2022.

- In Q2 2022 just under 8% of applicants were female, similar to recent quarters.
- In Q2 2022 84 asylum applications by unaccompanied children were made by girls.
- There are a small number of applications (2), recorded as sex unknown.

Table 10: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
Q2 2022	1,088	84	8%
Q1 2022	835	44	5%
Q4 2021	1,528	52	3.5%
Q3 2021	1,445	79	5.5%
Q2 2021	828	58	7%

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 2022 was 639. Cases had increased significantly in Q3 and Q4 2021 compared with the previous quarters. Afghanistan was easily the country with the largest number of cases (218), followed by Iran (124), Sudan (94), Eritrea (54) and Iraq (23).

Table 11: Age Disputed Asylum applications (excl. dependants)

	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Applications	527	914	908	428	639

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, according to Home Office policy. The wording of this policy reverted, in January 2022 to state that 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”. Between June 2019 and January 2022 the wording was “very strongly suggests that they are 25 years or over”.

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. Decisions on over 18s have increased in recent quarters.

Table 12: 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 2022	271	267	0	0	2	0	2
Q1 2022	164	155	5	0	0	0	4
Q4 2021	252	238	4	0	0	0	10
Q3 2021	221	206	5	0	3	0	7
Q2 2021	238	206	7	0	17	0	8

Table 13: 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 2022	572	459	17	0	0	0	96
Q1 2022	472	374	34	0	0	0	64
Q4 2021	496	410	30	9	9	9	56
Q3 2021	473	406	19	1	0	1	46
Q2 2021	380	300	18	0	0	2	60

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q2 2022 there were 3,328 dependants included in asylum applications.
- 2,225 of the dependants were under 18 years old and 1,902 were female.

Table 14: Dependants included in asylum applications

	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Number of main applicants	8,977	15,573	19,502	12,508	15,506
Number of dependants	1,514	2,452	3,368	2,944	3,328

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 apply for entry to the UK.

Table 15: Family reunion entry clearance visa grants by quarter

	Total	Under 18	18 and Over
Q2 2022	897	481	416
Q1 2022	1,417	787	630
Q4 2021	1,259	672	587
Q3 2021	1,717	907	810
Q2 2021	1,607	827	780

The number of cases dealt with has increased from a very small number of cases dealt with in Q2 2020 but that may be partly due to a significant backlog of applications.

WOMEN AND GIRLS:

- In Q2 2022, there were 2,713 applications where the main applicant was a woman or girl. This represents 17% of all applications, about average for recent quarters.

Table 16: Applications by women or girls by quarter

	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
Total	8,977	15,573	19,502	12,508	15,506
Female	1,406	1,929	2,431	2,405	2,713
% Female	16%	12%	12%	19%	17%

- 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 applicants in Q2 2022 Eritrea and Pakistan have above average percentages of female applicants. Of the countries with the largest number of female applicants Nigeria and El Salvador have the highest percentages of female applicants.

Table 17: Female applicants from the top ten applicant producing countries Q2 2022

	Female Applicants	Total	% Female
Albania	247	3,082	8%
Iran	226	1,439	16%
Afghanistan	79	1,303	6%
Bangladesh	125	901	14%
Iraq	137	895	15%
Eritrea	200	702	28%
Sudan	42	651	6%
India	95	638	15%
Syria	56	621	9%
Pakistan	114	472	24%

Table 18: Top ten countries for female applicants Q2 2022

	Female Applicants	% Female of total application
Albania	247	8%
Iran	226	16%
Eritrea	200	28%
Iraq	137	15%
Bangladesh	125	14%
Pakistan	114	24%
El Salvador	111	35%
India	95	15%
Nigeria	95	44%
Vietnam	83	24%

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-2022/list-of-tables>

For older statistics follow this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/migration-statistics>

The user guide to the Immigration statistics can be found via this link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/user-guide-to-home-office-immigration-statistics--9>

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.