

Quarterly asylum statistics

November 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 third 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 Q3 2022 was the highest quarterly figure in over 20 years. The numbers reduced in Q1 2022 but rose again in Q2 and especially in Q3.

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

Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
15,573	19,502	12,508	15,506	24,511

Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2021 there were large increases in the number of applicants from some of the top ten countries of origin, especially Albania. but decreases in others.

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

	Q3 2021	Q3 2022	% change
Albania	1,178	7,561	+542%
Afghanistan	998	2,618	+162%
Iran	3,325	2,225	-33%
Syria	961	1,150	+20%
Iraq	1,600	1,109	-31%
Sudan	799	1,006	+26%
Bangladesh	308	857	+178%
Eritrea	2,259	777	-66%
Turkey	126	614	+387%
India	208	607	+192%

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 over 90% in Q3 2022.

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

	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
In-country	14,088	17,155	10,421	13,285	22,414
Port	1,485	2,347	2,087	2,221	2,097
Total	15,573	19,502	12,508	15,506	24,511

DECISIONS:

- In Q3 2022 5,169 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; an increase compared with the previous four quarters but still well below the number of applications.
- 73% of initial decisions in Q3 2022 were to grant asylum, similar to the previous three quarters. 3.6% of initial decisions in Q3 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

	Q3 2021		Q4 2021		Q1 2022		Q2 2022		Q3 2022	
Decisions	3,475		3,528		3,877		3,825		5,169	
Refugee status	2,430	70%	2,473	70%	2,786	72%	2,782	73%	3,778	73%
Humanitarian Protection	111	3%	146	4%	181	5%	108	3%	180	3.5%
Discretionary Leave	5	0.1%	9	0.3%	3	0.1%	8	0.2%	7	0.1%
Other Grants	26	0.8%	28	0.8%	23	0.6%	33	0.9%	36	0.7%
Refused	903	26%	872	25%	885	23%	894	23%	1,168	23%

- Countries with an above average percentage of applicants granted protection in Q3 2022 included Afghanistan, Eritrea and Syria.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q3 2022, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	916	741	0	0	5	170
Eritrea	717	710	0	0	0	7
Afghanistan	682	661	5	0	0	16
Sudan	417	332	2	0	0	83
Syria	413	408	1	0	0	4
Iraq	406	186	42	0	6	172
Albania	219	114	2	0	2	101
Turkey	206	183	0	0	1	22
Pakistan	191	111	4	1	12	63
Vietnam	188	129	1	0	0	58

APPEALS:

- 911 appeals were determined in Q3 2022, similar to recent quarters but still lower than in previous years.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 47% in Q3 2022, while 43% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarter

	Q3 2021		Q4 2021		Q1 2022		Q2 2022		Q3 2022	
Determined	918		995		963		1,001		911	
Allowed	409	44.5%	355	35.5%	421	44%	469	47%	426	47%
Dismissed	432	47%	355	35.5%	410	43%	413	41%	389	43%
Withdrawn	77	8.4%	285	29%	132	14%	119	12%	96	11%

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q3 2022 was 58,200, a significant increase from earlier quarters.
- 4,902 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q3 2022.
- 53,298 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2022.
- The region of the UK with the largest number of people in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2022 was the North West of England (11,130).
- 37,142 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q3 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)

	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
Dispersed accommodation	40,940	49,949	48,097	53,579	53,298
Subsistence only	4,917	4,720	4,618	4,794	4,902
Initial accommodation (s98)	16,794	24,175	26,859	29,321	37,142

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

- At the end of Q3 2022 5,205 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).

	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
Number supported	6,096	5,613	5,433	5,386	5,205

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- In the year ending June 2022 774 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, a 32% decrease from the year ending June 2021 (1,134).
- 116 asylum seekers left via enforced removals from the UK in the year ending June 2022, a 58% decrease from the year ending June 2021 (275).
- 658 asylum seekers left under Voluntary Return schemes in the year ending June 2022, a 23% decrease from the year ending June 2021 (859).

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 September 2022 have not yet been published.

Detention

Persons entering and leaving detention

In the year ending September 2022 a total of 23,228 people were recorded as entering detention of whom 17,209 were asylum cases. In the same period 22,643 people left detention of whom 16,899 were asylum cases. Some people may have been in detention more than once.

Persons Detained at the end of Q3 2022

- At the end of Q3 2022 a total of 2,077 persons were detained, at this point there were no children in detention.
- 1,383 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (67% of all immigration detainees).
- 139 children were recorded as entering detention during the year ending September 2022.

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 1,701 in Q3 2022, the highest number for many years.

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

	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
Applications	1,445	1,528	835	1,088	1,701

- Albania was the top country of origin for unaccompanied children (34% of all applications in Q3 2022). Afghanistan accounted for 22%, Sudan for 10%, Iran for 8% and Syria for 5%. These five countries accounted for almost 80% of all applications in Q3 2022.

- In Q3 2022 under 4% of applicants were female, similar to most recent quarters.
- In Q3 2022 58 asylum applications by unaccompanied children were made by girls.
- There are a small number of applications (8), recorded as sex unknown.

Table 10: Applications by unaccompanied children seeking asylum

	Total Applications	Applications by girls	% Female
Q3 2022	1,701	58	3.5%
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%

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 2022 was 818. 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 (303), followed by Sudan (115), Iran (86), Albania (57), and Eritrea (56).

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

	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
Applications	914	908	428	639	818

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
Q3 2022	469	430	10	0	11	0	18
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

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
Q3 2022	798	590	41	0	0	0	167
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

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q3 2022 there were 4,235 dependants included in asylum applications.
- 2,886 of the dependants were under 18 years old and 2,450 were female.

Table 14: Dependants included in asylum applications

	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
Number of main applicants	15,573	19,502	12,508	15,506	24,511
Number of dependants	2,452	3,368	2,944	3,328	4,235

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
Q3 2022	1,213	635	578
Q2 2022	897	481	416
Q1 2022	1,417	787	630
Q4 2021	1,259	672	587
Q3 2021	1,717	907	810

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 Q3 2022, there were 3,365 applications where the main applicant was a woman or girl. This represents 14% of all applications, about average for recent quarters.

Table 16: Applications by women or girls by quarter

	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
Total	15,573	19,502	12,508	15,506	24,511
Female	1,929	2,431	2,405	2,713	3,365
% Female	12%	12%	19%	17%	14%

- 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 Q3 2022 has a well above average percentage of female applicants. Of the countries with the largest number of female applicants Nigeria and the Philippines have the highest percentages of female applicants.

Table 17: Female applicants from the top ten applicant producing countries Q3 2022

	Female Applicants	Total	% Female
Albania	673	7,561	9%
Afghanistan	79	2,618	3%
Iran	340	2,225	15%
Syria	74	1,150	6%
Iraq	183	1,109	16%
Sudan	44	1,006	4%
Bangladesh	127	857	15%
Eritrea	220	777	28%
Turkey	44	614	7%
India	73	607	12%

Table 18: Top ten countries for female applicants Q3 2022

	Female Applicants	% Female of total application
Albania	673	9%
Iran	340	15%
Eritrea	220	28%
Iraq	183	16%
Bangladesh	127	15%
Philippines	103	86%
Nepal	95	17%
China	90	42%
Pakistan	83	16%
Nigeria	82	54%

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/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>

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.