

Refugee Council

Information



SUPPORTING AND
EMPOWERING
REFUGEES

Quarterly asylum statistics

November 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 Q3 2019 compared with each of the previous four quarters.

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

Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
7,479	8,659	8,922	7,633	9,140

Applications by nationality:

- Compared with the corresponding quarter in 2018 there was an increase in the number of applicants from seven of the top ten countries of origin. The largest percentage increases were from Iran and Albania. Several countries showed significant decreases in numbers.
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Table 2: Top ten asylum applicant producing countries by quarter (excl. Dependents)

	Q3 2018	Q3 2019	% change
Iran	861	1,402	+63%
Albania	508	824	+62%
Iraq	680	652	-4%
Pakistan	475	522	+10%
Afghanistan	349	504	+44%
Eritrea	625	490	-22%
Sudan	473	421	-11%
India	322	419	+30%
Vietnam	307	369	+20%
China	281	345	+23%

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 78% in Q3 2019.

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

	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
In-country	5,940	6,742	7,283	6,140	7,099
Port	1,504	1,897	1,639	1,493	2,041
Total	7,444	8,639	8,922	7,633	9,140

DECISIONS:

- In Q3 2019 5,217 initial asylum decisions were made, excluding dependants; a small change compared with the previous two quarters.
- 46% of initial decisions in Q3 2019 were to grant asylum, compared with only 30% in Q3 2018. 3.3% of initial decisions in Q3 2019 were to grant Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, the same as for Q3 2018 and 48% were refusals, a decrease from earlier quarters.

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

	Q3 2018		Q4 2018		Q1 2019		Q2 2019		Q3 2019	
Decisions	5,093		4,800		5,462		5,011		5,217	
Refugee status	1,518	30%	1,650	34%	2,286	42%	2,285	46%	2,383	46%
Humanitarian Protection	144	2.8%	136	2.8%	134	2.5%	154	3%	161	3%
Discretionary Leave	24	0.5%	19	0.4%	24	0.4%	19	0.4%	15	0.3%
Other Grants	144	2.8%	110	2.3%	269	5%	136	2.7%	139	2.7%
Refused	3,263	64%	2,885	60%	2,749	50%	2,417	48%	2,519	48%

- Countries with an above average percentage of applicants granted protection in Q3 2019 included Iran, Eritrea, Sudan, Afghanistan and Syria. Several countries had very high refusal rates.

Table 5: Asylum decisions by nationality, Q3 2019, top ten countries for number of decisions

	Decisions	Refugee status	Humanitarian Protection	Discretionary Leave	Other Grants	Refusals
Iran	954	615	2	0	11	326
Iraq	566	114	26	3	18	405
Eritrea	452	387	0	1	2	62
Sudan	406	341	1	0	0	64
Afghanistan	231	119	11	1	7	93
Albania	216	30	0	3	26	157
Pakistan	202	60	0	0	7	135
Syria	178	156	0	0	1	21
Bangladesh	160	21	0	0	4	135
Vietnam	157	79	12	1	8	57

APPEALS:

- 2,377 appeals were determined in Q3 2019, a decrease from the previous four quarters.
- The proportion of appeals allowed was 43% in Q3 2019, while 50% were dismissed. The remainder were withdrawn.

Table 6: Appeals determined, by quarter

	Q3 2018		Q4 2018		Q1 2019		Q2 2019		Q3 2019	
Determined	2,834		2,728		2,654		2,389		2,377	
Allowed	1,115	39%	1,041	38%	1,044	39%	1,000	42%	1,028	43%
Dismissed	1,586	56%	1,546	57%	1,458	55%	1,226	51%	1,194	50%
Withdrawn	133	5%	141	5%	152	6%	163	7%	155	7%

ASYLUM SUPPORT:

- The total number of asylum seekers (including dependants) in receipt of Section 95 asylum support at the end of Q3 2019 was 44,156, a decrease from the previous three quarters.
- 2,942 of these asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support at the end of Q3 2019.
- 41,214 of these asylum seekers were supported in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2019.
- The region of the UK with the largest number of people in dispersal accommodation at the end of Q3 2019 was the North West (9,828).
- 3,049 asylum seekers were in initial accommodation under Section 98 support at the end of Q3 2019 which is a lot higher than in recent quarters.

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

	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
Dispersed accommodation	40,481	41,316	42,602	42,182	41,214
Subsistence only	2,902	2,949	3,046	3,021	2,942
Initial accommodation	2,089	2,129	1,832	1,583	3,049

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

- 609 decisions to grant Section 4 support were made in Q3 2019. The number of grants had reduced during 2018.
- At the end of Q3 2019 3,857 applicants, including dependants, were receiving Section 4 support.

Table 8: Grants of Section 4 Support

	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
Number of grants	492	493	521	580	609

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

	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
Number supported	4,064	4,032	3,903	3,893	3,857

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE:

Removals (Asylum Applicants)

- In the year ending September 2019 3,124 asylum seekers were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, a 30% decrease from the year ending September 2018 (4,435).
- 1,538 asylum seekers left via enforced removals from the UK in the year ending September 2019, a 40% decrease from the year ending September 2018 (2,579).
- 1,586 asylum seekers left under Voluntary Return schemes in the year ending September 2019, a 15% decrease from the year ending September 2018 (1,856).

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 2,102 people were recorded as having been removed from the UK upon leaving detention, having been held solely under Immigration Act powers in Q3 2019;

Persons Detained at the end of Q3 2019

- At the end of Q3 2019 a total of 1,826 persons were detained, at this point 1 child was in detention.
- 1,152 persons who had sought asylum at some stage were being detained solely under Immigration Act powers (63% of all immigration detainees)
- 10 children were recorded as entering detention in Q3 2019.

CHILDREN:

Applications by Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum

- The number of applications from unaccompanied children, excluding dependants, was 901 in Q3 2019, an increase from the previous quarter.

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

	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
Applications	851	941	951	753	901

- Afghanistan was the top country of origin for unaccompanied children (16% of all applications in Q3 2019). Eritrea accounted for 14%, Sudan and Vietnam for 13% each, Iran for 12%, Iraq for 10% and Albania for 5%. Together these seven countries accounted for over 80% of all applications in Q3 2019.
- In Q3 2019 89% of applicants were male, a similar percentage to the previous quarter.
- In Q3 2019 94 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
Q3 2019	901	94	10%
Q2 2019	753	72	10%
Q1 2019	951	110	12%
Q4 2018	941	111	12%
Q3 2018	851	96	12%

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 2019 was 167, a decrease compared with three of the four previous quarters. Afghanistan (42), Eritrea (29), Iran (21), Sudan (21), Iraq (14) and Vietnam (13), were the countries of origin with the largest number of age disputed cases in Q3 2019.

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

	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
Applications	240	290	285	144	167

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. This used to be 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" but the wording has changed since June 2019 to "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.

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
Q3 2019	460	353	22	0	53	0	32
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

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
Q3 2019	263	154	11	1	0	1	96
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

ASYLUM APPLICATIONS (DEPENDANTS):

- In Q3 2019 there were 2,506 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: Dependents included in asylum applications

	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
Number of main applicants	7,479	8,659	8,922	7,633	9,140
Number of dependants	2,404	2,307	2,258	1,873	2,506

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.

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Table 18: Family reunion entry clearance visa grants by quarter

	Total	Under 18	18 and Over
Q3 2019	1,370	666	704
Q2 2019	1,735	885	850
Q1 2019	1,607	817	790
Q4 2018	1,323	661	662
Q3 2018	1,328	550	778

The majority of the outstanding family reunion applications at the end of Q3 2019 have been waiting for a decision for less than 6 months.

WOMEN AND GIRLS:

- In Q3 of 2019 there were 2,292 applications where the main applicant was a woman or girl. This represents 25% of all applications, a similar figure to previous quarters.

Table 19: Applications by women or girls by quarter

	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	Q1 2019	Q2 2019	Q3 2019
Total	7,479	8,659	8,922	7,633	9,140
Female	1,997	2,170	2,258	2,023	2,292
% Female	27%	25%	25%	27%	25%

- 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 Q3 2019 China, Nigeria and Namibia have high percentages.

Table 20: Female applicants from the top ten applicant producing countries Q3 2019

	Female Applicants	Total	% Female
Iran	249	1,402	18%
Albania	198	824	24%
Iraq	148	652	23%
Pakistan	122	522	23%
Afghanistan	58	504	12%
Eritrea	115	490	23%
Sudan	51	421	12%
India	65	419	16%
Vietnam	119	369	32%
China	153	345	44%

Table 21: Top ten countries for female applicants Q3 2019

	Female Applicants	% Female
Iran	249	18%
Albania	198	24%
China	153	44%
Iraq	148	23%
Nigeria	130	51%
Pakistan	122	23%
Vietnam	119	32%
Eritrea	115	23%
India	65	16%
Namibia	65	52%

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-september-2019>

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.