

# Asylum statistics for the North East- as at December 2006



Produced by the “North of England Refugee Service” (NERS) & the “North East Strategic Migration Partnership” (NESMP).

This publication includes data for the 4th Quarter (Q4) of 2006, relating to October to December 2006.

It includes the most recently available information from regional, national and some European statistics on the number of asylum seekers and their circumstances. Please note that not all the information relates to the same period largely due to the different publication dates of the source material.

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## Summary

1. As at the End of December 2006 there were **3739** asylum seekers in the North East receiving either subsistence only support or in NASS accommodation. This is a **+0.94%** increase from the end of September.
2. At the end of December 2006 there were **3690** asylum seekers in the North East in NASS accommodation, an increase of (+1.18%) from September 2006. 1398 (37.89%), were living in Newcastle [Page 4 and 5].
3. At the end of December 2006 there were 49 asylum seekers receiving subsistence only support, a decrease of **-14.04%** from September 2006. 8 (17.02%), were living in Newcastle [page 4] (NASS figures).
4. The main nationalities of asylum seekers in the North East are Iranian (10.89%), Eritrean (7.52%) and Iraqi (7.17%). [Page 6] (NASS figures).
5. The total number of asylum seekers in the UK who are supported by NASS (The National Asylum Support Service) is **49,295**, an increase of 6.86% from the previous quarter. Greater London has the largest number with **9,435** followed by Yorkshire and Humberside **8,050** [Page 7&8] (Home Office figures).
6. 5,850 Asylum applications in the quarter nationally this was 6.56% higher than the previous quarter, (5,490). The main countries of origin were Afghanistan (10.56%), The Peoples Republic of China (9.74%) and Eritrea (9.74%) [Page 9]. Applications from the Peoples Republic of China are raised to 595 from 315 in Q1 making them the Number 2 country of application (Home Office figures).
7. The number applying for NASS support nationally was **4,725** a decrease of **1.25%** from the previous quarter. The main nationalities applying for NASS support were Eritrea (13.33%), Iran (13.02%) and Somalia (10.05%) [Page 10] (Home Office figures).
8. A total of **5,155** asylum applications received initial decisions, 12.92% higher than the previous quarter. The number awaiting a decision was 6,000. 13% of initial decisions were granted asylum in Q4 [Page 11] (Home Office figures).
9. Successful applications for Section 4 ('Hard Case') in Q4 **1,510** 35.34% higher than previous quarter – with the largest group being Iraqis [Page 12] (Home Office figures).
10. **3,700** appeals were received, 36% higher than previous quarter and **16,145** ongoing appeals were determined in 2006, 52% lower than 2005. [Page 13] (Home Office figures).
11. **51,300** applications received in countries in the EU15; in the Fourth Quarter 2006 (October-December). Figures for all countries were not available at time of publication [Page 14] (Home Office figures).
12. In Q4 (October-December) 2006, **77,800** asylum requests were submitted in the 36 Industrialised Countries. 56,856 new applications submitted in Europe in that year. Asylum requests in the United Kingdom were 7,105 during Q4 2006 which was a fall of 2.74% compared with Q4 2005 (7,305) (UNHCR figures).

## Supported Asylum Seekers in the Region – including dependants

### Asylum seekers supported by the local authorities

- In the North East there are 10 different Local Authorities where the majority of asylum seekers are accommodated. The Chart below shows individual asylum seekers supported in NASS accommodation.

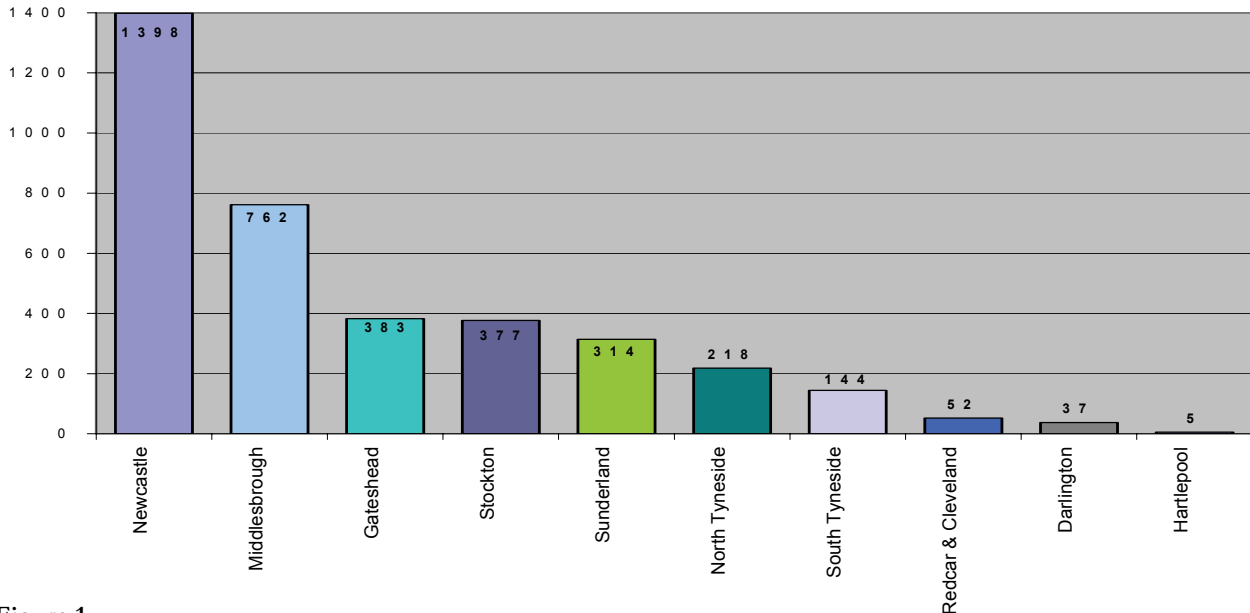


Figure 1

### Subsistence Only (SO) supported Asylum seekers

There are 49\* (50 using Home office figures)<sup>1</sup> asylum seekers in the **North East** who are not in NASS accommodation and receive only subsistence (cash) support from NASS. In total there are 11,355 (Home office figures) clients getting only subsistence support throughout the country. The North East had 0.42% of this number. 8,110 (71.42%) of all asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support was located in London.

The table opposite shows by Local Authorities the number of individual asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support from NASS:

Figure 2

Local Authority*	Number of SO Individuals
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE	8
SUNDERLAND	7
MIDDLESBROUGH	18
GATESHEAD	3
STOCKTON ON TEES	8
NORTH TYNESIDE	1
COUNTY DURHAM	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>

Note: \*Figures based on NASS data which may differ from Home office provisional figures.

<sup>1</sup> Home office figures are often rounded up to the nearest 5.

### Number of households in NASS accommodation in the North East

There were **1845** households made up of **3690** individuals in the North East at the end of December 2006. This table shows numbers of households & individuals in each Local Authority area sub-divided by accommodation providers:

Town	PROVIDER	Number of Households	Number of individuals
<b>DARLINGTON</b>			
	NESPARS (NECARS) <sup>2</sup>	23	37
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>GATESHEAD</b>			
	ANGEL GROUP	9	9
	RCA Sheffield	15	15
	TC - ANGEL (LONDON) LTD (NE)	60	141
	TC - KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)	11	19
	TC - NECARS (NE)	99	199
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>383</b>
<b>HARTLEPOOL</b>			
	Kimberly Group	2	5
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MIDDLESBROUGH</b>			
	ANGEL GROUP	29	29
	M&Q Properties	64	65
	RCA Sheffield	21	21
	TC - ANGEL (LONDON) LTD (NE)	48	113
	TC - KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)	163	345
	TC - NECARS (NE)	78	189
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>762</b>
<b>NEWCASTLE</b>			
	ANGEL GROUP	12	17
	M&Q Properties	95	97
	NECARS	2	8
	RCA Sheffield	31	32
	TC - ANGEL (LONDON) LTD (NE)	155	324
	TC - KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)	5	21
	TC - NECARS (NE)	383	899
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>1398</b>
<b>NORTH TYNESIDE</b>			
	RCA Sheffield	1	1
	TC - KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)	78	217
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>218</b>
<b>REDCAR and CLEVELAND</b>			
	Kimberly Group	14	52
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>SOUTH TYNESIDE</b>			
	TC - ANGEL (LONDON) LTD (NE)	4	6
	TC - NECARS (NE)	45	138
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>STOCKTON</b>			
	M&Q Properties	6	6
	RCA Sheffield	3	3
	TC - ANGEL (LONDON) LTD (NE)	1	4
	TC - KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)	148	235
	TC - NECARS (NE)	61	129
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>377</b>
<b>SUNDERLAND</b>			
	CLEARSPRINGS MANAGEMENT LTD	1	2
	M&Q Properties	26	26
	RCA Sheffield	3	3
	TC - ANGEL (LONDON) LTD (NE)	4	4
	TC - KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)	63	87
	TC - NECARS (NE)	82	192
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>314</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1845</b>	<b>3690</b>

Figure 3

Note: Figures taken from NASS monthly figures as at end of December 2006 and not Home Office Statistics.

<sup>2</sup> NECARS is now known as NESPARS and NESMP split from them in a restructure, however NASS have been still been recording it as NECARS.

## Nationality of Supported Asylum Seekers in Region – including dependants

### Top ten Nationalities in the North East

The totals below represent the number of asylum seekers residing in NASS accommodation at the end of December 2006 or in receipt of subsistence only support.

As at end December 2006:

- There were 80 different known Nationalities in the North East at the end of December 2006\*
- The top 20 nationalities in the North East region at the end of December 2006 are shown below:

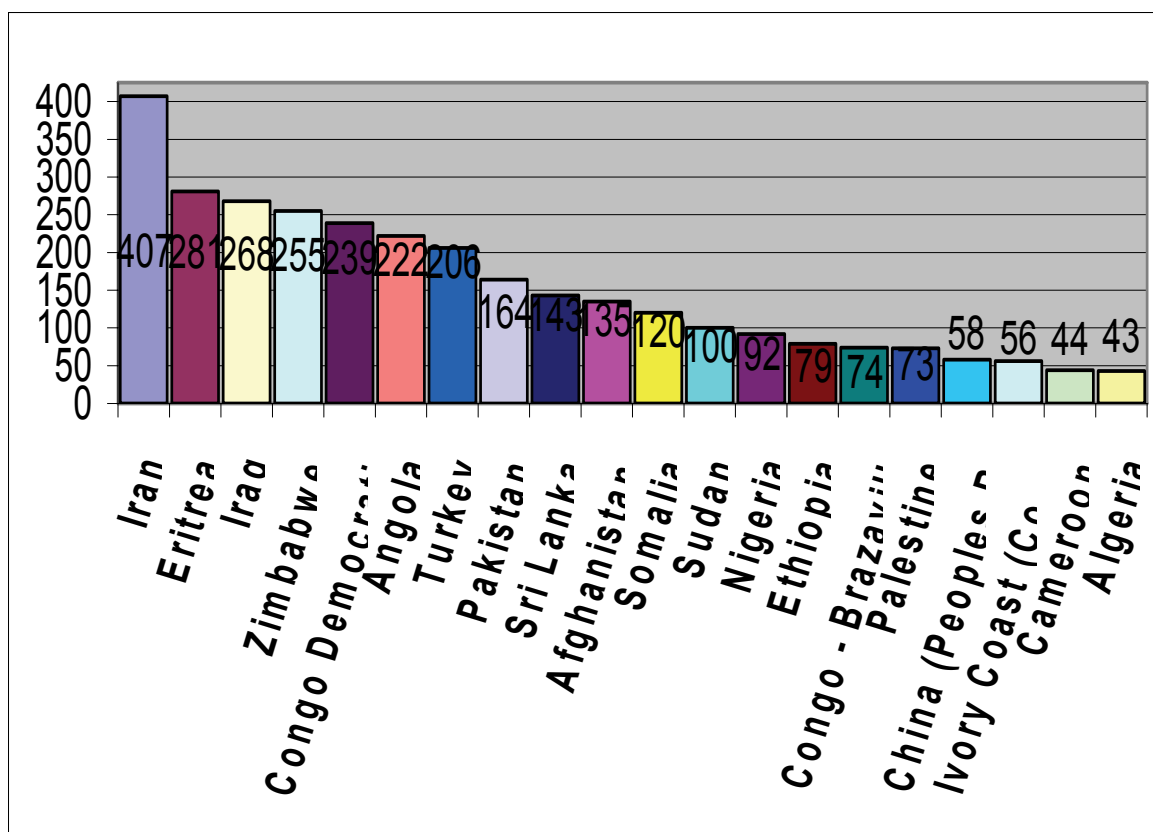


Figure 4

- \*12 clients' nationalities are listed as unknown. 1 Client is listed as Stateless under article 1 of the 1954 Convention. These are included in the 80.
- Nationalities are Nationalities of political national entities (countries) recognised by the UK (plus Kosovo which has special UN status). It does not represent ethnic groups or autonomous/disputed nationalities within recognised political entities (with the exception of Kosovo).

## Supported Asylum Seekers by Region – including dependants

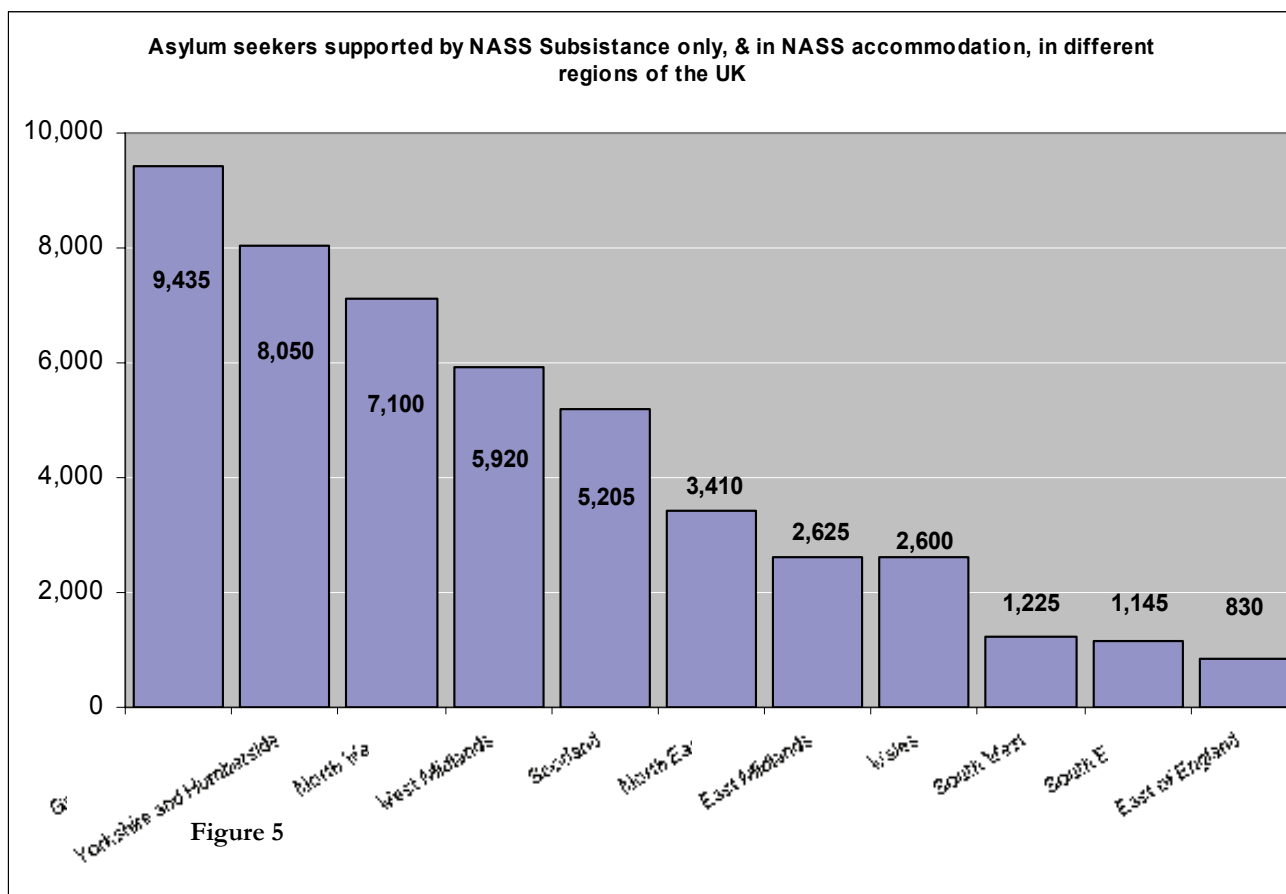
### Asylum seekers in different regions of the UK

The totals below represent the numbers of asylum seekers who are currently in NASS accommodation or are in receipt of subsistence (cash) only support. They reflect the numbers of new applicants granted support and exclude applications for those for whom support has ceased. These figures do not include asylum seekers who are not supported by NASS.

#### As at the end of December 2006:

- 11,355 asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support<sup>3</sup>.
- 36,420 asylum seekers were supported in NASS accommodation.
- 1,525 asylum seekers were supported in initial accommodation.
- Thus a total 49,295 asylum seekers were in receipt of NASS support as at the end of Q4 of 2006 which is 6.86% higher than the previous quarter (Sept-06 = 46,130).

The chart below shows the number of asylum seekers supported by NASS Subsistence only, and by accommodation and subsistence, in different regions of the UK as at the end of December 2006.



- ♦ The regions with the highest populations of asylum seekers supported by NASS in order of numbers were: Greater London (19.14%), Yorkshire and Humberside (16.33%), North West (14.4%), West Midlands (12.01%), Scotland (10.59%), the **North East** is in sixth place with **6.92%** of all the asylum seekers supported by NASS in the UK.

<sup>3</sup> Due to Home office rounding of figures in the Home Office report there is a published total of 11,355 and the breakdown of those figures in "Figure 6" adding up to 11,350 means there is a discrepancy of 5, this is due to rounding of totals in the Home office published figures.

- ◆ Below is a table showing the number of asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support and clients in NASS accommodation by region:

Government Office Region (GOR)	In receipt of Subsistence only support	Supported in NASS accommodation
Greater London	8,110	1370
Yorkshire and Humberside	305	7750
North West	585	6515
West Midlands	525	5395
Scotland	195	5010
<b>North East*</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3360</b>
East Midlands	370	2255
Wales	75	2525
South East	625	520
South West	120	1105
East of England	380	450
Northern Ireland	10	165

Figure 6

- \*Taken from the Home office report and not NASS monthly figures.

(The 330 discrepancy between those supported in NASS accommodation in the North East provided by NASS earlier in this report and the Home office figures in Figure 6 is in part due to the Home office rounding of figures, and in part due to the different days the “snapshots” of those in accommodation. The rounding of figures also explains the discrepancy of 1 from the Home Office figure 49, and NASS figure 50).



## Asylum applications – National

### Number of applications for the past 12 quarters

- Applications: 5,725 this is 2.18% lower than previous quarter

Applications for asylum (excluding dependants) in the UK decreased by 2.18% in Q4 to 5,725 from Q3 (5,850) and was -12.88% less than Q4 2005 (6,715).

Including dependants the number of applications to the UK fell by -3.8% in Q4 (6,835) from Q3 (7,105)

The Chart below shows the number of applications by primary applicants not including dependants for the past 12 quarters (since Q1 2004):

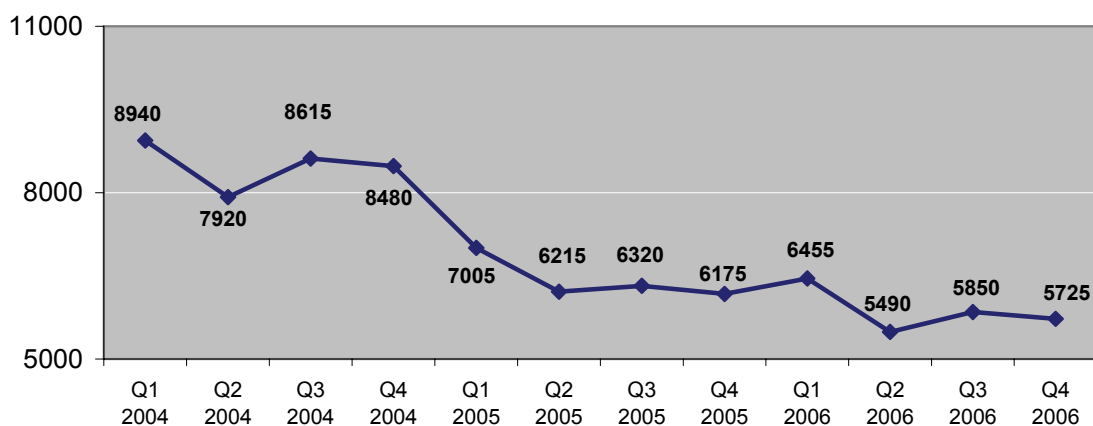


Figure 7<sup>4</sup>

### The top ten nationalities applying for asylum in Q4 of 2006

The largest nationality applying for asylum in Q4 of 2006 was Iran with 735 applications 19.51% up on last quarter, quarter it was Eritrea. Below shows the top 10 nationalities applying for asylum in the UK in Q4:

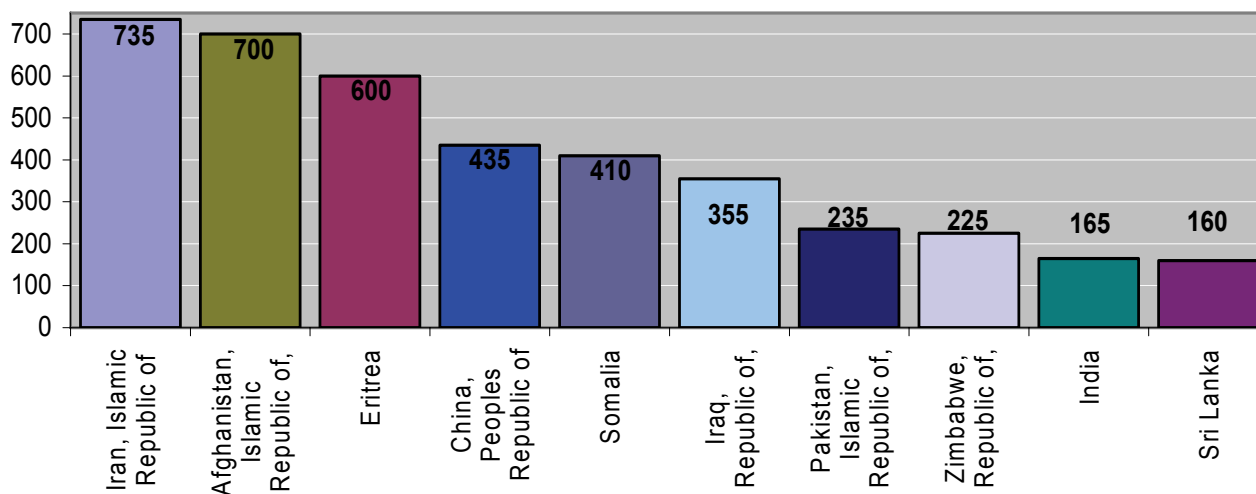


Figure 8

<sup>4</sup> Any Modifications in figure 7 on the figures previously published in the earlier reports is due to later home office revisions.

## NASS applications - National

### Number of NASS applications made in the past 10 quarters

- **Total applications: 4,555 in Q4 which was -3.6% lower than previous quarter**
  - The number of applications for NASS support in Q4 was 4,555 (excluding dependents) 3.6% lower than Q3 (4,725) and 24.47% lower than Q4 2005 (6030).
  - In Q4, 3,640 (80%) applications were from single adults and 915 (20%) were from family groups.

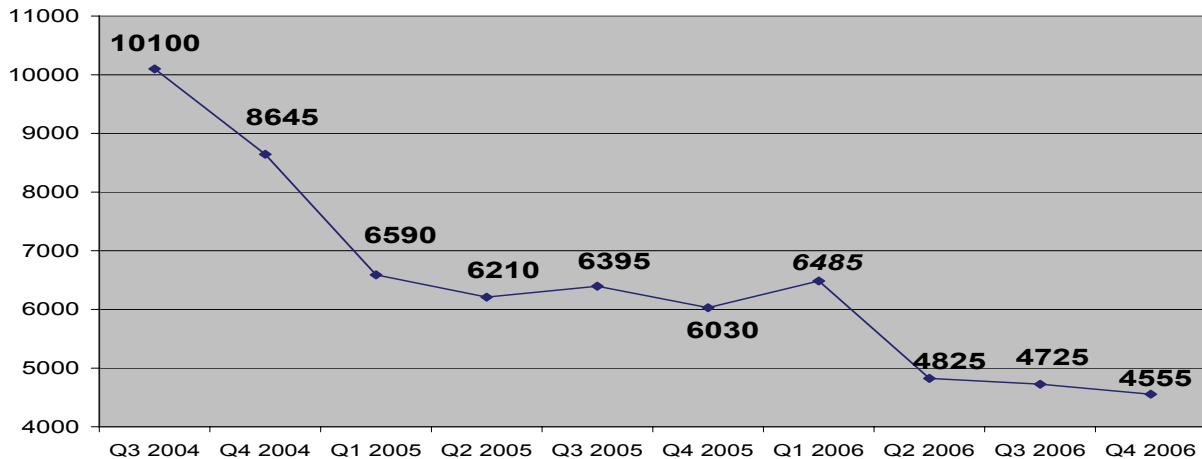


Figure 9

- **Support type:**
  - In Q4, **3,150 (69%)** applications were for accommodation and subsistence support and **1,035 (23%)** of applications were for subsistence only support.
  - The remaining 8% of applications were classified as invalid or unknown.

### Top Ten Nationalities applying for NASS support:

In the last quarter applications fell from 6 of the top ten nationalities and rose from the other 4. Applications from Iran rose by 16%. Applications from Eritrea fell by 12% and applications from Zimbabwe fell by 16%.

Figure 10

Iran	715
Eritrea	555
Somalia	410
Iraq	365
Afghanistan	345
Zimbabwe	230
Pakistan	180
Sudan	160
Sri Lanka	125
Peoples Republic of China	120
Others	1,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,555</b>

\* Figures from Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2006 United Kingdom (p7)

## Asylum application initial decisions – National<sup>5</sup>

### Number of decisions made for the past 6 quarters

#### • Initial Decisions in Q4: 5,155; 12.92% higher than previous quarter

- 5,155 initial decisions were made in Q4, **12.92%** higher than in Q3 (4,565) but lower than the level of applications.
- The number of cases (excluding dependants) awaiting an initial decision was 6,000 at the end of December 2006 (5,000 at the end of December 2005). Of this total, 5,000 cases were work in progress, i.e. the application had been outstanding for 6 months or less, at the end of last quarter (September) there were 4,800 cases in progress.
- 13% of initial decisions in Q4 were to grant asylum compared with 9% for Q3. 11% of initial decisions granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave compared with 10% in Q3. 76% of initial decisions in Q4 were refusals, compared to 81% for Q3.

The Chart below demonstrates the number of decisions made for the past 6 quarters<sup>6</sup>:

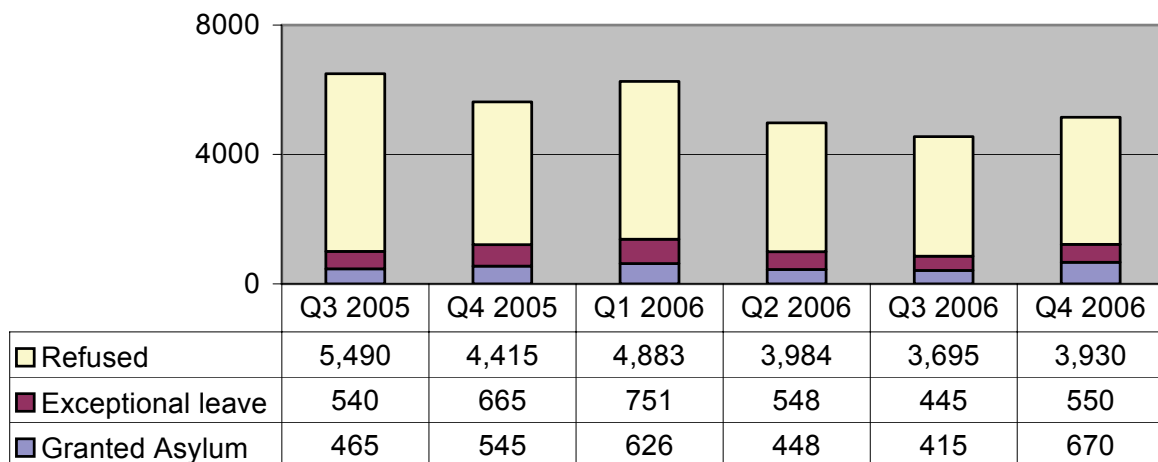


Figure 11

### Number of decisions made for the past 11 quarters

The Chart below shows the number of Initial decisions made for the period from Q1 of 2004 to Q4 of 2006:

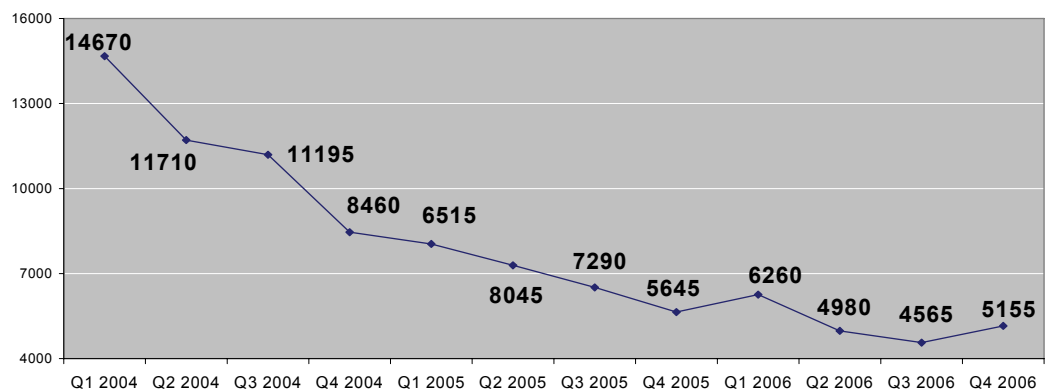


Figure 12

### Timeliness of Initial Decisions

- 59% of applications received in Q3 2006 had initial decisions reached and served within two months, lower than Q2 2006 (69%).

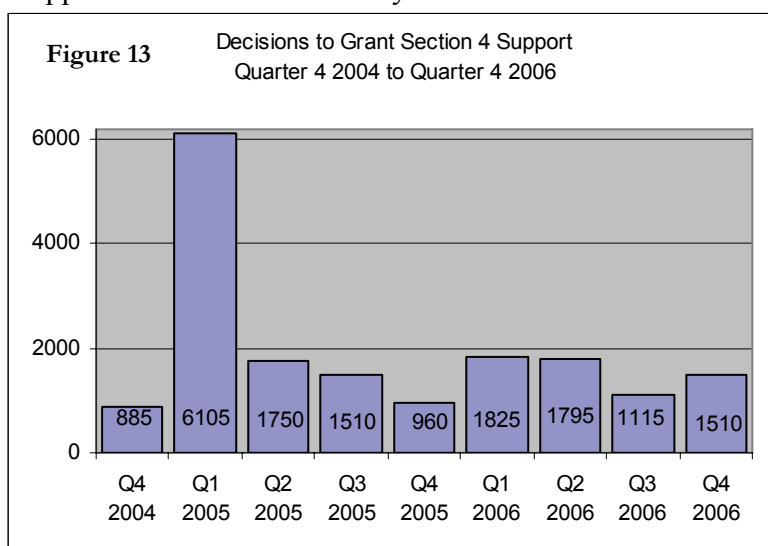
<sup>5</sup> All figures on this page come from p2 and Table 1 Asylum Statistics: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2006 United Kingdom

<sup>6</sup> Due to home office rounding this totals 4550 not 4555

Support under section 4 ('Hard Case') of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is provided in the form of accommodation and food, and other basic essential items. Individuals are generally eligible for section 4 support if their asylum application has been finally determined as refused, but they are destitute and there are reasons that temporarily prevent them from leaving the United Kingdom. These reasons are:

- Taking reasonable steps to leave the UK or place themselves in a position in which they can leave the UK; or
- unable to leave UK by reason of a physical impediment to travel or some medical reason; or
- unable to leave UK because there is no current viable route of return to the country of origin; or
- taking reasonable steps to leave the UK or place themselves in a position in which they can leave the UK; or
- permission has been obtained to proceed with a judicial review against a decision relating to the person's asylum claim; or the provision of support is otherwise necessary to avoid a breach of the person's human rights.

- The number of successful applications for section 4 support in Q4 2006 was (1,510) 35.43% higher than in Q3 2006 (1,115).
- As in Quarter 3 Nationals of Iraq accounted for the highest number of failed asylum seekers in receipt of section 4 support 2,600 (40% of those supported). In Quarter 3 this figure was 2,375 (also 40%)



- As at the end of Q4 (December) 6,555, excluding dependants, were in receipt of section 4 ('Hard Case') support, 10% higher than at the end of Q3 (September) (5,980).

**Top 10 Nationalities supported Q4 2006**

Iraq	2,600
Iran	630
Eritrea	625
Sudan	325
Somalia	285
Dem. Rep Congo	280
Zimbabwe	275
Ethiopia	230
Congo - Brazzaville	140
Afghanistan	120
Others	1,030
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,555</b>

Figure 14

\* Figures on this page from Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2006 United Kingdom (p9)

## Asylum appeals - National

On 4 April 2005, the commencement of section 26 of *The Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004* introduced the appeals system under the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT). All outstanding work from the Immigration Appellate Authority has been transferred to an equivalent appeal stage within the AIT, in line with transitional provisions. Data on determinations refer to cases dealt with by Immigration Judges. All appeals figures are provisional and subject to change.

### Appeals received

- ◆ Appeals received by AIT in Q4: 3,700, this is 36% higher than previous quarter (2,715)

### Appeals determined

- Appeals determined fell in Q4 by 2% to 3,305 from 3,380 in Q3, and was 40% lower than in Q4 2005 (5,485).
- The proportion of appeals dismissed was 74% in Q4, whilst 21% of appeals allowed.
- The total asylum work in progress at the AIT at 31 December 2006 was 6,000; this is the same as the figure for work in progress on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

### Appeals determined by Immigration (IAA/AIT)

The Chart below shows the number of appeals determined by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT), formerly called Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) Adjudicators

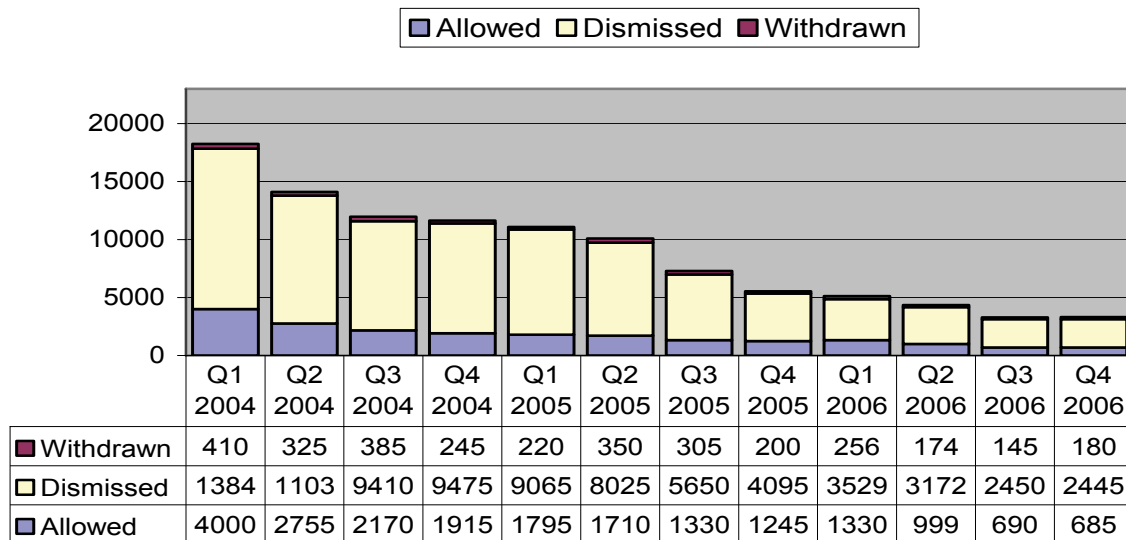


Figure 15

### Timeliness of case processing, up to and including appeals at Immigration Appellate Authority and Immigration Appeal Tribunal

- 74% of applications received in 2005/2006 had a final decision, up to and including appeals, within 6 months, compared with 67% for 2004/2005.

\* Figures on this page from Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2006 United Kingdom (p4)

## Applications to European Countries/ Non European Countries 2003, 2004, 2005 and Jan-December 2006 (Q1-Q4)

10

Applications received for asylum in Europe and elsewhere, including dependants, for 2003, 2004, 2005, and Q1 to Q4 of 2006

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006 Q1	2006 Q2	2006 Q3	2006 Q4
Austria	32,400	24,700	22,500	3,400	2,900	3,300	3,700
Belgium	19,300	17,500	18,200	3,400	2,900	3,100	3,800
Denmark	4,600	3,200	2,300	600	400	400	500
Finland	3,200	3,900	3,600	600	500	600	600
France	62,000	65,600	59,400	12,000	9,300	8,400	9,500
Germany	50,600	35,600	28,900	5,900	4,700	4,900	5,500
Greece	8,200	4,500	9,100	1,500	1,900	2,000	6,900
Ireland	7,900	4,800	4,300	1,200	1,000	1,100	1,200
Italy	13,500	7,400	9,300	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Luxembourg	1,500	1,600	800	100	100	200	200
Netherlands	13,400	9,800	12,300	5,200	3,800	3,000	2,500
Portugal	100	100	100	*	*	*	*
Spain	5,900	5,600	5,000	1,200	1,400	1,200	1,200
Sweden	31,400	23,200	17,500	5,000	3,800	6,600	8,800
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>40,600</b>	<b>30,800</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>6,800</b>
<b>Total EU15</b>	<b>313,900</b>	<b>247,900</b>	<b>224,00</b>	<b>47,500</b>	<b>39,200</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>51,300</b>
Cyprus	4,400	9,900	7,800	1,200	900	1,000	1,500
Czech Republic	11,400	5,500	4,00	800	800	900	600
Estonia	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hungary	2,400	1,600	1,600	400	600	600	500
Latvia	*	*	*	*	-	*	n/a
Lithuania	200	200	100	*	*	100	n/a
Malta	600	1,000	1,200	300	400	300	n/a
Poland	6,900	8,100	5,400	800	900	1,400	n/a
Slovakia	10,400	11,400	3,500	400	700	900	1,000
Slovenia	1,100	1,300	1,600	100	100	200	100
<b>Total EU25</b>	<b>351,300</b>	<b>286,800</b>	<b>249,300</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>43,400</b>	<b>47,300</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Other Europe</b>							
Norway	15,600	7,900	5,400	1,300	1,100	1,500	n/a
Switzerland	21,000	14,200	10,100	2,500	2,300	2,700	3,100
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>387,900</b>	<b>308,900</b>	<b>264,700</b>	<b>55,300</b>	<b>46,800</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Non-Europe</b>							
Australia	4,300	3,300	5,400	800	900	900	900
Canada	31,900	25,500	19,700	5,300	4,800	6,600	6,600
USA	60,700	63,000	48,800	12,500	13,000	12,600	n/a
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>484,800</b>	<b>400,700</b>	<b>336,400</b>	<b>73,900</b>	<b>65,600</b>	<b>71,700</b>	<b>n/a</b>

Figure 16 Figures rounded to the nearest 100 with \* = between 1 and 49.

- Figures on this page from Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2006 United Kingdom (table 24)
- \*\* Taken from the data available, however some countries still to submit additional data.

## Asylum seekers and refugees worldwide

### Asylum Levels in industrialized Countries, 2006 concentrating on 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

This section is based on monthly asylum application data received from national asylum authorities in Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Currently, 36 industrialized countries are providing monthly statistics to UNHCR. Italy is the only major industrialized country for which no monthly data are available.

77,800 new asylum requests made during the Fourth Quarter (October-December) 2006. This is a decrease of 12.43% compared to the third Quarter of 2006 (July-September) when the total was 69,200.

- The number of asylum requests submitted in the **36 industrialized countries** has continued to decline since 2001, on a year on year basis.
- In **Europe**, 57,856 new asylum applications were submitted during Quarter 4 2006, 18.85% higher than during Q3 2006 (48,680) and a 5.14% drop from Quarter 4 2005 (60,994). The 26 countries of the **European Union (EU)** covered by this report registered 54,195 new asylum applications submitted a 19.51% increase on Quarter 3 2006 (45,349). Compared to Quarter 4 2005 this was a drop of 5.87. Greece and Cyprus have experienced a major increase in numbers of asylum claims not due to more asylum seekers but due to changes in procedures to speed up the registration of those waiting to register an asylum claim.
- During Quarter 4 2006, **Europe** received 74.37% of all asylum applications submitted in the 36 industrialized countries, **North America** received 24.25% of the total inflow, while **Australia, New Zealand and Japan** accounted for the remainder of the asylum requests.
- In Quarter 4 the asylum applications for the ten new EU Member states fell on the Quarter 3 by 1.13% to 5,232 from 5,292 in Quarter 3. Quarter 3 2006 declined by 19.92%, Quarter 4 declined by 21.68% on Quarter 4 2005 (6,680).

### Countries of asylum

- The **United States** has been the top asylum destination since Q3 2005. In 2006 the **United States** received 51,500 asylum claims. The number one position of the **United States** from Q3 2005 reflected a decrease in the number of asylum claims to the previous top destination of **France**. **France** which was the number 1 country of asylum until Q3 2005 experienced a 39% decrease or 19,000 fewer claims in 2006 than 2005. The **United States** received 17% of all asylum claims whilst **France** received 10.1% (30,685) in 2006.
- In the **United Kingdom**, the number of new asylum requests lodged during 2006 fell by 10% (27,800) Compared 2005 (30,460) and by 31% compared to 2004 and by 73% compared to 2003. In 2002 the UK was the main destination for asylum seekers. In Q4 2006 applications (6,835) fell by 3.8% on Q3 (7,105). This also represented a fall of 2.74% compared with Q4 2005 (7,305). The **United Kingdom** remains the third largest asylum-seeker receiving country with 9.2% (27,850) of all asylum claims for industrialised countries. **Sweden** has risen from 6 place, to fourth place with 8% (24321) of all asylum claims followed by **Canada** which has fallen from fourth to fifth place with 7.6% (22,907). **Germany** has fallen from fifth to six place with 7% (20,613) of all claims.

- Out of the 36 Industrialised countries from Q3 2006 to Q4 2006, 22 countries experienced a rise in the number of new asylum claims lodged while 14 countries reported a fall. Among those destination countries reporting larger percentage changes, those reporting increases in applications included **Greece** (+245.81%), **Iceland** (+75%), **Cyprus** (+56.14%), **Spain** (+34.76%) and **Sweden** (+33.56). Decreases included **Liechtenstein** (-54.55), **Czech Republic** (-34.69%), **The Netherlands** (-15.83%), **Japan** (8.77%), **Australia** (-7.78%) and **The United Kingdom** (-3.8%).

### Origin of asylum-seekers

- In the 36 asylum countries in the third quarter, “**Iraq**” replaced “**The Peoples Republic of China**” as the leading country of origin of asylum-seekers during and remained there in the fourth quarter with 8,056 applications. This was followed by “**China**” (4,490), the “**Russian Federation**” (4,271), “**Serbia\***” and “**Montenegro\***” (3,967), “**Bangladesh**” (3,555) “**Turkey**” (2,153), “**Afghanistan**” (2,673), “**Islamic Republic of Iran**” (2,512) “**Pakistan**” (2,960), and “**Somalia**” 1,992. Other countries lodging more than 1,000 applications included **Haiti**, **Columbia**, **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Eritrea**, **India**, **Mexico**, **Nigeria**, **Sri Lanka** and the **Syrian Arab Republic**.
- Among the leading countries of origin, those recording a strong decline in the number of asylum-seekers during from Q3 2006 to Q4 2006 include **Lebanon** (-35.74% to 809), **Zimbabwe** (-16.78% to 471) **China** (-6.13 to 4,490). More than 75% of Zimbabwean asylum seekers are lodged in the United Kingdom. The number of “**Stateless**” persons applying for asylum fell -1.97% to 618.
- Five countries of origin recorded a rise in asylum requests from Q3 2006 to Q4 2006; these were “**Bangladesh**” (+212.97% to 3,355), “**Iraq**” (+44.37% to 8,056), “**Afghanistan**” (41.88% to 2,153), “**The Syrian Arab Republic**” (+27.08% to 1,117) and “**The Islamic Republic of Iran**” (+26.32% to 2,512), **Algeria** (+15% to 736).

In Q4 “Iraq” moved from 2<sup>nd</sup> place to first place and “The Peoples Republic of China” moved from first place to second place in the rankings. The Russian Federation, and Serbia and Montenegro remained at there 3<sup>rd</sup> and fourth place position from the second quarter. “Bangladesh” rose from nineteenth place to fifth place in Q4.

Figure 17 Table of Country of Origin

Country of Origin	2004				2005				2006			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Iraq</b>	14	12	9	6	5	5	5	4	1	2	1	1
<b>Peoples Republic of China</b>	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	1	2	2
<b>Russian Federation</b>	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	4	3	3	3
<b>Serbia and Montenegro*</b>	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	4	4
<b>Bangladesh</b>	21	14	17	18	24	19	17	17	20	19	19	5
<b>Pakistan</b>	14	7	9	7	15	7	8	7	12	12	10	6
<b>Afghanistan</b>	12	13	12	11	13	9	10	9	8	7	9	7
<b>Eritrea</b>	38	+	27	23	30	32	16	32	13	17	11	8
<b>Somalia</b>	7	16	10	15	11	14	9	13	11	10	5	9
<b>Mexico</b>	+	25	24	21	23	22	14	23	18	21	7	10

\* No separate data available for both countries as **Montenegro** became Independent on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2006 ending the “**Federal Republic of Serbia and Montenegro**”.

+ was below the top 40 for that quarter.



- When comparing Q4 2005 to Q4 2006 more countries of origin recorded a decrease than an increase in asylum requests. Among the top 40 countries of origin the number of asylum seekers has increased in 14 countries (35%). The more significant increase was observed by nationals of “**Bangladesh**” (+171.66%), “**El Salvador**” (+80.27%), “**Eritrea**” (+69.72%), and “**Mexico**” (+31.99%). Significant drops occurred for asylum-seekers from “**Zimbabwe**” (-50.37%), **India** (-37.61%), “**Mongolia**” (-32.35%), **Việt Nam** (-29.76%) and “**Côte d’Ivoire**” (-25.71%). The number of asylum claims from those “**Stateless**” fell 1.9%.
- During 2006 22,000 asylum claims were logged by nationals from Iraq, which is a 77% increase and led to Iraq again being the point of origin of asylum seekers as it had been from 2000-2002. 9,000 (approximately 40% of the total) of the asylum claims were logged in **Sweden**.

Changes in Asylum applications in 36 industrialised countries of 2006 compared to 2005

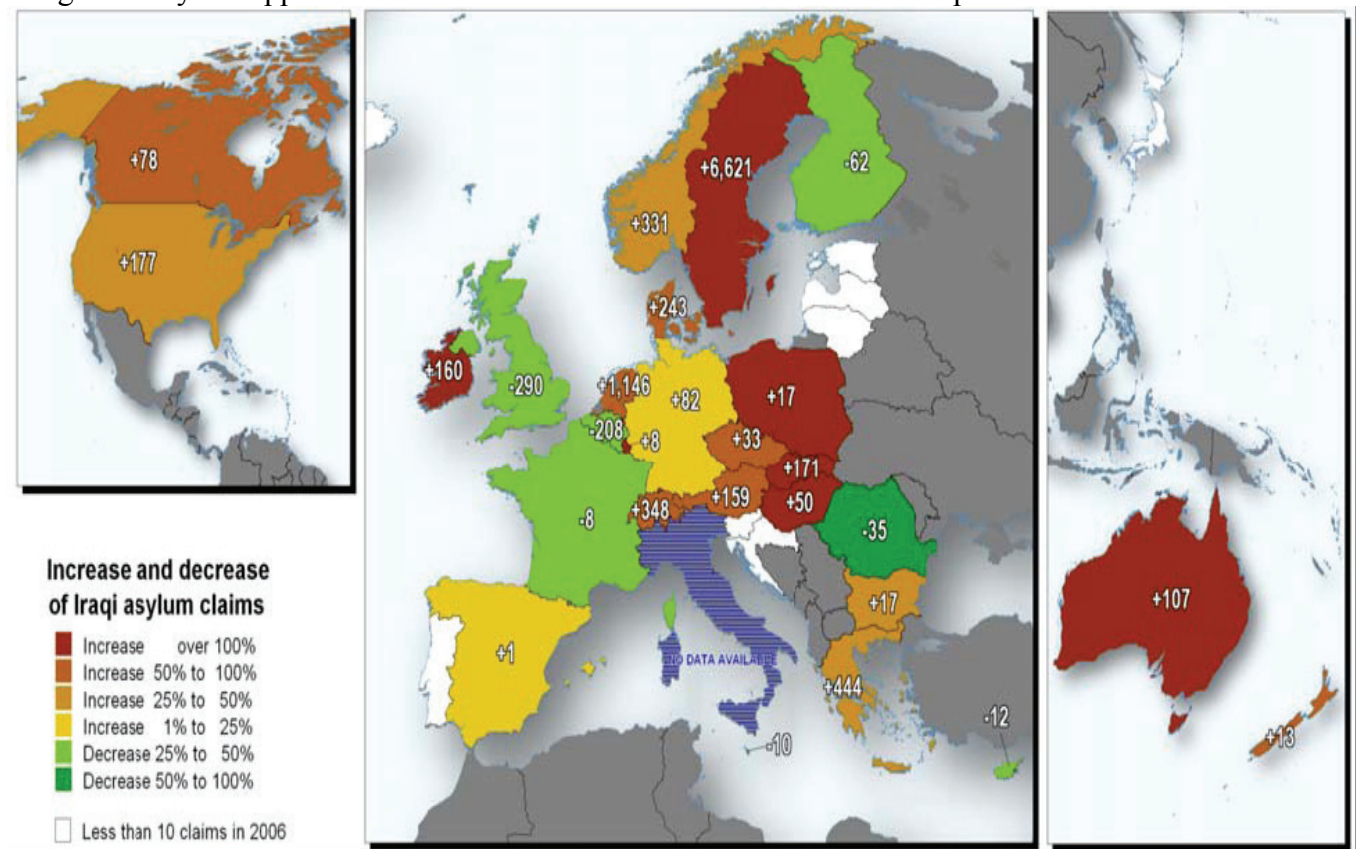


Figure 18

UNHCR: Asylum Trends in Industrialised Countries 2006. p7

## Acknowledgements

Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 4th Quarter 2006 United Kingdom -  
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/asylumq406.pdf>

NESPARS (Formerly NECARS) internal data on North East dispersals supplied to NERS.

UNHCR: Asylum levels and Trends in Industrialised Countries 2006 overview.  
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