

Asylum statistics for the North East- as at March 2007



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

This publication includes data for the 1st Quarter (Q1) of 2007, relating to January to March 2007.

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 March 2007 there were **3741** asylum seekers in the North East receiving either subsistence only support or in NASS accommodation. This is an increase of **2** from the end of December 2006 (**3739**).
2. At the end of March 2007 there were **3690** asylum seekers in the North East in NASS accommodation, an increase of (+1.18%) from December 2006. 1398 (37.89%), were living in Newcastle [Page 4 and 5].
3. At the end of March 2007 there were 30 asylum seekers receiving subsistence only support, a decrease of **-38.78%** from December 2006. 9 (30%), were living in Newcastle [page 4] (NECARS figures).
4. The main nationalities of asylum seekers in the North East are Iranian (11.8%), Iraqi (8.62), Zimbabwean (7.11%). [Page 6] (NECARS figures).
5. The total number of asylum seekers in the UK who are supported by NASS (The National Asylum Support Service) is **48,800**, a decrease of 1% from the previous quarter. Greater London has the largest number with **9,315** followed by Yorkshire and Humberside **8,145** [Page 7&8] (Home Office figures).
6. 5,680 Asylum applications in the quarter nationally (United Kingdom) this was 0.79% lower than the previous quarter, (5,725). The main countries of origin were “Afghanistan” (13.29%), “Iran” (10.56%) and the “Peoples Republic of China” (8.45%) [Page 9]. Applications from the Afghanistan rose from 700 to 755 and applications from Iran fell from 700 to 600 between Quarters 4 2006 and Quarter 1 2007. [Page 9] (Home Office figures).
7. The number applying for NASS support nationally was **4,575** an increase of **+44%** from the previous quarter. The main nationalities applying for NASS support were Afghanistan (13.29%) Iran (10.56%) and the “Peoples Republic of China” (8.74%). [Page 10] (Home Office figures).
8. A total of **6,005** asylum applications received initial decisions, 16.49% higher than the previous quarter. The number awaiting a decision was 5,700. 15% of initial decisions were granted asylum in Q1 2007 [Page 11] (Home Office figures).
9. Successful applications for Section 4 (‘Hard Case’) in Q1 2007 **1,895** 25.5% higher than previous quarter – with the largest group being Iraqis [Page 12] (Home Office figures).
10. **3,880** appeals were received in **Q1 2007**, 5% higher than previous quarter (**3,700**) and **6,000** appeals were ongoing which is the same as **Q3** and **Q 4 2006**. [Page 13] (Home Office figures).
11. **48,600** applications received in countries in the EU15; in the 1st Quarter 2007 (January-March). Figures for all countries were not available at time of publication [Page 14] (Home Office figures).
12. The UNHCR did not publish its first quarter report so world wide figures are not available.

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.

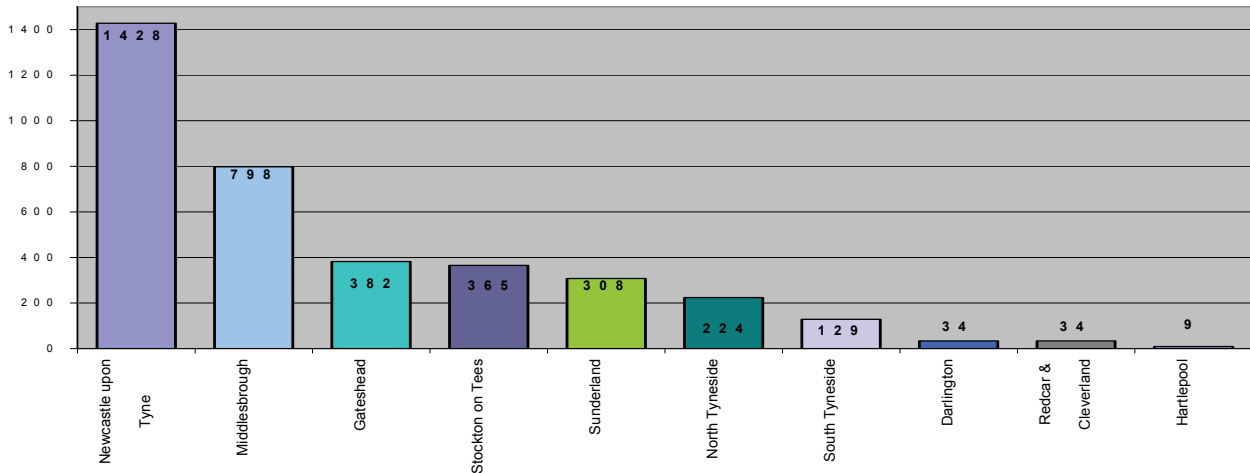


Figure 1

Subsistence Only (SO) supported Asylum seekers

There are **30*** (35 using Home office figures)¹ asylum seekers in the **North East** who are not in NASS accommodation and receive only subsistence (cash) support from NASS. In total there are **10,935** (Home office figures) clients getting only subsistence support throughout the country. The North East had **0.32%** of this number². **7,850 (71.79%)** 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 in the North East. This is taken from the figures provided by NESMP and NESPARS.

Figure 2

Local Authority*	Number of SO Individuals
Newcastle upon Tyne	9
Middlesbrough	7
Gateshead	6
Stockton on Tees	5
Sunderland	2
North Tyneside	1
TOTAL	30

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

¹ Home office figures are often rounded up to the nearest 5 and small variations may be as a result of data being collected on different days "Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2007" Table 9.

² This percentage is based on Home office figures, Ibid.

Number of households in NASS accommodation in the North East

There were **1876** households made up of **3711** 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
DARLINGTON			
	NESPARS (NECARS) ³	19	34
	Totals	19	34
GATESHEAD			
	ANGEL GROUP		142
	RCA Sheffield		20
	TC - KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)		30
	NESPARS (NECARS)		190
	Totals		382
HARTLEPOOL			
	M&Q Properties		2
	TC - KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)		7
	Totals		9
MIDDLESBROUGH			
	ANGEL GROUP		159
	M&Q Properties		74
	NECARS		1
	RCA Sheffield		36
	TC - KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)		347
	NESPARS (NECARS)		181
	Totals		798
NEWCASTLE upon TYNE			
	ANGEL GROUP		362
	M&Q Properties		123
	RCA Sheffield		42
	KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)		40
	NESPARS (NECARS)		859
	ROSELODGE LIMITED		2
	Totals		1428
NORTH TYNESIDE			
	RCA Sheffield		1
	ANGEL GROUP		5
	KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)		218
	Totals		224
REDCAR and CLEVELAND			
	KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)		34
	Totals		34
SOUTH TYNESIDE			
	ANGEL GROUP		6
	NESPARS (NECARS)		123
	Totals		129
STOCKTON			
	M&Q Properties		6
	RCA Sheffield		6
	ANGEL GROUP		4
	KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)		209
	NESPARS (NECARS)		140
	Totals		365
SUNDERLAND			
	M&Q Properties		27
	RCA Sheffield		5
	KIMBERLEY GROUP (NE)		86
	NESPARS (NECARS)		190
	M&Q Properties		308
	Totals		27
Grand Total		1876	3711

Figure 3

Note: Figures taken from NASS monthly figures as at end of March 2007 and not Home Office Statistics.

³ 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 March 2007 or in receipt of subsistence only support.

As at end March 2007:

- There were 80 different known Nationalities in the North East at the end of March 2007*
- The top 20 nationalities in the North East region at the end of March 2007 are shown below:

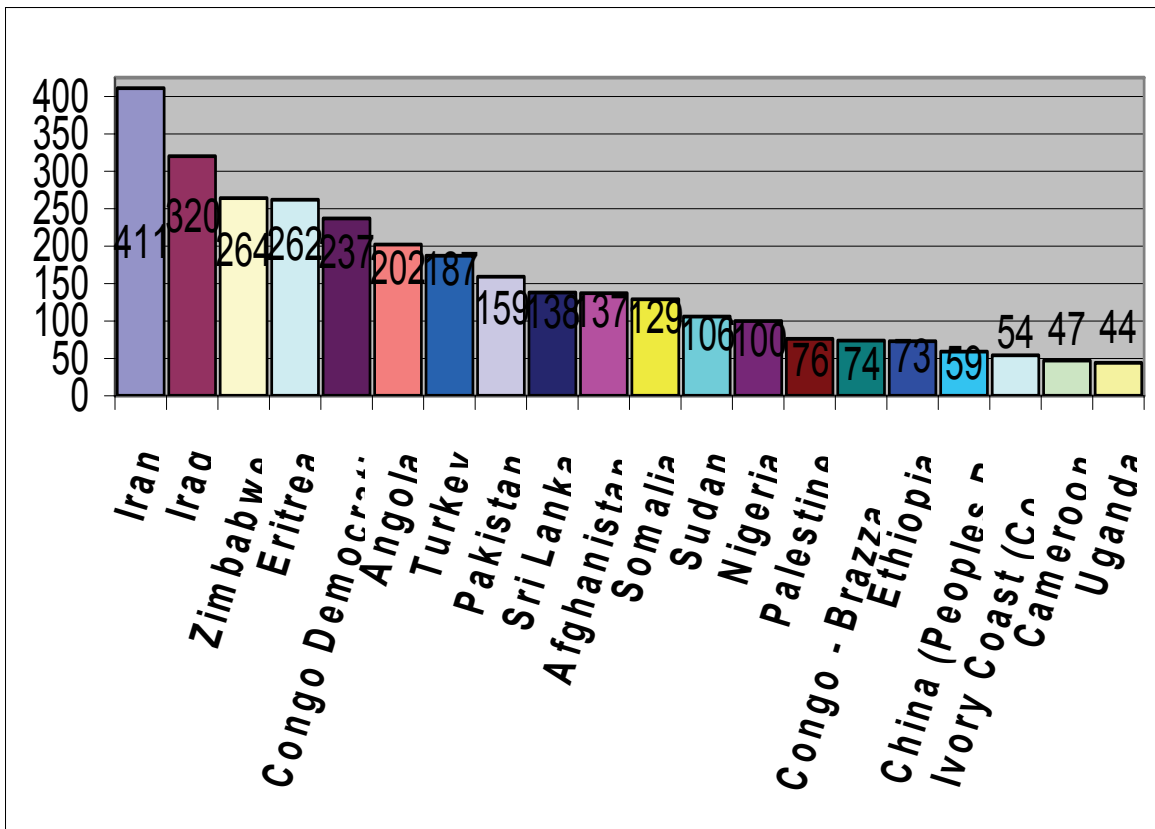


Figure 4

- *14 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, also included are 32 people from Kosovo (see note below).
- 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 March 2007:

- **10,935** asylum seekers were receiving subsistence only support.
- **36,785** asylum seekers were supported in NASS accommodation⁴.
- **1,075** asylum seekers were supported in initial accommodation
- Thus a total **48,800** asylum seekers were in receipt of NASS support as at the end of Q1 of 2007 which is **1%** lower than the previous quarter (December-06 = **49,190**).

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 March 2007.

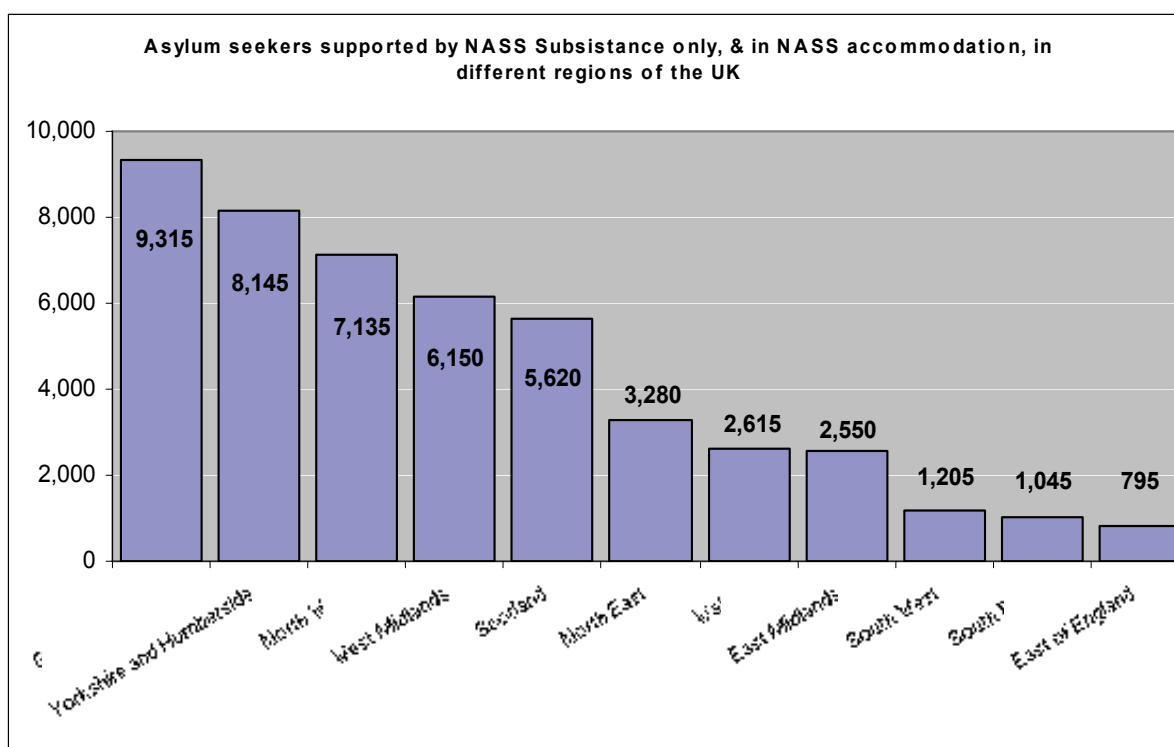


Figure 5

- ♦ The regions with the highest populations of asylum seekers supported by NASS in order of numbers were: Greater London (19.4%), Yorkshire and Humberside (17.0%), North West (14.9%), West Midlands (12.8%), Scotland (11.7%), the **North East** is in sixth place with **6.8%** of all the asylum seekers supported by NASS in the UK.

⁴ Due to Home office rounding of figures in the Home Office report there is a published total of 36,785 and the breakdown of those figures in "Figure 6" adding up to 36,790 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	7850	1515
Yorkshire and Humberside	305	7845
North West	575	6560
West Midlands	545	5605
Scotland	185	5075
North East*	35	3245
East Midlands	340	2210
Wales	60	2555
South East	565	480
South West	105	1100
East of England	365	430
Northern Ireland	5	170

Figure 6

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

(The 466 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 different dates and rounding of figures also explains the discrepancy of 5 from the Home Office figure 35, and NASS figure 30).

Asylum applications – National

Number of applications for the past 9 quarters

- Applications: 5,680 this is 0.79% lower than previous quarter

Applications for asylum (excluding dependants) in the UK decreased by .079% in Q1 2007 to 5,680 from Q4 2006 (5,725) and was -12.01% less than Q1 2006 (6,455).

Including dependants the number of applications to the UK fell by -1.24% in Q1 2007 (6750) from Q4 2007 (6,835)

The Chart below shows the number of applications by primary applicants not including dependants for the past 9 quarters (since Q1 2005):

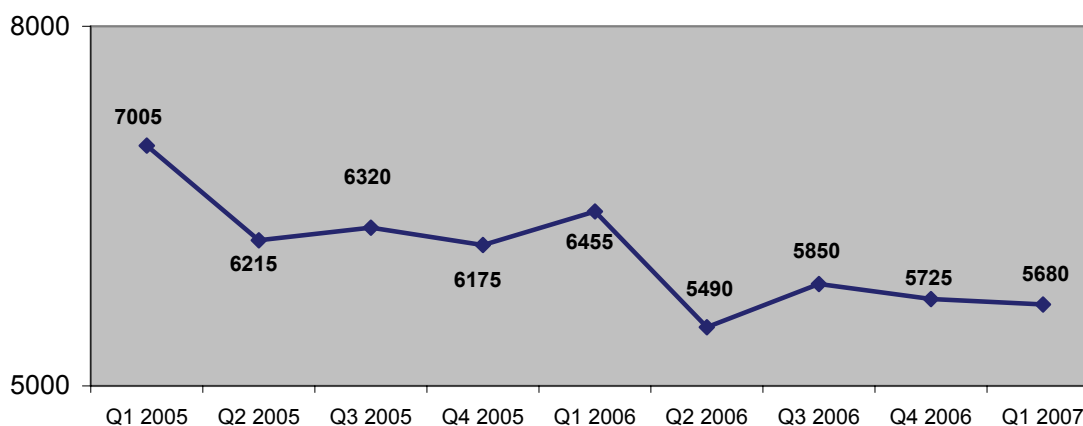


Figure 7⁵

The top ten nationalities applying for asylum in Q1 of 2007

The largest nationality applying for asylum in Q1 of 2007 was Afghanistan with 755 applications -2.72% down on last quarter, when Iran was also the largest group with 735. Below shows the top 10 nationalities applying for asylum in the UK in Q1 2007:

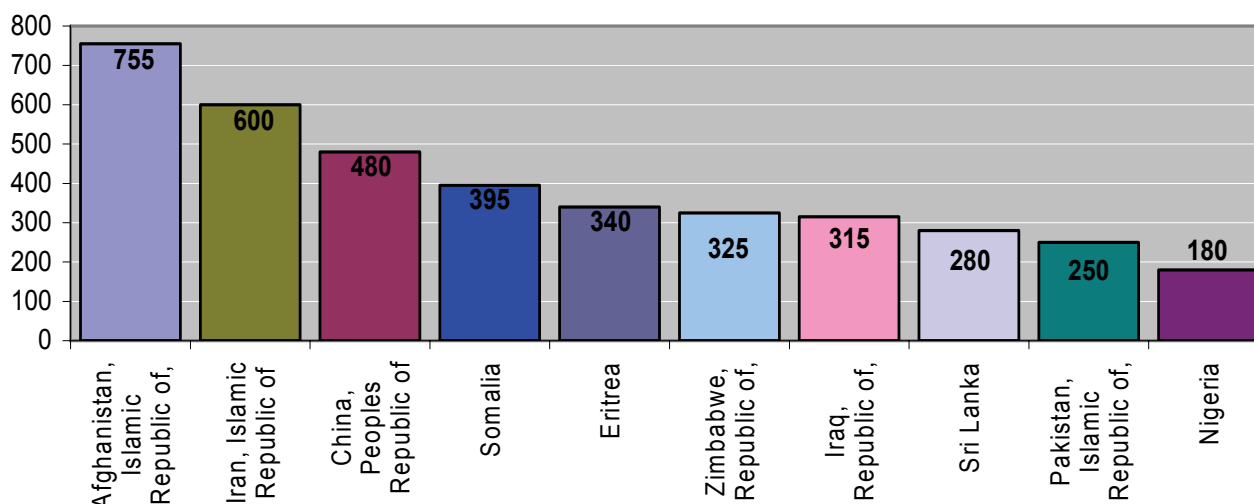


Figure 8

⁵ 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: 4,575 in Q1 2007 which was +0.44 higher than previous quarter**
 - The number of applications for NASS support in Q1 2007 was 4,575 (excluding dependents) **+0.44** higher than Q4 2006(4,555) and 29.45% lower than Q1 2006 (6485).
 - In Q1 2007, 3,765 (82%) applications were from single adults and 810 (18%) were from family groups.

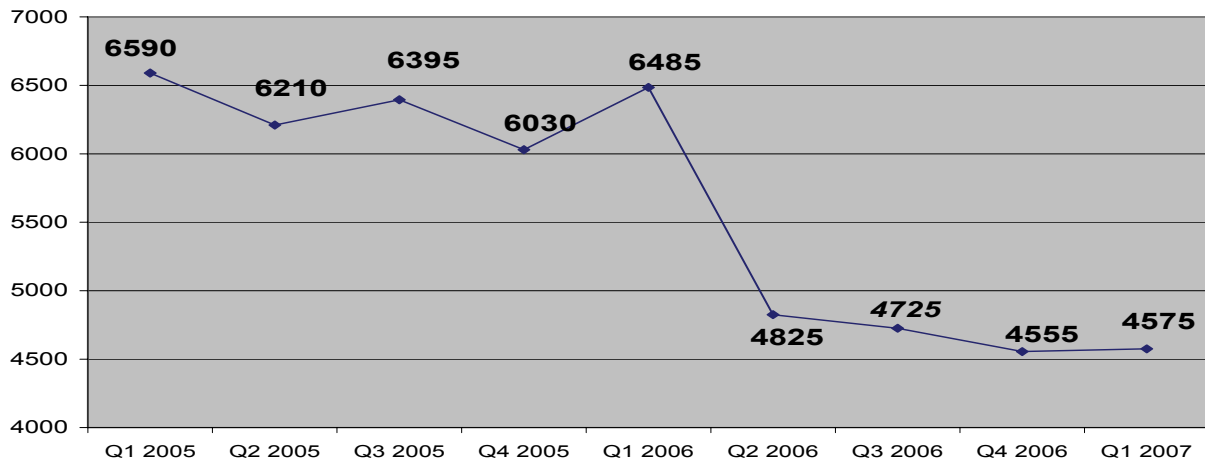


Figure 9

- **Support type:**
 - In Q1 2007, **3,195** (70%) applications were for accommodation and subsistence support and **970** (21%) of applications were for subsistence only support.
 - The remaining 9% of applications were classified as invalid or unknown.

Top Ten Nationalities applying for NASS support:

In the last quarter applications fell from four of the top ten nationalities and rose from five others, one remained the same.

Applications from Afghanistan rose by 29%, Iraq by 10% and Zimbabwe 17%. Applications from Eritrea fell by 29%, Somalia by 6% and applications from Sudan fell by 7%.

Figure 10

Iran	715
Afghanistan	445
Iraq	400
Eritrea	395
Somalia	390
Zimbabwe	265
Pakistan	190
Sri Lanka	160
Sudan	150
Peoples Republic of China	120
Others	1,350
Total	4,580

* Figures from Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2007 United Kingdom (p7)

Asylum application initial decisions – National⁶

Number of decisions made for the past 6 quarters

• Initial Decisions in Q1 2007: 6,005; 16.49% higher than previous quarter

- 6,005 initial decisions were made in Q1 2007, **16.49%** higher than in Q4 2006 (5,155) and higher than the level of applications.
- The number of cases (excluding dependants) awaiting an initial decision was 5,700 at the end of March 2007 (6,000 at the end of December 2006, 4,900 at the end of March 2006). Of this total, 4,300 cases were work in progress, i.e. the application had been outstanding for six months or less, at the end of last quarter (December) their were 5,000 cases in progress.
- 15% of initial decisions in Q1 2007 were to grant asylum compared with 13% for Q4 2006. 10% of initial decisions granted humanitarian protection or discretionary leave compared with 11% in Q4 2006. 75% of initial decisions in Q1 2007 were refusals, compared to 76% for Q4.

The Chart below demonstrates the number of decisions made for the past 6 quarters⁷:

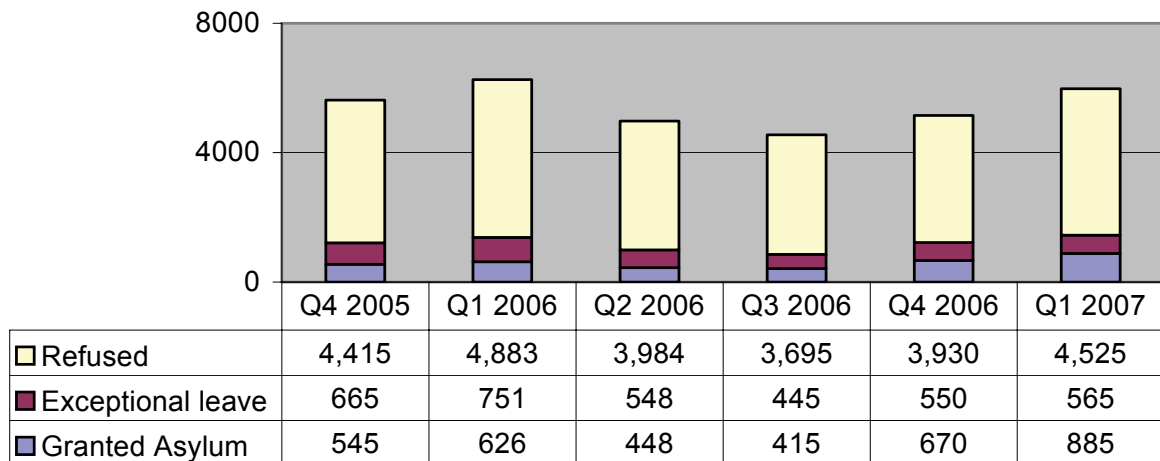


Figure 11

Number of decisions made for the past 9 quarters

The Chart below shows the number of Initial decisions made for the period from Q1 of 2005 to Q1 of 2007:

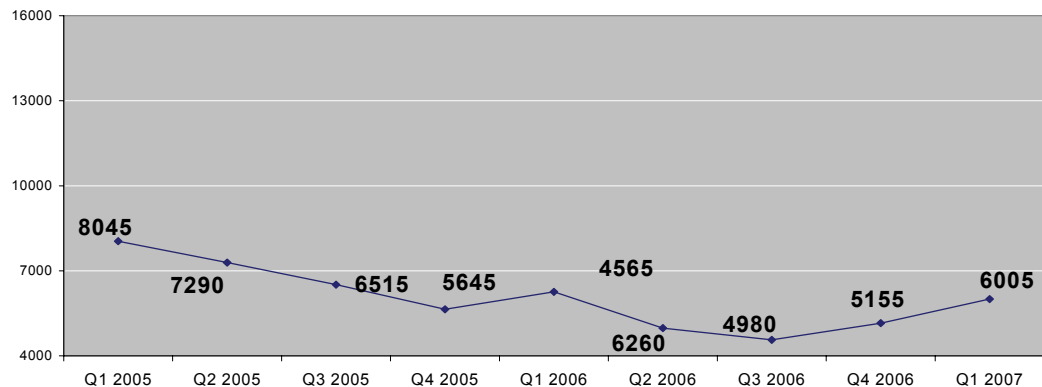


Figure 12

Timeliness of Initial Decisions

- 76% of applications received in 2005/06 had initial decisions reached and served within two months, compared with 80% in 2004/05.

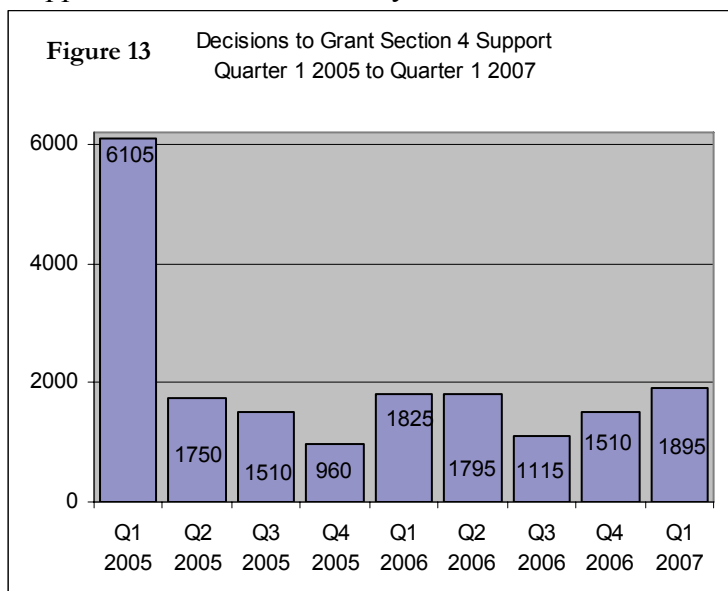
⁶ All figures on this page come from p3 and Table 1 Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2007 United Kingdom

⁷ Due to home office rounding this totals 5975 not 6005.

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 Q1 2007 was (1,895) 25.5% higher than in Q4 2006 (1,510).
- As in Quarters 3 & 4 Nationals of Iraq accounted for the highest number of failed asylum seekers in receipt of section 4 support, 3255 (37% of those supported). In quarter 4 this was 2,600 (40% of those supported) & in Quarter 3 this figure was 2,375 (also 40%).



- As at the end of Q1 (end of March 2007) 8,780 excluding dependants, were in receipt of section 4('Hard Case') support, 33.94% higher than at the end of Q4 (December) (6,555).

Top 10 Nationalities supported Q1 2007	
Iraq	3255
Iran	935
Eritrea	740
Sudan	485
Somalia	405
Dem. Rep Congo	395
Zimbabwe	375
Ethiopia	260
Peoples Republic of China	205
Congo - Brazzaville	200
Others	1525
Total	8780

Figure 14

* Figures on this page from Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2007 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 Q1: 3,880, this is 5% higher than previous quarter (3,700)

Appeals determined

- Appeals determined increased in Q1 by 11% to 3,655 from 3,305 in Q4, and was 28% lower than in Q1 2006 (5,115).
- The proportion of appeals dismissed was 74% in Q1 the same as Q4 2006, whilst 21% of appeals allowed, in Q4 2006 this was 20%.
- The total asylum work in progress at the AIT at the end of March 2007 was 6,000; this is the same as the figure for work in progress on the 31 December 2006 and the 30th of September 2006.

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

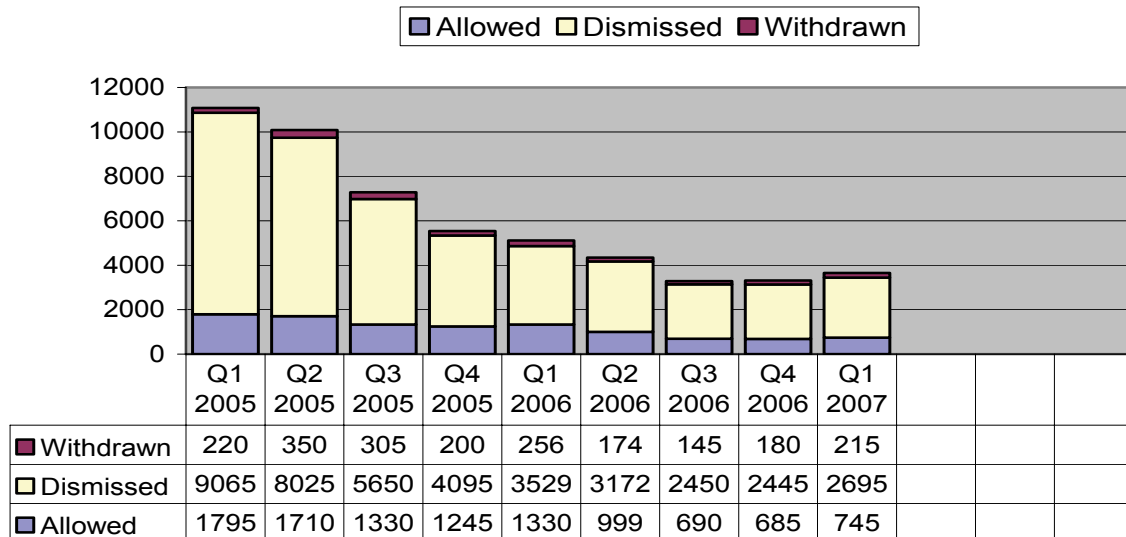


Figure 15

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: 1st Quarter 2007 United Kingdom (p4)

Applications to European Countries/ Non European Countries 2003, 2004, 2005 2006 Jan-March 2007 (Q1)

10

Applications received for asylum in Europe and elsewhere, including dependants, for 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and Q1 of 2007.

Country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 Q1		
Austria	32,400	24,700	22,500	13,400	3,100		
Belgium	19,300	17,500	18,200	13,200	3,200		
Denmark	4,600	3,200	2,300	1,900	600		
Finland	3,200	3,900	3,600	2,300	300		
France	62,000	65,600	59,400	39,300	8,700		
Germany	50,600	35,600	28,900	21,000	4,400		
Greece	8,200	4,500	9,100	12,300	7,000		
Ireland	7,900	4,800	4,300	4,300	1,100		
Italy	13,500	7,400	9,500	n/a	n/a		
Luxembourg	1,500	1,600	800	500	100		
Netherlands	13,400	9,800	12,300	14,500	1,700		
Portugal	100	100	100	100	100		
Spain	5,900	5,600	5,000	5,300	2,300		
Sweden	31,400	23,200	17,500	24,300	9,200		
United Kingdom	60,000	40,600	30,800	27,800	6,800		
Total EU15	313,900	247,900	224,00	180,200	48,600		
Cyprus	4,400	9,900	7,800	4,500	1,700		
Czech Republic	11,400	5,500	4,000	3,000	500		
Estonia	*	*	*	*	*		
Hungary	2,400	1,600	1,600	2100	500		
Latvia	*	*	*	*	n/a		
Lithuania	200	200	100	200	n/a		
Malta	600	1,000	1,200	1,300	n/a		
Poland	6,900	8,100	5,400	4,200	n/a		
Slovakia	10,400	11,400	3,500	2,900	700		
Slovenia	1,100	1,300	1,600	500	100		
Total EU25	351,300	286,800	249,300	199,000	n/a		
Other Europe							
Norway	15,600	7,900	5,400	5,300	1,200		
Switzerland	21,000	14,200	10,100	10,500	3,000		
Total Europe	387,900	308,900	264,700	215,800	n/a		
Non-Europe							
Australia	4,300	3,300	5,400	3,500	900		
Canada	31,900	25,500	19,700	22,900	5,600		
USA	60,700	63,000	48,800	51,500	n/a		
Grand Total	484,800	400,700	336,400	293,700	n/a		

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

- Figures on this page from Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2007 United Kingdom (table 24)
- ** Taken from the data available, however some countries still to submit additional data.

Asylum seekers and refugees worldwide

The UNHCR did not publish their quarterly “*Asylum Trends in Industrialised Countries*” report for 2007, so this quarter’s report does not show those worldwide figures.

Home Office: Asylum Statistics: 1st Quarter 2007 United Kingdom -
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/asylumq107.pdf>

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