



Home Office

Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation

EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS

November 2017

About the data

These data are experimental statistics and should be interpreted with caution. Experimental statistics are statistics that are in a testing phase and are not yet fully developed. These statistics have not been subject to the full level of quality assurance of National Statistics. Further details can be found in the Office for National Statistics [Guide to Experimental Statistics](#).

All data published in this release relate to the number of asylum claims made where sexual orientation formed part of the basis of the claim. They are taken from internal management information and will not match the asylum statistics published in the quarterly Immigration statistics release.

These statistics reflect the claims made by asylum applicants and do not reflect a confirmed or definite status.

For a claim to be counted as having a sexual orientation element, an identifier is completed by caseworkers. An initial investigation looking at a sample of cases suggested that this flag was wrongly applied in 12% of cases, either because they were initially wrongly flagged as sexual orientation cases, or should have been flagged as sexual orientation cases but were not. The reported number of claims on the basis of sexual orientation and, to a greater extent, the nationality breakdowns, may therefore be affected by this issue. The Home Office is updating its advice to caseworkers to improve the clarity of recording of claim data where possible.

The sexual orientation identifier may be subject to inconsistent use over time making it difficult to draw comparisons over time. For this reason, the data in this release refer to all cases between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2017. No comparisons over time are made.

What the data can tell us

The data shows the number of asylum claims where sexual orientation was raised as part of the basis for the claim. It also shows the outcome of these claims and the number of appeals. The sexual orientation element could be raised at any stage of the process (as part of the asylum case, appeal, or as part of other casework), and may form either the sole basis, or one of multiple grounds for the claim. Hence, like other data derived from administrative data, these numbers may be updated in subsequent statistics releases.

The data show:

- The number of asylum claims where sexual orientation was raised as a basis, or part of the basis, of the claim.
- The initial decision of claims where sexual orientation was raised as part of the claim.
- The outcome of appeals for asylum cases where sexual orientation was raised as part of the claim.

What the data can't tell us

The data do not show:

- Whether sexual orientation was the sole basis for the asylum claim
- Whether sexual orientation was raised as the basis for the asylum claim at the time the claim was made, or whether it was raised at a later stage.

- Whether the sexual orientation element of the claim has any bearing on the outcome of the claim. For example, a claim may be based on multiple factors. The outcome of the claim may not be down to the sexual orientation component.
- The number of asylum claimants who define themselves as LGB. Having an identifier that an asylum case is based on sexual orientation does not indicate that a claimant has any particular sexual orientation.
- Whether the sexual orientation element of the claim had any bearing on the appeal being lodged, or the outcome of the appeal.

Key points

More information on the data below can be found in the [data tables](#).

Asylum claims

The data in this section refer to asylum claims, raised between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2017, where sexual orientation formed the basis, or part of the basis, of an asylum claim.

The data show that an estimated 6% of all asylum claims are on the basis of sexual orientation.

The nationalities with the highest number of asylum claims where sexual orientation had been raised as part of the basis for the claim were:

- Pakistan (1,000, 20% of Pakistani asylum claims over the period)
- Bangladesh (454, 14%)
- Nigeria (362, 18%).

However, the nationalities with the highest proportion of total claims that were based on sexual orientation were:

- Uganda (67%)
- Cameroon (38%)
- United Rep of Tanzania (32%)

Initial Decisions

The data in this section refer to the initial decisions made on asylum claims raised between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2017, where sexual orientation formed part of the basis for the claim.

Only nationalities where more than 50 initial decisions have been made during this period are included in this analysis.

Pakistani nationals saw the highest volume of grants (233), but this was most likely due to the large volumes of claims based on sexual orientation. The nationalities with the highest proportion of grants were:

- Uganda (55%)
- Iran (52%)
- Jamaica (37%)

Sri Lanka, India, and Albania all had a grant rate of less than 1%.

Appeals

The data in this section refer to appeals following decisions made on asylum cases raised between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2017, where sexual orientation formed part of the basis for the claim.

Nationals from Pakistan raised the highest number of appeals (530), of which 39% were granted.

Ugandan nationals saw the highest proportion of appeals allowed (54%)

Data tables

Global

The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols

All Tables: Special Values

n/a = Not applicable.

: = Not available.

0= Nil.

1. The dataset relates to asylum cases raised between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2017.
2. The data shows all main asylum claimants for whom the sexual orientation identifier has been completed on the Home Office system. This identifier should be completed by caseworkers where the basis of claim includes sexual orientation. This can be the sole basis of claim or one of multiple grounds, and can have been raised at any stage during the asylum case, appeal or other casework.
3. The data does not represent the number of asylum claimants who define themselves as LGB. Having an identifier that an asylum case is based on sexual orientation does not indicate that a claimant has any particular sexuality or that sexual orientation is the reason for any grant or refusal of asylum. It also does not signify whether that aspect of the claim has been accepted. Sexual orientation as a basis of claim could be due to imputed assertions or association rather than a defining characteristic of the claimant.
4. Data accuracy relies on caseworker completion of the sexual orientation identifier on the Home Office system. As a manual addition, the nature of the recording system used has potential for error from misapplication and omission, and inconsistent use over time. Additional cases may be identified as undecided cases are considered, as claimants raise further grounds during the progression of their case, or as identifiers are added as a result of quality assurance.
5. Countries with less than 10 sexual orientation cases are combined and not represented separately given the low numbers. The countries for which there have been less than 10 sexual orientation cases in the period are: Angola, Antigua & Barbuda, Armenia, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, British Overseas Citizen, Burma (Myanmar), Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Maldives, Mali, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia (the Republic of), Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, St Kitts & Nevis, St Vincent & the Grenadines,

St.Lucia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia

6. There were no sexual orientation cases raised during the period for the remaining countries that are not listed above or included in the data tables.
7. Total Asylum Claims from Country will differ from published Asylum statistics as it is internal management information, it includes second claims for asylum, and it has been extracted on a different date.
8. Decisions included are first asylum outcomes as at 30 September 2017 and do not include the outcome of reconsiderations or further submissions.
9. Other outcomes include withdrawn claims, deceased outcomes and data cleansing.
10. The data were extracted on 30 September 2017.
11. Percentage calculations compare the number Granted Asylum against the total number Granted Asylum, Granted Limited Leave and Refused (Other Outcomes are excluded).
12. Appeal Outcomes are Latest Substantive Appeal Outcomes as at 30 September 2017.

SOC_01. Asylum claims where sexual orientation has been raised as a basis of claim
1 July 2015 to 31 March 2017 ^{1,2,3,4}

Nationality	Asylum claims based on sexual orientation	Total asylum claims ⁷	% of claims based on sexual orientation
Uganda	257	382	67%
Cameroon	105	278	38%
United Rep of Tanzania	20	63	32%
Malaysia	37	121	31%
Senegal	17	59	29%
Trinidad & Tobago	18	64	28%
Malawi	28	124	23%
Ghana	106	480	22%
Kenya	31	153	20%
Saudi Arabia	15	75	20%
Pakistan	1,000	5,059	20%
Gambia	52	272	19%
Nigeria	362	2,003	18%
Morocco	24	155	15%
South Africa	17	110	15%
Zimbabwe	68	474	14%
Bangladesh	454	3,195	14%
Philippines	19	136	14%
Mauritius	13	101	13%
Jamaica	57	466	12%
Sierra Leone	10	94	11%
Algeria	29	291	10%
Sri Lanka	57	1,564	4%
India	94	2,593	4%
Albania	95	2,727	3%
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	197	7,230	3%
Egypt	17	723	2%
Iraq	69	5,154	1%
Vietnam	13	1,422	1%
Afghanistan	24	4,311	1%
Syria Arab Republic	10	3,180	0%
Nationalities with less than 10 claims based on sexual orientation ⁵	220	14,621	2%
Nationalities with no claims based on sexual orientation ⁶	n/a	1,081	n/a
Grand Total	3,535	58,761	6%

SOC_02. Initial decisions made on asylum claims raised between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2017 where sexual orientation has been raised as a basis of claim ^{1, 2, 3, 4, 8}

Nationality	Total grants	Grants of asylum	Grant Limited Leave	Total refusals	Other Outcomes ⁹	Work In Progress ¹⁰	Grand Total	% sexual orientation cases granted asylum ¹¹	% total decided cases granted asylum ¹¹
Pakistan	233	232	1	700	32	35	1,000	25%	14%
Bangladesh	55	55	0	347	15	37	454	14%	4%
Nigeria	63	62	1	268	12	19	362	19%	7%
Uganda	136	135	1	108	2	11	257	55%	48%
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	98	95	3	84	6	9	197	52%	37%
Ghana	13	12	1	90	1	2	106	12%	4%
Cameroon	27	27	0	67	4	7	105	29%	19%
Albania	12	0	12	66	2	15	95	0%	1%
India	0	0	0	82	9	3	94	0%	0%
Iraq	17	17	0	44	3	5	69	28%	8%
Zimbabwe	6	6	0	58	1	3	68	9%	8%
Jamaica	22	20	2	32	2	1	57	37%	8%
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	48	3	6	57	0%	4%
Gambia	5	5	0	43	0	4	52	10%	9%
Malaysia	16	16	0	21	0	0	37	43%	24%
Kenya	6	6	0	23	0	2	31	21%	7%
Algeria	4	4	0	23	1	1	29	15%	6%
Malawi	5	5	0	22	0	1	28	19%	6%
Morocco	4	4	0	16	2	2	24	20%	8%
Afghanistan	2	1	1	17	1	4	24	5%	20%
United Rep of Tanzania	4	4	0	15	1	0	20	21%	8%
Philippines	1	1	0	15	2	1	19	6%	1%
Trinidad & Tobago	8	8	0	9	1	0	18	47%	29%
Egypt	7	7	0	8	0	2	17	47%	7%
Senegal	2	2	0	13	0	2	17	13%	12%
South Africa	2	1	1	10	2	3	17	8%	2%
Saudi Arabia	10	10	0	4	1	0	15	71%	57%
Mauritius	1	1	0	12	0	0	13	8%	1%
Vietnam	0	0	0	8	1	4	13	0%	23%
Syria Arab Republic	8	8	0	1	0	1	10	89%	84%
Sierra Leone	2	2	0	7	0	1	10	22%	14%
Nationalities with less than 10 claims based on sexual orientation	69	68	1	118	11	22	220	36%	52%
Grand Total	838	814	24	2,379	115	203	3,535	25%	31%

SOC_03. Appeal outcomes on asylum claims raised between 1st July 2015 to 31st March 2017 where sexual orientation has been raised as a basis of claim^{1,2,3,4,12}

Nationality	Allowed	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Total
Pakistan	207	318	5	530
Bangladesh	74	150	7	231
Nigeria	39	121	4	164
Uganda	47	39	1	87
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	31	28	1	60
Ghana	7	52	0	59
Cameroon	14	26	1	41
Zimbabwe	17	24	0	41
Sri Lanka	12	25	0	37
Gambia	14	21	0	35
Albania	11	15	1	27
Iraq	7	16	0	23
Malaysia	8	7	1	16
Jamaica	3	11	0	14
Kenya	1	13	0	14
Malawi	2	11	1	14
Senegal	2	10	0	12
United Rep of Tanzania	4	7	0	11
Afghanistan	4	6	0	10
Algeria	3	7	0	10
India	2	5	2	9
Philippines	0	7	0	7
Trinidad & Tobago	3	4	0	7
South Africa	2	4	0	6
Egypt	1	4	0	5
Vietnam	0	4	0	4
Morocco	1	2	0	3
Saudi Arabia	1	1	1	3
Sierra Leone	1	2	0	3
Mauritius	0	1	0	1
Syria Arab Republic	0	0	0	0
Nationalities with less than 10 claims based on sexual orientation ⁵	23	32	2	57
Grand Total	541	973	27	1,541

ISBN: 978-1-78655-596-0



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