

**1) What records are kept of the number of unaccompanied minors who have failed asylum claims being deported back to their country after being brought to the United Kingdom by child traffickers.**

Unaccompanied minors who have failed asylum claims are not deported back to their country. They would be granted Discretionary Leave for 3 years or 1 year (depending on their country of origin) or until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, whichever is the shorter. At the age of 18 they could then apply for further leave to remain.

**2) What is the number of unaccompanied children arriving in the UK who have failed asylum.**

UASC decision data has only been available from 2002

**Initial decisions (1)(2) on applications, received in the United Kingdom, from Unaccompanied Asylum**

	<b>Total decisions</b>	<b>Grants of Asylum</b>	<b>Grants of ELR, HP &amp; DL (3)</b>	<b>Total refusals</b>
2002	6,990	585	4,830	1,575
2003	3,835	150	2,790	890
2004	3,440	85	2,525	830
2005 (P)	2,835	150	1,985	700
Q1 2006 (P)	845	45	605	190
Q2 2006 (P)	595	45	430	120

(1) Information is of initial determination decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

(2) Figures rounded to nearest 5, with '\*' = 1 or 2.

(3) Humanitarian Protection (HP) and Discretionary Leave (DL) replaced Exceptional Leave to Remain (ELR) from 1 April 2003.

(P) Provisional figures.

Source: Immigration Research and Statistics Service 15 November 2006.

**3) What criteria are used to assess which unaccompanied children who have failed asylum will be returned to their home country.**

Ministers have given a commitment that no unaccompanied child will be removed from the UK unless IND is satisfied that adequate reception and care arrangements are in place in the country to which he or she is to be removed or their families have been traced.

**4) Which child protection agencies in the UK and home countries are being consulted to assess what action will be in the "best interest of the child".**

IND works closely with Police Child Protection Agencies, Local Authorities and other key stakeholders taking into consideration any concerns they identify when assessing what action will be in the best interest of the child during their time in the UK. With regard to returns programmes, IND will always consult fully with the relevant authorities and international NGOs such as UNICEF and Save the Children where in the home countries to ensure the best interests of the child are fully considered (please see answers 1. and 3.)

**5) What measures are in place to prevent (a) trafficking or (b) re-trafficking of failed asylum claim unaccompanied minors into the UK.**

All passengers whose asylum claim has been unsuccessful will be identified when entering the United Kingdom as their details will be held on the immigration database against which all passports are checked on arrival. The Immigration Service have reviewed the guidance and advice available to front line staff on how to deal with all victims of trafficking. Immigration staff receive awareness training on victims of trafficking as part of their induction training. In addition a trafficking toolkit is available through the UKIS operational website. The toolkit acts as a guide for immigration officers, police and other professionals who might potentially deal with the victims of trafficking, whether they are adults or children. In particular, it helps those concerned to treat victims of trafficking fairly and appropriately. This is underpinned by a guidance document setting out who staff need to contact and what their responsibilities are in dealing with all victims of trafficking. To assist with the identification of victims, immigration staff working in command intelligence units, use trafficking profiles to help identify victims. 600 immigration staff have attended a specialist course on child protection and trafficking run by the International Organisation for Migration to add expertise to front line staff. All this assists in raising the awareness of trafficking with immigration staff and helps them to identify victims of trafficking at border points before they are subjected to exploitation.