

## **Update: Outcomes following 2011 consultation on changes to immigration-related Home Office statistical outputs.**

### **Background**

In February 2011, Home Office Statistics launched a consultation on proposed changes to immigration-related statistical outputs from Home Office. The summary of responses and outcome of the consultation were published on 25 August 2011. These documents are available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-on-changes-to-immigration-related-home-office-statistical-outputs>

Ten organisations provided requests or comments that were considered, by Migration Statistics, to be out of the scope of the consultation. In the summary of response and outcome document, it was stated "These will be considered, taking account of resource constraints, for taking forward in our future work programme."

This document provides an update to the outcome of the consultation, specifically the requests and comments out of scope of the original consultation.

### **General**

**(i) Migration Observatory stated that it would be useful to have data from past years reorganised into a consistent set of categories, in particular long-time series for entry clearance visas and arrivals.**

2011 response: Work is underway on this. Entry clearance visas are now provided from 2005 and arrivals from 2007. Over the years there have been changing rules and priorities and the data use different sources; it can therefore be difficult to present the various data consistently, as well as reflect the latest demands.

2013 update: Work in response to this request has now been completed. Quarterly data by category on visa applications, decision outcomes, and on grants by nationality within detailed categories are now published back to Q1 2005 and updated quarterly.

**(ii) Migration Observatory request consideration is made to the *Migration Observatory Report on Top Ten problems with evidence base on migration issues*.**

2013 update: Migration Statistics have reviewed the Migration Observatory report and considered the points carefully. With reference to the second point made, the 'study', 'work', and 'family' topics within Immigration Statistics all now provide a comparison of relevant data sources, including the IPS, admissions and visa data and the sections of the User Guide to Home Office Immigration Statistics provides further generic information on why there are differences. The time series shows that they tend to follow the same trend, but where they do differ an attempt is made to offer an explanation.

The specific issues raised in the other nine issues raised do not directly relate to the quarterly statistical data on immigration produced by Home Office; some have been addressed by separate Home Office research (e.g. on impacts) or relate to data produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

**(iii) ILPA repeated the need for more cohort data as recommended in the National Statistics Quarterly Review Series Report 46.**

2013 update: Home Office Statistics have reviewed this request. No further action is planned. Cohort data on the outcomes of asylum applications up to and including appeal was further developed following the National Statistics review in 2006. It was expanded in 2011 to include data by nationality, and is regularly published within the Immigration Statistics release. For non-asylum

processes, the Migrant Journey research reports (latest at [Migrant Journey: Third Report](#)) now provide cohort analyses.

**(iv) The MAC encouraged further analytical work on the volume of discrepancies between different sources of migration data (e.g. entry clearance visa statistics vs. border entry statistics)**

2013 update: Work in response to this request has been completed. See the 2013 update to (ii) above.

**(v) The MAC reported that they would find useful official data on the lengths of endorsement of different categories of migrant visa applications and those entering the UK. In particular, separating out entry clearance visas issued and border entries for one year and over, and those for less than one year, would aid the interpretation of how recent changes to the intra-company transfer route are affecting migration flows.**

2011 response: New visa endorsements allow for issues of intra-company transfer visas to be recorded as short or long term and Migration Statistics have planned to publish this split within the new format of table. However, due to the burden of processing the landing cards, there are no plans to split arrivals data in this way.

Regarding the length of visa / stay across all endorsements: previous analysis has shown that the completion and processing of landing cards does not allow passenger arrivals data to be published by length of admission to the quality required for publication, particularly as any length of time is completed by the passenger; however it may be possible to provide management information on the length of visa, subject to quality assurance to ascertain whether the data is of the appropriate accuracy and usefulness.

2013 update: Work in response to this request has now been completed. The numbers of short- and long-term Intra Company Transfer visas issued are available separately in the Before Entry visa tables. Data has also been published on short-term visas as part of ONS' annual bulletin on short-term migration in May 2013, and similar corresponding data on total visas continues to be published. The position on passenger arrivals data remains the same.

**(vi) The MAC reported concern regarding the online accessibility and presentation of the immigration data, referring to the data as difficult to locate without prior knowledge of the precise name of the publication and the location at which it is stored. They suggested a change of name to better reflect the content; a dedicated webpage; and links to all historical outputs.**

2011 response: The Home Office website has been relaunched since the MAC's comments, which should address some of the MAC's suggestions. We hope that users will be able to find the latest data much more easily following this and the launch of the new web-based structure of the release.

In addition, the name of the publication is being changed to *Immigration Statistics*.

2013 update: Work in response to this request has now been completed. In addition to the above, the release is now published on gov.uk along with all other departments and there is a dedicated webpage. Where possible, long-time series are published and these are all available from the latest release. The publication also includes an extensive User Guide and a policy timeline.

**(vii) Philip Rees requested more radical and innovative improvement of the source data on immigration and emigration in consultation with ONS, especially the opportunities that e-borders presents and ensure that statistical requirements are built into e-Borders. Philip**

**Rees commented on the work that needs to be done in Part 2 of *Migration Statistics: The Way Ahead*.**

2013 update: This is a matter for ONS who have now published a report on the [statistical benefits of e-borders](#) and will continue reporting to the Migration Statistics User Forum on progress. The Home Office is providing extracts of e-borders data to ONS to allow them to update their assessment of benefits and to plan for future use.

**(viii) Philip Rees requested that all datasets are provided as excel tables and links are provided to these tables from the commentary / charts.**

2011 response: This request will be included in the new release.

2013 update: The tables are now provided in Open Data Source format to enable greater access.

**Before entry**

**(ix) ILPA repeated the need for further information on decision making by entry clearance officers at British embassy posts or juxtaposed controls.**

2013 update: This request has been considered. Extensive data on entry clearance visa decisions by category and by nationality are now published. It would be disproportionate to publish more detailed data.

**(x) Migration Watch requested a distinction between temporary visas and those leading to settlement.**

2011 response: The distinction is presented where the recorded information allow.

2013 update: This has been carefully considered and no further action is planned. Visas leading to immediate settlement are already identified; for other visas settlement decisions are made dependent on a range of criteria so it is not possible to identify in advance which visas (aside from those for immediate settlement or those where the immigration category does not provide a route to settlement) will lead to settlement.

**(xi) Migration Watch requested that entry clearance data be published at lowest available level.**

2013 update: In response to this extensive data on entry clearance visa decisions by category and by nationality are now published. No further action is planned as it would be disproportionate to publish more detailed data.

**Admissions**

**(xii) Migration Watch requested a distinction between temporary visas and those leading to settlement.**

2011 response: The distinction is presented where the burden of processing the information allow.

2013 update: No further change anticipated; from existing data sources it is not possible to link admissions data to visas information and as explained above, it is not possible to identify in advance which visas (aside from those for immediate settlement) will lead to settlement.

**Extensions**

**(xiii) Migration Watch requested differentiation of whether an applicant is applying in the same category as previous permission or switching from another category. They stated**

**that due to the policy changes on the Post-Study Work Route it was important that the number of people switching in-country from Tier 4 to Tier 2 is available and transparent.**

2013 update: Work in response to this request has now been completed. A short statistical article has been published on 29 August 2013 alongside Immigration Statistics: April – June 2013.

**(xiv) Migration Watch requested that extensions data should be published at lowest available level.**

2013 update: Detailed data by category are published against the standard classification within Immigration Statistics. Home Office Statistics continue to develop based on user need.

### **Settlement**

**(xv) Migration Observatory requested further information about the “other discretionary” category of settlement grants, following recent increases, e.g. how many cases come from the asylum backlog and what were bases for grants.**

2013 update: This request has been considered and was covered by previous settlement topic briefs. The request has now been superseded following completion of the backlog clearance exercises.

**(xvi) ILPA repeated the request for data on those living and working in the UK for extended periods who are not counted as ‘Settled’, by age, gender and nationality.**

2013 update: This request has been considered. However, population data is a matter for ONS, not for within the quarterly Home Office Immigration Statistics.

### **Asylum**

**(xvii) Refugee Council and Welsh Refugee Council repeated previous requests for asylum statistics data by country / region. Wales Strategic Migration Partnership also requested these data. They provided reasoning (including planning and delivery of service provision at devolved, local authority and non-governmental levels, correctly informing the public, and monitoring the relative performance and decision making of the regional UKBA teams). Welsh Refugee Council provided a list of the data that they require to cover these needs.**

**Welsh Refugee Council stated that they were disappointed that the questions for consultation did not include a question about disaggregating data regionally to reflect the situation in the devolved nations and they requested an update on previous requests.**

2011 response: Although UK Border Agency have regional teams, this does not equate with informative regional data. There is not currently the resource to develop these statistics in the short term, although work will be undertaken to update the understanding of the data quality issues. The request will be reviewed regularly with regard to capacity to develop. The emphasis of the consultation was improving the presentation and ease of use without increasing resource requirements, and therefore did not include consulting on new datasets.

2013 update: This request remains under consideration for taking forward in our future work programme, in the form of a short statistical article which expands on the above 2011 response and lays out the data available and the issues with presenting it by region. This remains subject to taking account of resource constraints. Information on local impacts has been published as part of Home Office research and on population as part of the Census results.

**(xviii) Refugee Council repeated their previous request for further use of cohort data disaggregated by process (Detained Fast Track, Early Legal Advice Pilot, and NAM) and by region.**

2013 update: This remains under consideration for taking forward in our future work programme, subject to taking account of resource constraints.

**(xix) Refugee Council requested data on the number of asylum support applications refused.**

2013 update: From August 2013, the method for processing the figures for asylum support has been changed. One of the benefits of this change is that it allows for the potential to produce data on asylum support applications refused. This remains under consideration for taking forward in our future work programme, subject to taking account of resource constraints.

**(xx) Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA) repeated the request that in data disaggregated by age, cases where age is disputed should be clearly identified. They also pointed out the UN Committee on the Rights of the child's recommendation to provide the number of children seeking asylum including those who age is disputed.**

2011 response: Home Office Statistics publish two relevant tables: Asylum applications from main applicants and dependants, by age, sex and country of nationality; and Age disputed asylum applications, by country of nationality

2013 update: Further consideration has been given to this suggestion and, as a result, this will not be taken forward. As an age may be disputed for a short time, including less than one day, while an age assessment is being carried out, the exclusion of an individual from an age bracket and their inclusion within a grouping signifying their age is disputed has the potential to make these data more volatile than the current presentation. In addition, it would only provide a snapshot of those individuals who are recorded as having an outstanding age assessment waiting on the system at the time the data were extracted once per year. During the revising of the method for counting age disputes, the quality assurance process showed that the quantifiable data on those awaiting an age assessment is not of a high enough quality to publish without assessment of the individual records.

**(xxi) Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA) repeated that Article 4(1) of Regulation 862/2007 requires statistics on the numbers of applications that have been withdrawn and that statistics should identify the reasons for withdrawal (for example because they leave the UK).**

2011 response: The UK provides EUROSTAT with total withdrawn cases, but further work is required to disaggregate the data by type of withdrawal.

2013 update: It has been assumed that this refers to Article 4(2), as the UK has been fully compliant with Article 4(1) since March 2010. Article 4(2) refers to withdrawals of refugee status, subsidiary protection and humanitarian protection. Following further quality assurance work, the UK has provided the full data requirement to EUROSTAT since February 2013 and therefore work on this request has been completed.

**(xxii) ILPA repeated the request for data on judicial review applications that were withdrawn by the Secretary of State. However, Home Office Statistics have ceased to publish Judicial Review data.**

2013 update: This remains under consideration for taking forward in our future work programme, subject to taking account of resource constraints.

## **Detention**

**(xxiii) Refugee Council and ILPA requested that detention data should include immigration detainees in prisons. Both requested length of detention in prisons. ILPA requested that data include time spent in prisons post-sentence under immigration powers (though excluding time spent in prison cells under immigration powers). BID also requested that data should be collected and published on the number of post-sentence foreign nationals held in the prison estate.**

2011 response: Published detention statistics currently exclude detainees in police cells and Prison Service establishments as reliable data have not been available for these individuals since March 2006.

2013 update: A project is current underway to consider the quality of these data. The data are held by Ministry of Justice on a database which uses different unique identifiers for individuals to that used by Home Office to identify those within the immigration process. In order to publish this data, a reliable method for matching individuals on both databases in a quantifiable method would be required. This is currently only possible by consideration of individual records. Should the quality of the matching be assured, the first step would be to publish data similar to that available in the Control of Immigration releases during 2005.

**(xxiv) ILPA repeated the request for data on total number of those leaving detention during the year, broken down by reasons for leaving detention.**

2011 response: These data are available from published tables. Completed.

**(xxv) Refugee Council requested data on cumulative length of detention (over multiple occasions).**

2013 update: A project is currently underway to consider the viability to publish these data. Contact has been made with Refugee Council to establish their needs from these data and their priorities.

**(xxvi) BID requested that data on length of time in immigration detention should have more time groupings, particularly split '24 months +'**

2013 update: The work relating to this request has been completed. In May 2011 the grouping '7 days or less' was split into '3 days or less' and '4 to 7 days'. Following this request, the data were split from 12 to 14 different time lengths, including 24 months to less than 36 months, 36 months to less than 48 months and 48 months or more. This was introduced in May 2012.

**(xxvii) BID requested data on numbers of children detained, length of detention, outcome of detention at Tinsley House; Short Term Holding Facilities, including the Pre-Departure Accommodation; juvenile secure estate, HM Prison Mother and Baby units; and Police cells to monitor the UKBA's implementation of their duty under s55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.**

2011 response: Much of the data requested are available, although it excludes Prison and Police cells – see xxiii above. Work is underway to provide data on numbers in Pre-Departure Accommodation, in time for the first relevant reporting month.

2013 update: The work relating to this requested has been completed for the Home Office detention estate. The numbers of children in Cedars, the pre-departure accommodation, have been published for all months since Cedars opened. Quarterly data are also available. See also xiii above.

(xxviii) **BID requested numbers of families separated for the purposes of immigration detention where the child is placed in care, length of separation, age of children and outcome; number of families separated when the main applicant is removed from the UK; and numbers of families separated for the purposes of immigration detention where the child is left in the care of the second parent.**

2013 update: This request has been investigated. The data requested could only be produced by considering individual case records and therefore it has been assessed that providing these data on a regular basis would be disproportionate.

### **Removals and Voluntary Departures**

(xxix) **ILPA repeated the request for data disaggregated between enforced removals and voluntary departures. ILPA quoted Hansard HL report 10 March 2009 Col 1147 which stated that under FOI this disaggregation has been provided.**

2011 response: Home Office Statistics will seek this FOI answer in order to comment.

2013 update: The work relating to this requested was completed and data was provided in the disaggregated form referred to from August 2012.

(xxx) **Migration Watch requested removals and voluntary departures data by nationality and their status e.g.**

- **no visa record/ clandestine entry,**
- **overstayed and category (e.g. student, visitor etc) or**
- **in breach of their visa conditions**
- **foreign national prisoners**

2013 update: Data on removals and voluntary departures by nationality, and total removals of Foreign National Offenders (previously referred to as Foreign National Prisoners) continue to be published. Other aspects of this request remain under consideration for taking forward in our future work programme, subject to taking account of resource constraints.

(xxxii) **ILPA repeated the need for better data on who is being deported / removed, the countries to which they are removed with reference to age, gender and nationality and the application type, split by accompanied and unaccompanied children.**

2013 update: Data on nationality of those removed or departing voluntarily and the destination countries continue to be published within the Immigration Statistics. The further request, relating to more detailed data by age, gender, application type and whether a child is accompanied has been carefully considered and it has been assessed that to provide these data regularly for all nationalities would be disproportionate.

(xxxiii) **ILPA repeated the need for data, by age, gender and nationality of those removed under Dublin II; characteristics of those removed in conjunction with European partners; and children who are subject to 3rd country removals.**

2013 update: Data are supplied by Home Office to Eurostat providing the gender of those removed under Dublin II and the member state they are removed to. Data up to 2012 have been supplied. Consideration has been given to the remainder of the request and it has been assessed that to provide these data regularly for all nationalities and ages would currently be disproportionate.

## **Other**

**(xxxiii) BID referred to ICIUKBA recommendation that UKBA publish data on the family removals process.**

2011 response: UKBA have agreed with the recommendation.

2013 update: The data are published by Home Office as official statistics on the Our Performance section of the UKBA website and the work relating to this request is therefore considered as completed.

**(xxxiv) ILPA requested detailed information on the background, characteristics and skills of immigrants and refugees, including longitudinal surveys of immigrants and immigrant contributions: ILPA point to the information recorded on asylum screening forms and visa application forms could provide insight into profiles of applicants.**

2011 response: This is out of scope of the work of Home Office Statistics, but will be forwarded to the appropriate team within Home Office.

2013 update: This request was forwarded to the appropriate team.

**(xxxv) ILPA repeated the request for more information on trafficking for sexual and domestic labour purposes; suggesting that social services and private fostering data could be used for information.**

2011 response: This is out of scope of the work of Home Office Statistics, but will be forwarded to the appropriate team within Home Office.

2013 update: Data on trafficking are published from the National Referral Mechanism by SOCA.

**(xxxvi) ILPA repeated the need for analysis of cases where applicants are unrepresented and unassisted, in order to ascertain whether outcomes are atypical.**

2011 response: This is out of scope of the work of Home Office Statistics, but will be forwarded to the appropriate team within Home Office.

2013 update: This request was forwarded to the appropriate team.

## **Other developments outside of the 2011 Consultation**

Users have had further opportunity to provide their views on the Immigration Statistics release, including as part of the Statistics Authority's [assessment](#), during the Migration Statistics User Forum meetings and [Conference](#), as part of the Public Affairs Select Committee [enquiry into migration statistics](#) and during an [event](#) on migration statistics at the Royal Statistical Society.

As a result, a range of other developments have been made taking account of user views. The improvements have included providing: new data; more detailed breakdowns; more timely data; better defined data; and historical data series, together with developing: short statistical articles; and the user guide and policy timeline.

## **Further opportunities to comment on the Immigration Statistics release**

### **Home Office statistical work programme**

The Home Office has recently published its [Statistical Work Programme 2013/14](#) which outlines the most significant outputs, highlights some of the recent developments and outlines some future plans. Pages 3 to 4 of the Work Programme cover statistics on immigration; pages 11 to 12 of the Work programme provide details of how you can provide feedback on the work programme and Home Office outputs.



### **User conference – 17 September 2013**

A one-day migration statistics user conference is planned for 17 September 2013.

The Conference provides the opportunity to hear from producers and users of migration statistics and includes the opportunity to provide feedback to Home Office Statistics. Details of the programme and how to book a place at the conference are available on the [RSS website](#) or through the [MIGRATION-STATS JISCmail list](#).

### **Quarterly Immigration Statistics**

Each Immigration Statistics release contains the 'About this release' section covering changes to topic briefings and tables and planned future changes. Users have the opportunity to comment on the planned future changes and Immigration Statistics more generally by emailing [MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).