

Announcement – Published quarterly asylum statistics

The Immigration Research and Statistics team within Home Office Statistics are currently reviewing the contents of the quarterly asylum statistics publication. This follows the user consultation of the review of published statistics on control of immigration carried out during December 2007 to February 2008. A copy of this user consultation can be found at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/bia-immig-stat-review-07.pdf>

The review consulted on both the content and frequency of future statistical publications, based on the following conclusions of an internal review:

- Annual statistics should be released, giving a coherent account of the United Kingdom Border Agency's (UKBA's) performance in controlling immigration.
- The scope and frequency of sub-annual releases should be considered further.
- The current level of detail in sub-annual asylum figures could be reduced, e.g. by excluding tables giving monthly data and/or individual nationalities. These details would be available annually.
- Non-asylum removals could be included in the next quarterly publication, scheduled for February 2008, to give a more balanced picture.

In response to the review, users supported the move to a more structured and broader overview of the statistics published. As a result, it is proposed that in future statistics will be grouped by component area of the UKBA – i.e. border control and visas, asylum, enforcement and compliance, and managed migration.

These changes will be implemented as soon as resources allow. However, it is hoped that the first phase of the changes can be implemented for the next quarterly publication. From then, we expect quarterly headline figures for asylum and removals will continue, but the level of detail will be reduced for

some series and only be reported annually. Quarterly statistics on grants of British citizenship will be included in the publication.

If you require any further information, please contact:

Jennifer Walker

Immigration Research and Statistics

Home Office Statistics

Home Office

Apollo House

Croydon CR9 3RR

E-mail: jenny.walker31@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

20 May 2008

