



UK Visas
& Immigration

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FOI Reference: 71126

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Dear Ms. Thackray,

Thank you for your enquiry of 1 August 2022, in which you requested we reviewed the answer provided to you in your previous Freedom of Information request 70869, where you requested information relating to USAC's. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

Information Requested

Thank you for your email. A misunderstanding has been made on the part of your colleague responding. They assume that the request is exactly the same as a previous request (70844). In fact we hoped we made it clear in our request that we were requesting different data.

*The first request (70844) asked for information that was based on a cohort selected according to the **date of application**. The second request asked for information that was based on a cohort selected according to the **date of decision**. These would give different results. The first request would result in data being less accurate as the numbers would change over time as more decisions were made. However, we have previously requested this information and we know that it can be provided and hence we wanted to obtain an update. We were not sure whether it's possible to provide data according to the date of decision as we have not requested this before, however this would give more accurate information that would be less subject to change over time, which is the reason why we requested this.*

This was I hope clearly worded in the request: "This is because the responses to our previous FOI requests have worked from cohorts of cases selected and arranged according to the date of application. We would like to ask whether it is possible to provide the below information for cases grouped according to the date of decision."

If it is not possible to obtain this data due to how your systems record information we do understand, however the two requests are not identical and we are not asking for identical information.

Please can you forward this on to whoever has been working on these two requests.

*Your original FOI request reference **70869**, was as follows: -*

*I apply under the terms of the Freedom of Information legislation for information about **asylum application processing times**.*

Background

MiCLU work with young people who have been displaced by war, fleeing abuse, and trafficked into the UK for exploitation, young people separated from their families, and young undocumented people and their families. MiCLU would like to request information that will help to inform our service provision and better understand how we can best advocate for our clients.

Our request

We previously asked for information regarding the processing times of UASC claims alongside adult cases, and UASC cases of different nationalities (FOIs 54396 and 601122). We have also submitted a new request for updated figures (FOI 70844).

However this only provides us with part of the picture because the numbers for later years are more severely subject to change as there will be an increasingly greater number of cases for the more recent years that have not yet been determined.

This is because the responses to our previous FOI requests have worked from cohorts of cases selected and arranged according to the date of application. We would like to ask whether it is possible to provide the below information for cases grouped according to the date of decision.

1) UASC processing times

(c) The average length of time (in days) between asylum claim and initial decision on the asylum claim for unaccompanied asylum seeking children by quarter from 2015 until 2022**.*

2) Adult asylum seeker processing times

(c) The average length of time (in days) between asylum claim and initial decision on the asylum claim for adult asylum seekers by quarter from 2015 until 2022**.*

3) UASC top 7 country processing times

(c) The average length of time (in days) between asylum claim and initial decision on the asylum claim for unaccompanied asylum seeking children by quarter from 2015 until 2022**, for each of the following countries: Eritrea, Sudan, Vietnam, Iraq, Albania, Afghanistan and Iran.*

Response

The information you have requested can be found in the attached “**FOI 71126 Annex 1**” and your attention is drawn to the fact, that in accordance with published statistics, the 2022 figures are up to the 31st March 2022.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the [‘Research and statistics calendar’](#).

Please note these figures have been taken from a live operational database. As such, numbers may change as the system is updated.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference **71126**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

A link to the Home Office Information Rights Privacy Notice can be found in the following link. This explains how we process your personal information: - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-rights-privacy-notice>

Yours sincerely

M Egerton
Central Operations

We value your feedback, please use the link below to access a brief anonymous survey to help us improve our service to you:

<http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/108105TAZNG>