

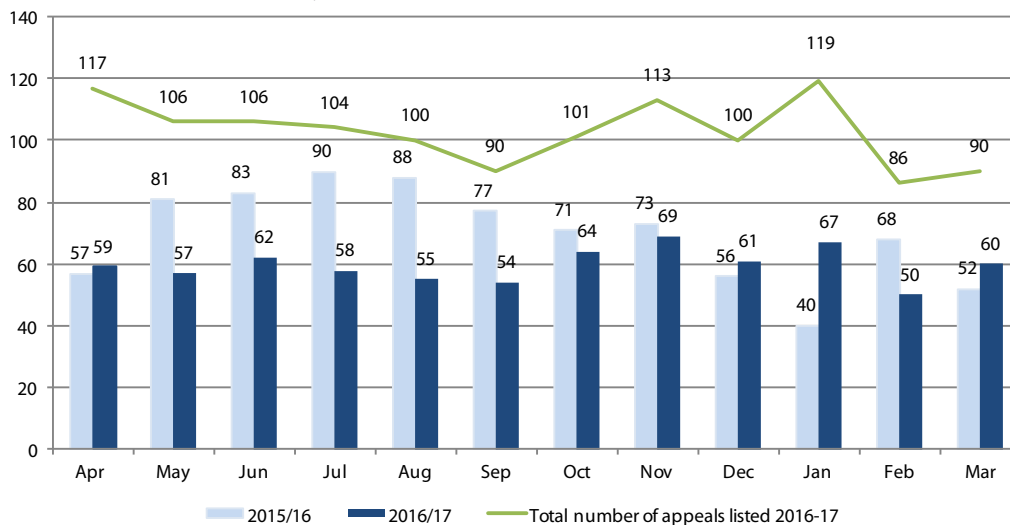
ASAP quarterly monitoring report

DUTY SCHEME

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPELLANTS ASSISTED

In Q4 we helped 177 appellants. Including dependants, the total number of people helped was 278. We assisted 92% of appellants who had an oral hearing (excluding people who we could not have helped, even if we had been able to).¹ We were able to increase our capacity this quarter thanks to the addition of 7 new pro-bono lawyers and a new staff member to our legal team.

Duty scheme: total number of appellants assisted Q1-Q4



NOTES

- 1 These are cases that are withdrawn or adjourned prior to the hearing; cases that are designated by the Tribunal as being 'ASAP barred' (the Tribunal prohibits us from assisting when an appellant is represented by a law firm unless they received written consent from the firm); or cases where the client failed to attend or refused our assistance.
- 2 There is some overlap in these categories as some cases concerned more than one subject (for example they may have related to both destitution and further submissions).
- 3 This figure is adjusted to take into consideration clients whose appeals were withdrawn or who didn't attend their hearings.

APPEAL OUTCOMES

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2016/17	2015/16
% Allowed	57	54	55	55	55	55
% Remitted	15	11	19	18	16	16
% Dismissed	25	28	19	24	24	25
% Other	3	7	6	3	5	4

Most remitted cases were appeals against discontinuation decisions. A decision to remit in these circumstances means that the appellants will keep their support so we consider this to be a successful outcome. Over the year we have observed an increase in the proportion of remitted appeals where the Home Office had refused support, in which case the appellant's application for support remains undecided. As a result the proportion of cases we consider successful has gone down to 67%.

APPEAL SUBJECT

There has been a drop in Section 95 (s95) cases this quarter compared with Q3 so that 63% of our cases concern Section 4 (s4) appeals and 37% concern s95 (predominantly destitution) cases.

TOP ISSUES IN Q4:²

1. *s4 regulation 3(2)(e) – further submissions cases (59 cases)*: 53% allowed, 20% remitted, 20% dismissed.
2. *s95 destitution cases (35 cases)*: 66% allowed, 14% remitted, 20% dismissed. There has been a drop in the number of these cases this quarter.
3. *s4 destitution cases (18 cases)*: 78% allowed, 17% remitted, 11% dismissed.
4. *s4 medical cases (11 cases)*: 27% allowed, 36% remitted, 36% dismissed.
5. *s95 and s4 breach of conditions cases (10 cases)*: 60% allowed, 20% remitted, 20% other.

REFERRALS

We received 183 referrals from 51 agencies. We were able to meet 92% of these referrals.³



CLIENT PROFILE

- The top 5 nationalities of appellants were Iranian (1=), Iraqi (1=), Pakistani, Zimbabwean and Egyptian.
- 69% of appellants were men, 31% were women.
- 20% of cases concerned families with children.
- Most appellants lived in the North West (21%), Yorkshire and the Humber (20%) and the East Midlands (14%).
- 59% experienced circumstances that may make them more vulnerable. Most commonly these were health issues, with 20% suffering from mental health problems, 11% from physical health problems and 6% from both.



ADVICE LINE



We took 177 calls this quarter from 70 agencies:

- The largest number of calls came from agencies based in London (27%) followed by Yorkshire and the Humber (15%) and the North West (12%).
- Calls related mainly to s4 support (34%) and s95 support (33%). Other calls concerned a variety of different issues such as Home Office or Tribunal procedures, community care law, s4(1) support and s98 support or a combination of these issues.
- Most calls related to an individual's case rather than a general query; 55% were about men, 45% women.
- The top 5 nationalities of clients were Iranian, Iraqi (2=), Nigerian (2=), Palestinian (2=) and Chinese (2=).
- 31% of calls related to families with children.
- 51% of calls related to people who were not receiving statutory support. Most were supported by a combination of friends, family and charities. But 6% were supported entirely by charities.
- 51% of clients faced circumstances which may make them more vulnerable.

WOMEN'S PROJECT

Duty scheme

We helped 55 women this quarter:

- 73% faced circumstances which may make them more vulnerable. Most of these issues concerned mental or physical health problems but 12 women had experienced gender based violence.
- 18 women had children, 14 of whom were single parents.
- 3 women were pregnant.

Advice line

In 15 of the 73 calls relating to women, agencies reported instances of gender based violence. 45 women (62%) experienced circumstances that may make them more vulnerable. 32 were single parents.



ASYLUM SUPPORT ADVICE NETWORK (ASAN)

- ASAN welcomed 40 new members in Q4.
- Membership currently stands at 629 advisers throughout the UK.
- There were 93 topics generating 229 posts among 198 people.