

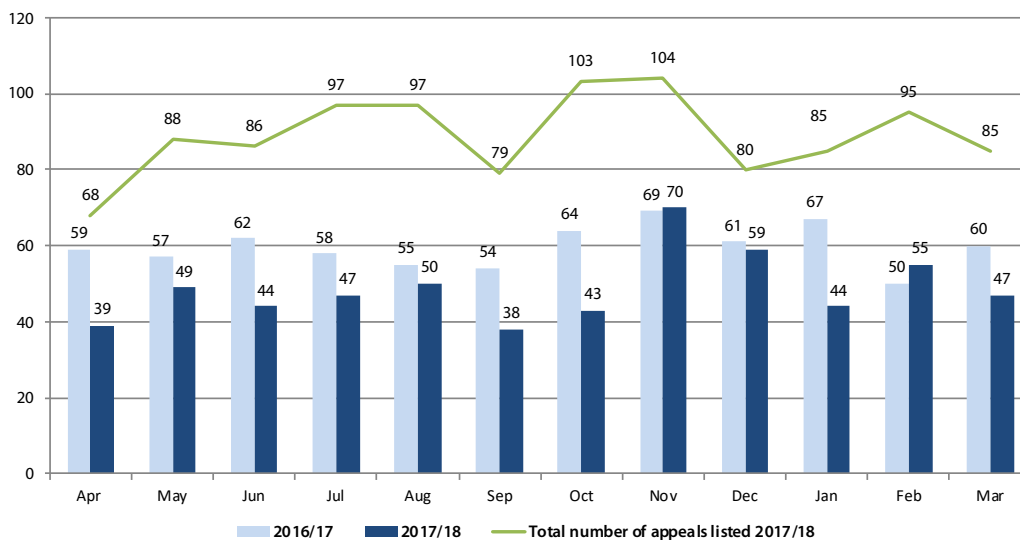
ASAP quarterly monitoring report

DUTY SCHEME

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPELLANTS ASSISTED

In Q4 we helped 146 appellants. Including dependants, the total number of people helped was 191. We assisted 75% of appellants who had an oral hearing (excluding people who we could not have helped, even if we had been able to).¹

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1 These are cases that are withdrawn or adjourned prior to the hearing; cases that are designated by the Tribunal as being 'ASAP barred' (the Tribunal prohibits us from assisting when an appellant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3 This figure is adjusted to take into consideration clients whose appeals were withdrawn or who didn't attend their hearings.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	2017/18	2016/17
% Allowed	53	66	63	61	61	55
% Remitted	15	11	7	12	12	16
% Dismissed	20	23	21	22	22	25
% Other	12	0	9	5	5	4

Most remitted cases were appeals against discontinuation decisions. A decision to remit in these circumstances means that appellants will keep their support, so we consider this to be a successful outcome. This combined success rate stands at 68%. The allowed rate this quarter continues to be relatively high although has been slowly decreasing since its peak in Q2.

APPEAL SUBJECT

The number of Section 95 (s95) destitution cases has dropped this quarter to the lowest number of cases since October-December 2015. As far as we are aware there has been no change to Home Office policy or procedures in this area so we are not sure why this has occurred. We have experienced a greater number of appeals than usual relating to people whose claims for asylum have been withdrawn. We believe that this increase is linked to the repeal of Section 4(1) support on 15 January 2018. Before that date, it was Home Office policy to provide s4(1) support to this group of people, if they were otherwise eligible for support. However, they now find themselves without a clear avenue of support hence the increase in appeals.

TOP ISSUES IN Q4:²

- s4 regulation 3(2)(e) – further submissions cases (37 cases):** 54% allowed, 11% remitted, 27% dismissed.
- s4 destitution cases (34 cases):** 77% allowed, 12% remitted, 12% dismissed.
- s95 destitution cases (17 cases):** 71% allowed, 6% remitted, 29% dismissed.
- s4 medical cases (17 cases):** 35% allowed, 29% remitted, 29% dismissed.
- Asylum claim withdrawn cases (13 cases):** 54% allowed, 8% remitted, 38% dismissed.



REFERRALS

We received 155 referrals from 57 agencies. We were able to meet 83% of these referrals.³

CLIENT PROFILE

- The top nationalities of appellants were Iranian, Iraqi, Pakistani, Afghan and Somali.
- 73% of appellants were men, 27% were women.
- 28% of appellants had children.
- Most appellants lived in the North West (17%), London (14%), West Midlands (12%) and East Midlands (11%).
- 55% experienced circumstances that may make them more vulnerable. Most commonly these were health issues, with 16% suffering from mental health problems, 12% from physical health problems and 11% from both.



ADVICE LINE



We took 165 calls this quarter from 66 agencies:

- Calls mainly came from London (36%), the North West (12%), Yorkshire and Humber (10%) and the South West (10%)
- 34% of calls were about s95 support; 32% about s4 support; 10% about s4 and s95 support; most other calls related to s98 support, s4(1) support, Home Office or Tribunal procedure or a combination of these issues.
- Only 5% of calls were general in nature. Most users had questions relating to an individual's case. Of these, 51% were men, 49% were women.
- The top nationalities were Nigerian, Pakistani, Iranian, Albanian and Afghan.
- 32% of calls related to families with children including 15% single parent families.
- In only 27% of calls were people receiving government support; 39% were helped by their communities and charities while 10% survived exclusively thanks to charitable assistance.
- In 49% of calls, the individuals had to deal with additional issues, mainly health problems, which could increase their vulnerability.

WOMEN'S PROJECT

Duty scheme

- We helped 39 women this quarter; 28 (72%) of women faced circumstances which may make them more vulnerable, 14 of whom had experienced gender-based violence.
- 9 women had children, 7 of whom were single parents.

Advice line

- In 13 of the 77 calls relating to women, agencies reported instances of gender-based violence.
- 42 women (54%) experienced circumstances that may make them more vulnerable.
- 38 had children, 22 of whom were single parents.



ASYLUM SUPPORT ADVICE NETWORK (ASAN)

- ASAN welcomed 49 new members in Q4.
- Membership stands at 858 advisers throughout the UK.
- There were 120 conversations generating 284 posts among 278 people.
- The top subjects of discussion were: The abolition of s4(1) support (3 conversations generating 25 posts which were viewed 92 times via the Google Group website); New restrictions on individual's ability to study (2 conversations, generating 19 posts); Whether a particular type of casework is an OISC regulated area (1 conversation generating 16 posts); Whether or not accommodation providers were required to supply cleaning products (1 conversation generating 15 posts).