

**Supplementary written evidence submitted by Dr Peter Walsh, Migration Observatory
(CHA0064)**

This document provides three items of additional written evidence, as follows.

1. A clarification of Abi Tierney’s statistics on Channel migrants and asylum claims in the UK

At the Home Affairs Committee oral evidence session of 3 September 2020, on Channel crossings, Abi Tierney provided statistics on the number of detected Channel migrants and the number of asylum claims in the UK.

In response to Question 39, Tierney gave data on the number of Channel migrants detected in Q1 2020 and Q2 2020: 465 and 2,012, respectively. I presented the same numbers to the Committee on 18 November 2020.

Tierney also provided the number of all asylum claims for those quarters (Q1 2020 and Q2 2020): 8,455 and 4,850, respectively. Tierney then stated that: “Yes—the non-small boats in Q2 was 4,850, and in Q1 it was 8,455.” This implies that these numbers exclude Channel migrants (i.e., migrants detected crossing, or having recently crossed, the English Channel in small boats). Tierney was asked to clarify that these numbers indeed refer to those claiming asylum in the UK *who did not arrive by small boat*, and said that they do.

However, I understand that these figures instead refer to *all* asylum applications, *including those made by those who arrived in the UK via small boat*. The numbers match perfectly with those provided in Home Office quarterly immigration statistics datasets on asylum applications (specifically, Table Asy_D01); and as far as I am aware, asylum seekers who arrived in small boats are not excluded from these Home Office counts.

One final point of clarification: the numbers Tierney cites on asylum claims in Q1 2020 and Q2 2020 are different those which I presented in the evidence session of 18 November. This is because Tierney is referring to the number of asylum *applications* made in those quarters. These numbers refer to main applicants only and exclude dependants. The larger numbers I gave to the Committee – 10,569 for Q1 2020, and 5,789 for Q2 2020 – refer to the number of *people* seeking asylum, and therefore comprise both main applicants and any of their dependants.

These data are summarised in Table 1.

| Table 1 Number of Channel migrants, asylum applications, and people seeking asylum, UK, per quarter, Q1 2020 and Q2 2020 | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | 2020 Q1 | 2020 Q2 |
| Channel migrants detected ¹ | 465 | 2,012 |
| Tierney’s figures: Asylum <i>applications</i> (main applicants only; includes asylum applications of those who arrived by small boat) ² | 8,455 | 4,850 |
| My figures: Asylum <i>seekers</i> (main applicants + dependants; includes asylum seekers who arrived by small boat) ³ | 10,569 | 5,789 |

Notes:

- (1) Source: [Letter](#) of 2 September 2020 from the Home Secretary to the Home Affairs Committee. Information is from a live operational database and is therefore provisional and subject to change. Includes individuals detected at sea and brought to the UK and those detected in the UK, including where authorities suspect individuals arrived by small boat, even if no boat was found. Excludes individuals prevented from departing France, or who were intercepted by French authorities and returned to France.
- (2) Source: Migration Observatory analysis of Home Office Immigration Statistics, Asylum and Resettlement - Applications, Initial decisions, and resettlement dataset, Table Asy_D01.
- (3) Source: Migration Observatory analysis of Home Office Immigration Statistics, Asylum and Resettlement - Applications, Initial decisions, and resettlement dataset, Table Asy_D01.

2. Statistics on asylum seekers and asylum grants across Europe, YE June 2020, with numbers adjusted for country population

Table 2 presents statistics on the number of people (absolute numbers) who claimed asylum in the EU-27, the UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, in YE June 2020. The counts refer to the number of *people* who claimed asylum, and therefore include both main applicants and their dependants.

Table 2 Number of people who claimed asylum in European countries in the year ending June 2020
For the EU-27, the UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland

| Rank | Country | Number of people who claimed asylum |
|------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Germany | 133,280 |
| 2 | France | 117,225 |
| 3 | Spain | 107,055 |
| 4 | Greece | 71,785 |
| 5 | United Kingdom | 39,480 |
| 6 | Italy | 34,370 |
| 7 | Sweden | 23,875 |
| 8 | Belgium | 21,725 |
| 9 | Netherlands | 19,335 |
| 10 | Austria | 12,285 |
| 11 | Switzerland | 11,770 |
| 12 | Cyprus | 10,450 |
| 13 | Finland | 3,885 |
| 14 | Malta | 3,680 |
| 15 | Poland | 3,535 |
| 16 | Slovenia | 3,495 |
| 17 | Ireland | 3,360 |
| 18 | Romania | 3,285 |
| 19 | Denmark | 2,080 |
| 20 | Norway | 1,920 |
| 21 | Bulgaria | 1,660 |
| 22 | Croatia | 1,645 |
| 23 | Luxembourg | 1,625 |
| 24 | Portugal | 1,560 |
| 25 | Czechia | 1,275 |
| 26 | Iceland | 750 |

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| 27 | Lithuania | 530 |
| 28 | Hungary | 325 |
| 29 | Slovakia | 205 |
| 30 | Latvia | 190 |
| 31 | Estonia | 65 |
| 32 | Liechtenstein | 40 |

Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex - monthly data (rounded) (migr_asyappctzm). Date of data extraction: 17 November 2020.

Notes: Includes main applicants and dependants.

Table 3 provides statistics that adjust the numbers in Table 2 by each country's resident population as at 1 January 2020.

Table 3 Number of people who claimed asylum in European countries in the year ending June 2020, per 1,000 resident population

| Rank | Country | Estimated population (as at 1 Jan 2020) | Number of people who claimed asylum per 1,000 resident population |
|------|----------------|--|--|
| 1 | Cyprus | 888,005 | 11.8 |
| 2 | Malta | 514,564 | 7.2 |
| 3 | Greece | 10,709,739 | 6.7 |
| 4 | Luxembourg | 626,108 | 2.6 |
| 5 | Sweden | 10,327,589 | 2.3 |
| 6 | Spain | 47,329,981 | 2.3 |
| 7 | Iceland | 364,134 | 2.1 |
| 8 | Belgium | 11,549,888 | 1.9 |
| 9 | France | 67,098,824 | 1.7 |
| 10 | Slovenia | 2,095,861 | 1.7 |
| 11 | Germany | 83,166,711 | 1.6 |
| 12 | Austria | 8,901,064 | 1.4 |
| 13 | Switzerland | 8,606,033 | 1.4 |
| 14 | Netherlands | 17,407,585 | 1.1 |
| 15 | Liechtenstein | 38,748 | 1.0 |
| 16 | Finland | 5,525,292 | 0.7 |
| 17 | Ireland | 4,963,839 | 0.7 |
| 18 | United Kingdom | 67,025,542 | 0.6 |
| 19 | Italy | 60,244,639 | 0.6 |
| 20 | Croatia | 4,058,165 | 0.4 |
| 21 | Norway | 5,367,580 | 0.4 |
| 22 | Denmark | 5,822,763 | 0.4 |
| 23 | Bulgaria | 6,951,482 | 0.2 |
| 24 | Lithuania | 2,794,090 | 0.2 |
| 25 | Romania | 19,317,984 | 0.2 |
| 26 | Portugal | 10,295,909 | 0.2 |
| 27 | Czechia | 10,693,939 | 0.1 |
| 28 | Latvia | 1,907,675 | 0.1 |

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| 29 | Poland | 37,958,138 | 0.1 |
| 30 | Estonia | 1,328,976 | 0.0 |
| 31 | Slovakia | 5,457,873 | 0.0 |
| 32 | Hungary | 9,769,526 | 0.0 |

Source: Eurostat, Asylum and first time asylum applicants by citizenship, age and sex - monthly data (rounded) (migr_asyappctzm). Date of data extraction: 17 November 2020. Population estimates are from Eurostat, 'Population on 1 January (tps00001)'.

Notes: Includes main applicants and dependants. Population estimate as at 1 January 2020.

Table 4 presents statistics on the number of positive initial asylum decisions (absolute numbers) for the EU-27, the UK, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, in YE June 2020. *Positive* decisions includes a grant of refugee status, authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons, or any other kind of permission to stay. These are positive *initial decisions* and so exclude appeals, which will increase the number of grants over time.

Note that these statistics on positive decisions cannot be compared with the numbers of applicants in Table 3 to calculate the success rate of applications, because these grants are made in respect of applications submitted in any year. That is, applications and decisions will often not take place during the same year.

Table 4 Number of people who received a positive initial asylum decision in European countries in the year ending June 2020

| Rank | Country | Number of people receiving positive initial asylum decisions in YE June 2020 |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | Germany | 64,755 |
| 2 | Spain | 62,660 |
| 3 | Greece | 29,435 |
| 4 | France | 22,775 |
| 5 | Italy | 14,875 |
| 6 ¹ | United Kingdom | 13,425 |
| 7 | Switzerland | 11,375 |
| 8 | Belgium | 6,255 |
| 9 | Austria | 6,175 |
| 10 | Sweden | 5,125 |
| 11 | Netherlands | 4,990 |
| 12 | Norway | 1,650 |
| 13 | Finland | 1,535 |
| 14 | Cyprus | 1,420 |
| 15 | Denmark | 1,140 |
| 16 | Ireland | 855 |
| 17 | Bulgaria | 555 |
| 18 | Romania | 550 |
| 19 | Luxembourg | 545 |
| 20 | Malta | 440 |

¹ Note that in the evidence sessions I said, erroneously, that the UK ranked fifth in the number of positive initial decisions in YE June 2020. The correct ranking is sixth.

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| 21 | Iceland | 430 |
| 22 | Poland | 305 |
| 23 | Hungary | 150 |
| 24 | Czechia | 125 |
| 25 | Slovenia | 115 |
| 26 | Lithuania | 80 |
| 27 | Croatia | 60 |
| 28 | Portugal | 50 |
| 29 | Estonia | 40 |
| 30 | Slovakia | 30 |
| 31 | Latvia | 25 |
| 32 | Liechtenstein | 15 |

Source: Eurostat, First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex - quarterly data (rounded) (migr_asydcfstq). Date of data extraction: 17 November 2020.

Notes: Includes main applicants and dependants. 'Positive decisions' includes a grant of refugee status, authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons, or any other kind of permission to stay. This is at *initial decision*, and so excludes the results of appeals, which will increase the number of positive grants over time. The success rate of applications at initial decision in YE June 2020 cannot be calculated by dividing the number of positive decisions by the number of applications made in that period, because some grants will be made with respect to applications made in previous years.

Table 5 adjusts the positive decision statistics in Table 4 by each country's resident population as at 1 January 2020.

Table 5 Number of people who received a positive initial asylum decision in European countries in the year ending June 2020, per 1,000 resident population

| Rank | Country | Number of people receiving a positive initial asylum decision, per 1,000 population |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | Greece | 2.75 |
| 2 | Cyprus | 1.60 |
| 3 | Spain | 1.32 |
| 4 | Switzerland | 1.32 |
| 5 | Iceland | 1.18 |
| 6 | Luxembourg | 0.87 |
| 7 | Malta | 0.86 |
| 8 | Germany | 0.78 |
| 9 | Austria | 0.69 |
| 10 | Belgium | 0.54 |
| 11 | Sweden | 0.50 |
| 12 | Liechtenstein | 0.39 |
| 13 | France | 0.34 |
| 14 | Norway | 0.31 |
| 15 | Netherlands | 0.29 |
| 16 | Finland | 0.28 |
| 17 | Italy | 0.25 |
| 18 | United Kingdom | 0.20 |

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|----|-----------|------|
| 19 | Denmark | 0.20 |
| 20 | Ireland | 0.17 |
| 21 | Bulgaria | 0.08 |
| 22 | Slovenia | 0.05 |
| 23 | Estonia | 0.03 |
| 24 | Lithuania | 0.03 |
| 25 | Romania | 0.03 |
| 26 | Hungary | 0.02 |
| 27 | Croatia | 0.01 |
| 28 | Latvia | 0.01 |
| 29 | Czechia | 0.01 |
| 30 | Poland | 0.01 |
| 31 | Slovakia | 0.01 |
| 32 | Portugal | 0.00 |

Source: Eurostat, First instance decisions on applications by citizenship, age and sex - quarterly data (rounded) (migr_asydqfstq). Date of data extraction: 17 November 2020. Population estimates are from Eurostat, 'Population on 1 January (tps00001)'.

Notes: Population estimate as at 1 January 2020. Includes main applicants and dependants. 'Positive initial asylum decision' includes a grant of refugee status, authorisation to stay for humanitarian reasons, or any other kind of permission to stay. This is at *initial decision*, and so excludes the results of appeals, which will increase the number of positive grants. The success rate of applications in YE June 2020 cannot be calculated by dividing the number of grants by the number of applications, because grants will be made with respect to applications made in previous years.

3. Statistics on the success rate of asylum applications in the UK by selected nationalities

Table 6 shows how asylum application success rates differ depending on applicants' nationality. It shows the 'final' success rate (i.e., taking into account appeals) of asylum applicants of eight nationalities. These are the top eight nationalities of Channel migrants detected from 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2020. Note, however, that these asylum statistics refer to all asylum applications from nationals of these countries, rather than the asylum applications of Channel migrants in particular. The data do not include applications made in 2019 and 2020, as a large share of these have not yet received a final decision.

Table 6 Final success rate of UK asylum applications received in 2016 to 2018, selected nationalities
Main applicants only, excludes dependants

| Country of nationality | Final success rate of applications received in 2016 to 2018 |
|------------------------|---|
| Iran | 73% |
| Iraq | 49% |
| Syria | 88% |
| Afghanistan | 68% |
| Yemen | 90% |
| Sudan | 76% |
| Pakistan | 36% |
| Eritrea | 80% |

Source: Migration Observatory analysis of Home Office Immigration Statistics, Outcome analysis of asylum applications, Asy_D04.

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Note: Final success rate of applications is the share of applications received in 2016 to 2018 inclusive with a grant of asylum or other form of leave as at May 2020, taking into account successful appeals to the First-tier Tribunal but not higher courts, and excluding pending and withdrawn applications.

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