

Migration Statistics Briefing Paper

26th November 2020

A number of important datasets were released on the 26th November from the Home Office and ONS. Among the releases are the quarterly Home Office Immigration Statistics and the UKVI asylum transparency data.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the UK immigration system, both in terms of restricting migrant movements to and from the UK and the impact on operational capacity. Some of the latest data available in this report is of September 2020.

The WMSMP has attempted to extract the key information from each of these datasets with particular reference to asylum, resettlement, and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) in the West Midlands Region.

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Immigration Statistics

Publisher(s)	Home Office	Release Period	Quarterly
Released	26 November 2020	Next Release	27 February 2020
Link to source	Overview of the immigration system - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)		
Description	The Immigration Statistics release provides information on Home Office's operation of immigration control and related processes, including the work of UK Border Force, UK Visas and Immigration, and Immigration Enforcement.		

Claims

- There was a total of 31,752 asylum applications in the UK (main applicants only) in the year ending September 2020. This was 2,705 less than the previous year, which is 8% less than previously.
- In the year ending September 2020, of the 31,752 asylum claims, 28,434 were 18 years+.
- In the year ending September 2020, of the asylum applications lodged in the year ending September 2020, Iran came out on top with 4,318.
- In the year ending September 2020, there was 5,966 appeals, down by 34%, of which 44% of the appeals were successful.
- Of the 31,752 asylum applications, the top five nationalities were Iran (4,741), Albania (3,134), Iraq (3,160), Eritrea (2,092), Sudan (1,629).
- In the year ending September 2020, there was 63,409 asylum applications awaiting a decision, 31% higher than the previous year (48,400).
- The Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) accounted for over three-quarters (4,030) of those resettled in the UK in year ending March 2020, the latest data available due to the impact of the pandemic.
- Since the government announced the expansion of the scheme on 7th September 2015, including the target of resettling an additional 20,000 refugees under the scheme by 2020, 19,768 refugees have been resettled in the UK. In addition, 239 refugees were resettled prior to this, and do not count towards the 20,000 target.

Grants

- The UK offered protection, in the form of asylum, humanitarian protection, alternative forms of leave and resettlement, to 12,984 people (including dependants) in the year ending September 2020, 33% lower than the previous year.
- The number of grants of protection and alternative forms of leave in the year ending September 2020 included:
 - 8,908 grants of asylum, down 23% compared with the previous year, with the top nationalities that received grants being Iranian (1,699), Eritrean (1,063), Sudanese (1,056), and Afghan (682) nationals; all these nationalities saw falls in grants in the latest year.
 - 1,183 grants of humanitarian protection, up 8% – over half of these (56%) were granted to Libyan nationals, also a notable increase in grants awarded to El Salvadorian nationals (160 up from 18), following an increase in applications since year ending December 2018.
 - 733 grants of alternative forms of leave following an application for asylum, down 38%.

- 2,160 grants of protection through resettlement schemes, 61% fewer than in the previous year, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic preventing resettlement activity since March 2020 onwards; over four-fifths (81%) of resettlement cases over the past year were Syrian nationals.

Immigration Detention

- The number of people entering detention in the year ending September 2020 was 17,219, 34.7% less than the previous year. While this is in part due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this downward trend has been happening since 2015, when the number entering detention peaked at over 32,447.
- As of September 2020, there were 990 people in immigration detention, down from 1,826 the previous year (45.7% lower). The recent fall in the number in detention has been due to less people being detained in IRCs following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In the year ending September 2020, 18,040 people left the detention estate (down 27%). Over one-quarter had been detained for 3 days or less, and 76% detained for 28 days or less. There has been an increase in the proportion of people leaving detention within 28 days since mid-2018, when around two-thirds left detention within 28 days.

Returns

- In the year ending September 2020, enforced return from the UK decreased to 5,208, 34% lower than the previous year and the lowest number since records began in 2004. Although the number of enforced returns has been declining since 2012, the fall in the latest year was larger due to very few returns in the latest quarter, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Over the same period, there were 8,254 voluntary returns. Although these data sets are not directly comparable over time (as voluntary returns are subject to upward revision, as in many cases it can take time to identify people who have left the UK without informing the Home Office), the numbers recorded have shown a downward trend since 2015.

Impact of Covid-19

Publisher(s)	Home Office	Release period	One off release
Released	28 May 2020	Next Release	None
Link to source	Statistics relating to Covid-19 and the immigration system, May 2020 (publishing.service.gov.uk)		
Description	This is a one-off release derived from Home Office management information, including some data which has not been designed for statistical purposes. The Home Office published a separate report on 28 May 2020, which provided a <u>statistical overview of COVID-19 impacts</u> on the immigration system into April 2020. However, there are further changes visible in the period to the end of September 2020.		

Data in this section relate to the number of asylum applications and initial decisions.

- In the third quarter of this year (July to September 2020), the number of people granted protection or other forms of leave was 78% lower than the same period in 2019. Following falls in March and April 2020, there was a sharp increase in decisions being made between May and July 2020, although numbers have dropped slightly between August and September.

- At the same time, asylum applications in the third quarter of 2020 fell by 7% compared with the same quarter in the previous year, although applications have been steadily increasing each month since the sharp fall seen in April 2020.
- **At the end of September 2020:**
- There were 46,520 individuals in receipt of Section 95 support, an increase of 5% since 31st March 2020 (44,244) and an increase of 2% since 30th June 2020 (45,769).
- An additional 6,074 individuals were in receipt of support under Section 4 support up 49% since 31st March 2020 (4,077) and up 13% since 30th June 2020 (5,357).
- There were 10,315 individuals in receipt of support under Section 98, 3 times higher than 31st March 2020 (2,577), and an 89% increase compared to 30th June 2020 (5,444).

Asylum Support

Definitions

Section 95 (Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)	Section 4 (Immigration and Asylum Act 1999)
Support provided to destitute asylum seekers until their claim is finally determined. Section 95 support can be provided as both accommodation and subsistence, or accommodation, or subsistence only.	An individual may be eligible for Section 4 support if their asylum application has been determined as refused and appeals rights are exhausted, but they are destitute and there are reasons that temporarily prevent them from leaving the UK.

The year ending September 2020:

Number of asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 Support (S95)	
National figure	West Midlands Region
46,520 on Section 95 (+5% from previous year).	5,862 (+2.4% from previous year).

- At the end of September 2020, 46,520 asylum seekers in the UK were in recipient of support under Section 95, up by 5% from the previous year.
- The total is made up of 16,463 single adults (8% up from the previous year), the remaining number are in a family unit.
- Across the UK, 6,074 were on Section 4 support from the year ending September 2020. This is a 57% change from the previous year.
- 10,315 individuals were in receipt of support under Section 98 (238% increase). Section 98 support is provided to asylum seekers on a short-term basis while their application for section 95 support is considered.
- In the West Midlands, there are 5,862 asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 support.
- In the West Midlands, the highest number of those on Section 95 support have the following nationalities: Iraq, Iran, Albania, Pakistan, and Eritrea.

Asylum Dispersal Map

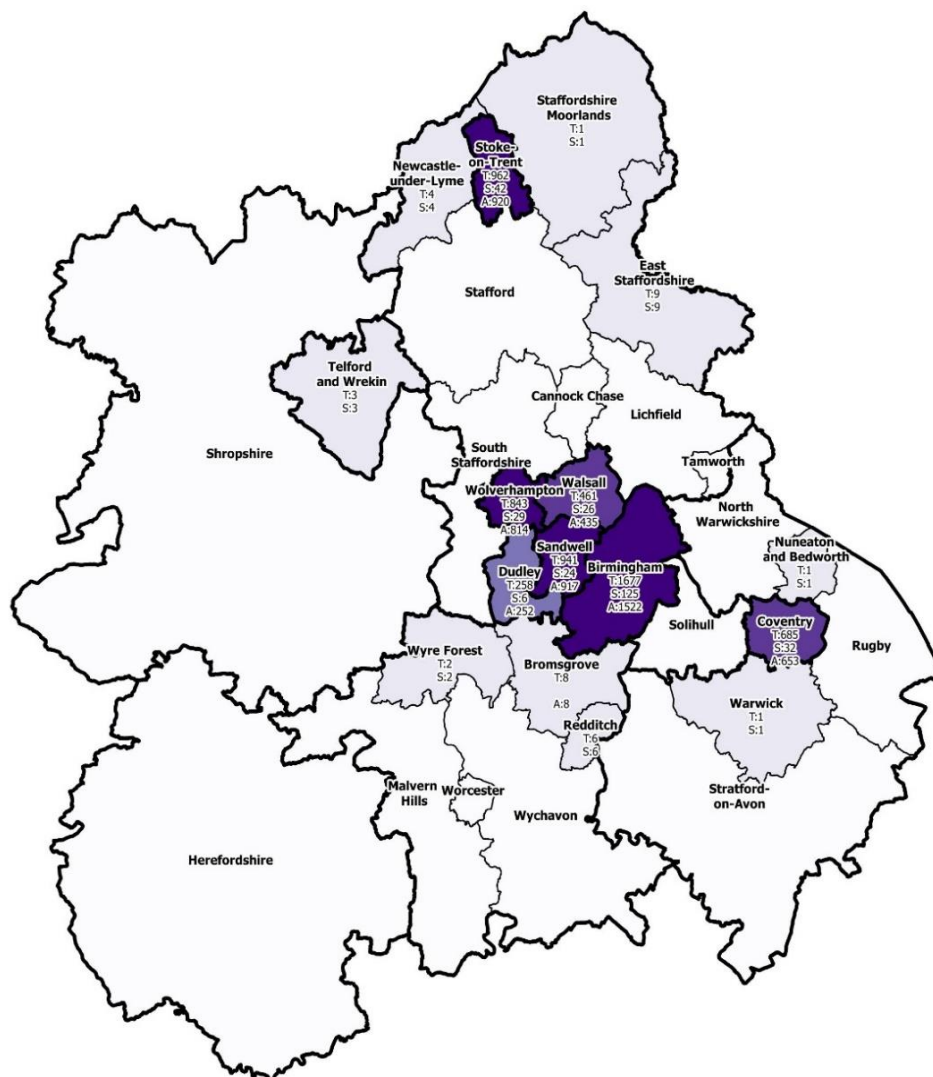
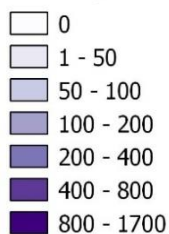
Number of asylum seekers on Section 95 support in local authorities in the West Midlands Region as of September 2020

Map Key:

T = Overall total
S = S95 Subsistence only
A = S95 Accommodation & Subsistence

Legend

Total Dispersed Asylum Seekers



Section 95 Breakdown

Local authority with an asylum population	Section 95 Breakdown		
	Subsistence only (s)	Accommodation and subsistence (A)	Overall total (T)
Metropolitan Total	242	4,623	4,865
Birmingham	125	1552	1,677
Coventry	32	653	685
Dudley	6	252	258
Sandwell	24	917	941
Walsall	26	435	461
Wolverhampton	29	814	843
Unitary Authorities Total	45	920	965
Stoke-on-Trent	42	920	962
Telford and Wrekin	3	0	3
Staffordshire Total	10	4	14

East Staffordshire	9	0	9
Staffordshire Moorlands	1	0	1
Newcastle-under-Lyme	0	4	4
Worcestershire Total	8	8	16
Bromsgrove	0	8	8
Redditch	6	0	6
Wyre Forest	2	0	2
Warwickshire Total	2	0	2
Nuneaton and Bedworth	1	0	1
Warwick	1	0	1
Regional Total	307	5,555	5,862

Table displaying regional breakdown of supported asylum population by nationality:

West Midlands region (% of regional total)
Iraq - 1,157 (20%)
Iran – 671 (12%)
Albania – 543 (9%)
Pakistan – 406 (7%)
Eritrea – 286 (5%)

Resettlement

Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS)

Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) The VCRS was announced in April 2016 with the aim of resettling 3,000 vulnerable children and their families by the year 2020. VCRS is designed to recognise the specific vulnerabilities of refugee children and there are no nationality criteria.

Since its announcement in 2016 to the end of September 2020 (latest data available), 1,826 people have been resettled through VCRS. The West Midlands received 156 of the total (9%).

Some of the children resettled through the VCRS are unaccompanied and some are children in families. Unaccompanied children are looked after by UK local authorities. Local authorities sometimes accommodate children they are looking after outside the local authority area. The VCRS data tells you where unaccompanied children were accommodated when they arrived in the UK which is not always the same as the local authority looking after them.

VCRS total populations for the West Midlands as of September 2020:

Local authority	No.
Birmingham	11
Coventry	121
Malvern Hills	4
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2
Shropshire	8
Stoke-on-Trent	1
Walsall	1
County of Hertfordshire	11
Warwick	2
West Midlands total	156

Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS)

The then Prime Minister David Cameron, announced in September 2015 that the UK would resettle up to 20,000 refugees under the VPRS by 2020. In July 2017, the nationality requirements were expanded to include individuals displaced by the conflict in Syria, but who may not necessarily have Syrian nationality.

It was not possible to undertake resettlement activity during the second quarter of 2020 due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Current progress since Q3 September 2015 to end of September 2020 is shown below:

- 19,791 people have been resettled in the UK under VPRS.
- 1,841 people have been resettled in the West Midlands, representing 10 % of the national total.

From 2020, once the 20,000 VPRS refugees have been resettled, the UK has announced plans to resettle around 5,000 of the world's most vulnerable refugees in the first year of operation of a new resettlement scheme. The new resettlement scheme will consolidate the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme, and the Gateway Protection Programme into one global scheme.

Data displayed in the VPRS Map

(Table only includes data from local authorities in which families have been placed and relates to data from Q1 2014, prior to announcement of the expansion of VPRS in September 2015)

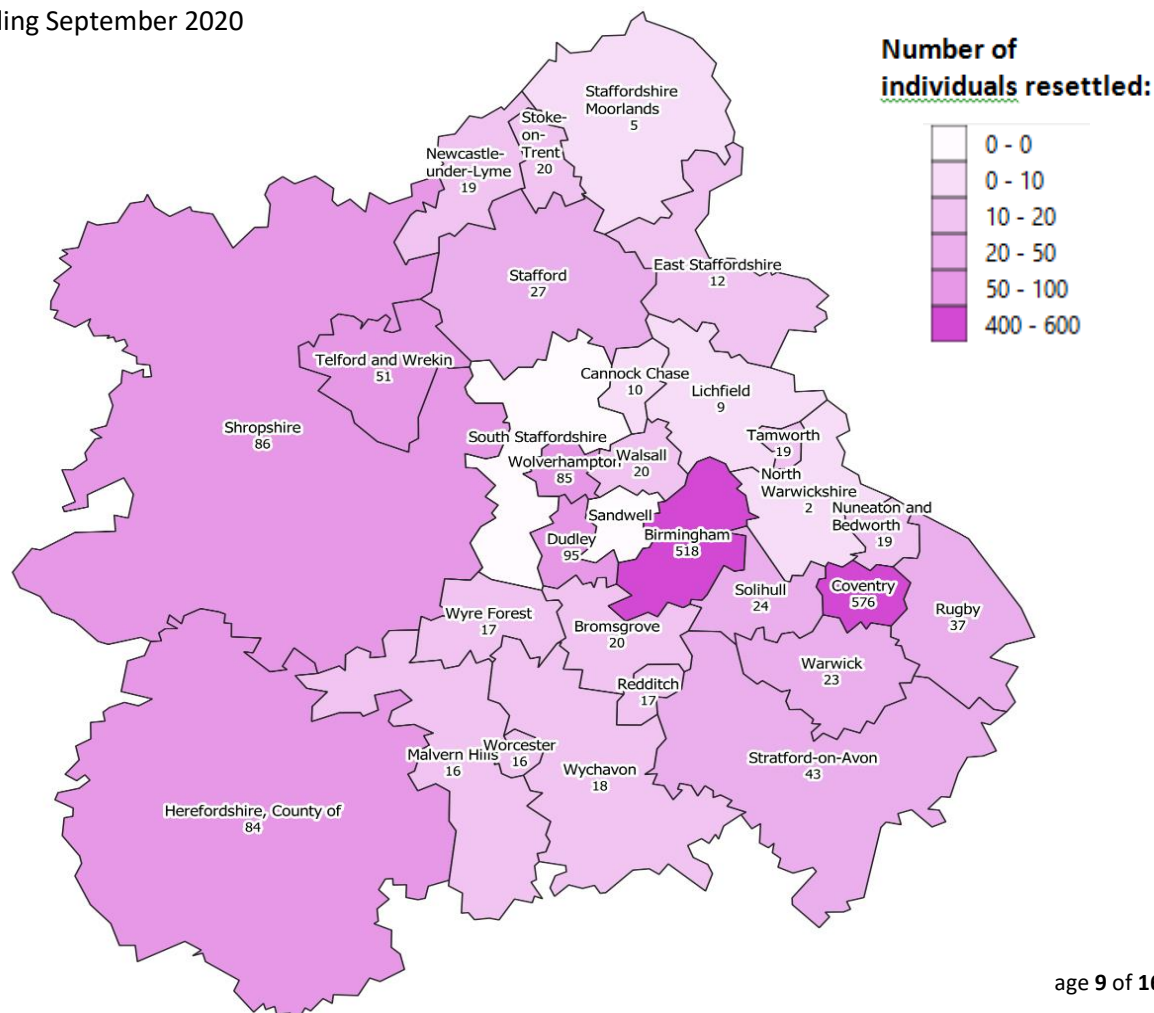
Local authority	No.
Metropolitan total	1,333
Birmingham	518
Coventry	576
Dudley	95
Solihull	24
Walsall	20
Wolverhampton	100

Local authority	No.
Staffordshire total	101
Cannock Chase	10
East Staffordshire	12
Lichfield	9
Newcastle-under-Lyme	19
Stafford	27
Staffordshire Moorl'ds	5
Tamworth	19
Worcestershire total	104
Redditch	17
Worcester	16
Wyre Forest	17
Malvern Hills	16
Bromsgrove	20
Wychavon	18

Local authority	No.
Warwickshire total	124
North Warwickshire	2
Nuneaton and Bedworth	19
Rugby	37
Stratford-on-Avon	43
Warwick	23
Unitary authorities total	241
Herefordshire	84
Shropshire	86
Stoke-on-Trent	20
Telford and Wrekin	51

VRPS Map

Number of individuals resettled in local authorities in the West Midlands Region Q1 2014 to Year Ending September 2020



Community Sponsorship

The UK Community Sponsorship scheme was launched on 19 July 2016. The scheme allows community groups to support refugee families directly and aims to help them become self-sufficient and integrated members of the community.

Of those resettled under the VPRS and VCRS in the year ending September 2020, 104 refugees were resettled in the UK through the Community Sponsorship scheme, however due to the impacts of COVID-19, none of these were resettled in the latest quarter. Since the scheme began in July 2016, 449 refugees have been resettled by community sponsor groups.

Family Reunion

There were 147,448 visas and permits granted for family reasons in the year ending September 2020, 18% fewer than the year ending September 2019. A fall in grants was seen in April to June 2020 (90% lower than in the same period in 2019) due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the year ending September 2020, there was 6,066 Family reunion visas issued to partners and children of those previously granted asylum or humanitarian protection in the UK, 6% fewer than the previous year.

There was also 3,416 EEA Family permits, down 50%. 17,312 EUSS family permits issued to non-EEA close family members of those granted settled or pre-settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

Definitions

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child (UASC)

- is under 18 years of age when the claim is submitted;
- is claiming in their own right; and
- is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who in law or by custom has responsibility to do so.

UASC

- In the year ending September 2020, there were 1,182 asylum applications from UASC. This was -49% from the previous year.
- 89% of UASC applications were from male applicants and 11% were from female applicants.

Dublin III Transfers

Dublin III	
The Dublin III regulation applies to asylum applications made after 01/01/14 and allows for family members to be transferred to other EU member states or signatories to have their asylum claims processed in the same state. With the UK having left the EU, it is no longer bound by Dublin III but transfer requests made before 31/12/2020 will continue to be processed.	
Article 8.1	Article 8.2
The Member State responsible is that where a family member or a sibling of the child is legally present, provided that it is in the child's best interests. 'Family member' includes parent/person responsible by law /custom for the child.	The Member State responsible is that where a relative of the child is legally present, where it is established that the relative can take care of the child, provided that it is in the child's best interests. 'Relative' means adult aunt, uncle, or grandparent.

Dublin III transfers

- In 2019 (the latest data available), 714 individuals were transferred under the Dublin regulation to the UK in 2019. The majority (496) of these transfers came from Greece.
- Of the 714 total, 108 were transferred under Article 8.1 and 56 transferred under Article 8.2.
- Over the same period, there were 3,258 requests from the UK to transfer individuals out of the UK to other member states. There were 263 transfers out of the UK under the Dublin Regulation. Of these transfers, 104 (40%) were transfers to Germany and 53 (20%) were transfers to France.

The top 5 countries from where Dublin III transfers came were:

- Greece – 496 (69%)
- France – 90 (13%)
- Germany – 22 (3%)
- Netherlands – 22 (3%)
- Italy – 18 (3%)

Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016

Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, also known as the 'Dubs' amendment, committed the UK to bring 480 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) to the UK from Europe.

- All 480 UASC have been transferred to the UK from the participating States of France, Greece, and Italy.

Asylum Transparency Data

Publisher(s)	UK Visas and Immigration	Release period	Quarterly
Released	26 November 2020	Next Release	27 February 2021
Link to source	RASI (Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration) data: November 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)		
Description	The asylum transparency data is part of the broader migration transparency data release. These documents include performance data related to areas in the Home Office business plan.		

National Transfer Scheme

Definition

National Transfer Scheme (NTS)
<p>A voluntary transfer arrangement between local authorities for the care of unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK and claim asylum. Operating through a voluntary transfer protocol, the NTS aims to ensure that the responsibility for supporting these children does not fall disproportionately to a small number of local authorities situated as entry points into the UK.</p> <p>A number of unaccompanied children transferred to West Midlands local authorities since the scheme began in 2016. However, WMSMP is querying with the Home Office whether the asylum transparency data accurately records the number of children who transferred to the region in Q3 2020 and so is not detailing that data in this briefing although we hope to be able to do so in the next one.</p>

Local Authority 2019 – 2020

Publisher(s)	Department for Education	Release period	Yearly
Released	08 January 2021	Next Release	TBC
Link to source	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-interactive-tool-lait		
Description	Children looked after at 31 March who are unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) during the year, by local authority, years ending 31 March 2011 to 2020.		

The West Midlands total as of 31 March was 415. These figures do not include care leavers for whom local authorities have ongoing responsibilities up to the age of 25.

Local authorities sometimes accommodate children they are looking after outside the local authority area. This Department for Education data tells you how many UASC a local authority was looking after but not where they were accommodated which may be in a different local authority.

Looked after UASC by Local Authority in the West Midlands:

Local authority	Total	Local Authority	Total
Birmingham	83	Staffordshire	47
Coventry	22	Stoke-on-Trent	21
Dudley	8	Telford and Wrekin	7
Herefordshire	6	Walsall	12
Sandwell	15	Warwickshire	73
Shropshire	12	Wolverhampton	8
Solihull	69	Worcestershire	32

National Referral Mechanism

Publisher(s)	Home Office	Release period	Quarterly
Released	5 November 2020	Next Release	27 February 2021
Link to source	Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics UK, Quarter 3 2020 – July to September - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)		
Description	Breakdown of the number of potential victims of modern slavery referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) from 1 st July to 30 th September 2020 Q3.		

Modern slavery is a term that includes any form of human trafficking, slavery, servitude or forced labour, as set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Potential victims of modern slavery in the UK that come to the attention of authorised ‘First Responder’ organisations are referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

- In quarter 3 2020, 2,506 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the NRM; a 14% increase from the preceding quarter, but a 11% decrease from quarter 3 in 2019.
- Of the 2,506 potential victims, 65% (1,623) claimed exploitation in the UK only, whilst 24% (603) claimed the exploitation took place overseas only.
- Just under half (49%) of the referrals were for individuals claiming exploitation as adults, with the remainder claiming exploitation as children (46%) or their age at exploitation was unknown (5%).
- For adult potential victims, labour exploitation was the most common exploitation type, whilst criminal exploitation was most commonly reported for child potential victims.
- Potential victims from the UK, Albania and Vietnam were the three most common nationalities referred to the NRM, as in the preceding quarter.

EU Settlement Scheme

Publisher(s)	UK Visas and Immigration	Release period	Monthly
Released	26 November 2020	Next Release	January 2021
Link to source	EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, September 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)		
Description	The EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) enables EU, EEA and Swiss citizens and their families to obtain a UK immigration status for when the UK leaves the EU. Further information about the EU Settlement Scheme can be found here .		

- The total number of applications received up to 30 September 2020 was 4,062,000.
- The total number of applications concluded up to 30 September was 3,880,380.
- Of the concluded outcomes, 56% were granted settled status, 41.6% were granted pre-settled status.

The nationalities with the highest number of applications received were:

- Polish (773,840)
- Romanian (670,600)
- Italian (401,800)
- Portuguese (306,350)

Applications by age group as of September 2020:

Of the 4,062,000 applications received:

- 578,830 (14.2%) were made from applications under 18 years of age.
- 3,390,330 (83.4%) were made up from applications between 18 and 64.
- 92,680 (2.2%) were made from applicants aged 65 and over.

The below data is the breakdown at local authority level up until 30 September 2020:

- The total number of applications received from the West Midlands from 28 August to 30 September 2020 is 317,160.
- Of the West Midlands total, 152,640 have been granted Settled status, 140,010 Pre-settled status and 7,890 other outcomes so far.

EU Settlement Support applications received by local authority data as of September 2020:

(The data presented includes data since testing of the scheme began in August 2018 and figures are rounded to the nearest 10)

Local authority	No.
Metropolitan total	198,590
Birmingham	84,860
Coventry	35,420
Sandwell	28,360
Dudley	6,900
Solihull	3,730
Walsall	14,460
Wolverhampton	24,860

Local authority	No.
Staffordshire total	23,000
Cannock Chase	1,400
East Staffordshire	9,540
South Staffordshire	730
Lichfield	1,750
Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,310
Stafford	3,600
Staffordshire Moorl'ds	630
Tamworth	3,040
Worcestershire total	22,690
Redditch	5,440
Worcester	6,590
Wyre Forest	1,940
Malvern Hills	1,120
Bromsgrove	800
Wychavon	6,800

Local authority	No.
Warwickshire total	30,800
North Warwickshire	1,170
Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,730
Rugby	10,440
Stratford-on-Avon	5,270
Warwick	8,190
Unitary authorities	42,080
Herefordshire	11,610
Shropshire	6,370
Stoke-on-Trent	14,160
Telford and Wrekin	9,940

Publisher(s)	Office for National Statistics (ONS)	Release period	Quarterly
Released	27 August 2020	Next Release	To be announced
Link to source	Migration Statistics Quarterly Report - Office for National Statistics		
Description	Covering people moving into and out of the UK, long term migration, short term migration, and non-UK resident's data. This provides a picture of those entering and leaving the UK.		

International Migration Statistics

Population of UK by country of birth and nationality

Publisher(s)	Office for National Statistics (ONS)	Release period	Quarterly
Released	21 May 2020	Next Release	To be announced
Link to source	Population of the UK by country of birth and nationality - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)		
Description	Expanded data on residents of UK, excluding some residents in communal establishments, by nation of birth and citizenship.		

- The UK estimated population was 66,006,000 people in 2019.
- The West Midlands resident population was estimated to be 5,845,000 people in 2019.

Region - Top Non-UK born populations in the West Midlands in order of size:

Nationality	Population size (Estimated)	Percentage of West Midlands population (Estimated)
India	104,000	1.8%
Pakistan	83,000	1.4%
Poland	76,000	1.3%
Romania	49,000	0.8%
Bangladesh	33,000	0.6%

National - Top Non-UK born populations in the United Kingdom in order of size:

Nationality	Population size (Estimated)	Percentage of population (Estimated)
India	863,000	1.3%
Poland	818,000	1.2%
Pakistan	547,000	0.8%
Romania	427,000	0.6%
Republic of Ireland	360,000	0.5%