

Asylum Performance 2007

- Public protection is our number one priority and we are determined to remove those with no right to remain in the UK, starting with the most harmful first.
- 2007 saw a dramatic intensification in our drive to deliver on this top priority of deporting foreign national criminals and we removed a record 4,200 foreign criminals from the United Kingdom, 80% more than the previous year. This year we are on course to meet our commitment to remove 5,000.
- Whilst we are right to prioritise the removal of those who cause harm to their communities, removing failed asylum seekers will continue to remain a major priority for the UKBA.
- In 2007 the public performance target to remove more failed asylum seekers than new anticipated unfounded claims (the tipping point target) was missed by 22% (3,795). Current projections indicate that we will also fail to meet the target in this calendar year.
- In 2007, 13,705 asylum seekers, including dependants, were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK compared with an estimated 17,500 applicants, including dependants, who it is predicted will fail to be granted refugee status or other leave.
- Although we have already removed 6% more people this quarter than we did in the previous quarter we recognize that we need to go further to ensure that we can remove increasing numbers of foreign criminals and failed asylum seekers from the U.K. That is why;
 - We're delivering the biggest shake-up of our immigration system for a generation, including the introduction of ID cards for foreign nationals locking them to one identity.
 - We have brought in powers ensuring that any non-EEA foreign national who receives a custodial sentence over 12 months will be automatically considered for deportation and in many cases will lose the right to appeal from inside the UK.
 - We're working closely with foreign Governments to speed up documentation, and we're deporting more offenders to countries like China and Vietnam than ever before.
 - We are reforming the way we consider asylum applications which means we are on track to conclude 60% of new asylum cases within 6 months by the end of the year
 - We are expanding our detention estate by 60% over the next few years in order to increase our capacity to remove more of those with no legal basis to be in the UK.
- Tougher border controls mean in 2007 the number of people claiming refugee status was at its lowest annual level since 1993. Across the rest of

the EU applications for asylum rose by 13% while falling 1% in the UK compared to the previous year. The UK ranks 11th amongst European Union countries in terms of asylum seekers per head of population (in 2007).

- We recognize that the numbers of people seeking international protection throughout the world is rising and that we need to go further to deter those who would seek to undermine our immigration rules by making unfounded asylum claims. That is why we are strengthening our border and why we're doubling our enforcement budget to deal with those who break our immigration laws.
- We remain committed to using the tipping target to drive our performance and will continue to report our progress as part of our published annual business plan.