



National Audit Office

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Date 17 August 2023

ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION APPLICATION DATA

Thank you for your email of 14 August 2023 in which you asked about accessing data related to applications, decisions, refusals, appeals, removals, as well as temporary accommodation support for asylum seekers and immigrants. We have handled your request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You specifically asked about anonymised application-level data. Unfortunately we do not hold any individual-level data on asylum applications. The analysis in our most recent report on [the asylum and protection transformation programme](#) used aggregated data, mainly from official statistics or Home Office management information. Underneath each of our figures we include a reference to the source documentation. For statistical data we have used the [immigration system statistics](#) or [statistics relating to the illegal migration bill](#), which do provide some demographic data, but still at an aggregated level. Further information about our sources and methods can be found on page 45 of our report.

For further information, I suggest that you might want to contact:

- [The Home Office](#), which is the data owner for all asylum data. Contact details are available at the end of the introductory page.
- [The House of Commons library](#), which has produced a number of bespoke analyses and information pieces about asylum.
- [The Migration Observatory](#), which also produces a number of bespoke analyses and articles on asylum and migration.

While these organisations may not have the level of data you require, they may provide useful insight or have suggestions for alternative sources.

I am sorry that we don't hold the specific information that you requested on this occasion, but I hope you find this response helpful. Your request is set out in **Annex A** for reference. **Annex B** sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request for information under FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team

157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria, London SW1W 9SP
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Cert No. 8835

ISO 14001

Annex A

Request for information about asylum and immigration application data:

"I am writing to inquire about accessing data related to applications, decisions, refusals, appeals, removals, as well as temporary accommodation support for asylum seekers and immigrants. Additionally, I would like to obtain basic demographic information concerning these applications. While I have reviewed some of your reports on asylum support, I am interested in whether it's possible to access information at the application level, without the inclusion of identifiable details. My research relies on analyzing variations in applications, so having data at this level would be greatly beneficial.

I am fully prepared to adhere to your policies and data usage agreements. I am willing to share my research proposal and any other necessary documents that might facilitate access to more restricted data. Moreover, I would appreciate it if you could provide me with information regarding the costs associated with fulfilling these data requests."

Annex B

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI@nao.org.uk or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>

Alternatively you can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/> or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.