

Meeting of the RIA Interim Advisory Board, 26th February, 2002

Agenda

1. Minutes
2. Update on recent developments in the asylum area.
3. Irish Refugee Council Report - "Beyond the Pale: Asylum Seeking Children and Social Exclusion in Ireland".
4. Draft Policy Report on Reception and Resettlement of Asylum Seekers.
5. Research (update).
6. Any other business.

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**Statistical note for meeting for the Interim Advisory Board of the  
Reception and Integration Agency, Tuesday February 26, 2002.**

**Key Statistics:**

**A) Asylum applications**

A comparison of the position in 2002 as compared with previous years is as follows:

YEAR	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1997	235	243	199	380	423	454	378	354	326	307	241	343	3883
1998	321	425	632	407	390	440	449	407	313	246	278	318	4626
1999	234	234	358	315	381	453	571	962	938	1051	1010	1217	7724
2000	976	864	972	1036	802	677	773	919	963	1098	1096	762	10938
2001	840	706	763	741	838	882	961	983	855	892	904	960	10325
2002	838	440*											

The number of asylum applications in Ireland in 2001 shows a 5.6% reduction when compared with the same period in 2000.

The **main source countries for 2001** continued to be Nigeria and Romania, but applications from Romania decreased (there was a 43.45% reduction compared to 2000). The top 5 source countries for 2000 and 2001 are shown in the table below:

2000			2001		
Country of Origin	Number of Applicants	as % of overall applicants	Country of Origin	Number of Applicants	as % of overall applicants
1st: Nigeria	3,404	31.1%	1st: Nigeria	3,461	33.5%
2nd: Romania	2,384	21.8%	2nd: Romania	1,348	13.1%
3rd: Czech Republic	403	3.7%	3rd: Moldova	549	5.3%
4th: Moldova	388	3.5%	4th: Ukraine	376	3.6%
5th: DR. Congo	358	3.3%	5th: Russia	307	3%

**B) Deportations and Voluntary Returns**

The number of applicants who were deported/repatriated or returned to their source country voluntarily are set out in the tables below:

Year	Repatriation/Deportation
2002	35*
2001	365
2000	187
<b>Total</b>	<b>587</b>

Year	Voluntary Returns
2002	58*
2001	356
2000	248
<b>Total</b>	<b>662</b>

### **C) Processing and applications on hand.**

- There are some 7700 asylum applications awaiting final decision in the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner. This figure refers to all applications received up to 6th February 2002. Of these nearly 3400 have been scheduled for interview or have completed the interview process and are awaiting decision.
- The total number of appeals on hand in the Refugee Appeals Tribunal at end January is 2460. This figure refers to all appeals received up to 31st January 2002.
- The increase in processing capacity which has been put in place in both the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC) and the Refugee Appeals Tribunal as part of the Government's asylum strategy is making a real impact on the backlog of cases and is helping to progressively reduce processing times. For example;
  - Since July 2001 cases scheduled, processed and completed have significantly exceeded intake.
  - Over 97% of pre-2001 cases outstanding on or received since 20 November 2000 have now been offered a substantive interview. Thus, from January 2002 the ORAC is focusing on applications submitted in 2001.
  - At 31st December 2001, only some 4400 applications were on hands for more than six months in the ORAC and the Refugee Appeals Tribunal and the majority of these are in the final stages of processing

- In the ORAC, the number of interviews scheduled for 2001 was more than double the figure for 2000.
- The Refugee Appeals Tribunal scheduled 170% more hearings in 2001 as compared with 2000.

#### D) Leave to Remain

**Applications in respect of Irish born children:** There has been a significant increase in the number of applications from non-nationals to remain in the State on the basis of parentage of an Irish citizen child in the last year. For 2001 as a whole, the Department has received 5,924 applications for permission to remain on the basis of parentage of an Irish citizen from current or former asylum applicants. 2,468 permissions have been granted to such persons in the same period. 909 permissions were granted in 2000.

#### Leave to remain, others:

Applications are also received from current or former asylum seekers on the basis of their marriage to an Irish or EEA national who is residing in the State. The following applications have been approved in recent years:

Year	Marriage to an Irish national	Marriage to an EEA national
1,999	101	83
2,000	95	59
2,001	130	183

\* denotes statistics up to and including 15/2/02

19/2/02