

The UK Asylum Process

A simple guide

For a better, more complex guide

<http://righttoremain.org.uk/toolkit/>

Asylum seeker claims asylum

When/Where?

- As soon as possible
- At port of entry or
- UK Visa & Immigration offices at Croydon

Who is involved?

- Asylum Seeker
- UKVI staff

What happens?

- Asylum seeker is photographed & finger printed
- Screening interview takes place

What next?

- Application Registration Card issued
- Asylum seeker is dispersed to somewhere in the UK
- If asylum has no money/accommodation Section 95 support is arranged & ASPEN Card issued

Screening Interview

When/Where?

- Same day as asylum claim, or within 5 days
- At port of entry or
- UK Visa & Immigration offices at Croydon

Who is involved?

- Asylum Seeker
- UKVI officer
- Interpreter

What happens?

- UKVI officer takes basic details & makes notes

What next?

- Application Registration Card issued
- Asylum seeker is dispersed to somewhere in the UK – usually to “Initial Accommodation” like Urban House in Wakefield

Asylum seeker meets UKVI case owner

When/Where?

- A few days later, usually in Croydon

Who is involved?

- Asylum seeker
- UKVI Case owner
- Interpreter (on request)

What happens?

- The UKVI Case Owner
 - explains the asylum process
 - explains reporting arrangements
 - removes any travel documents the asylum seeker has
 - tells the asylum seeker the date of their Asylum interview

What next?

- Asylum seeker may move from “Initial Accommodation” into dispersed accommodation (run by G4S) elsewhere

Asylum Interview

When/Where?

- In theory a week after screening, but often months after
- At a reporting centre

Who is involved?

- Case Owner
- Asylum seeker
- Interpreter (on request)
- Representative (UKVI say this “isn’t essential”)

What happens?

- The Case Owner interviews the seeker to find out
 - The basis of their claim
 - The evidence to back this claim up
 - Interview can be taped (on request)

What next?

- The asylum seeker waits

Asylum Decision

When/Where?

- **In theory, within 30 days of the asylum interview, but often months after**

Who is involved?

- **Case Owner**
- **Asylum seeker**

What happens?

- **The Case Owner informs the asylum seeker in writing, by post.**

What next?

- **Depends on outcome of case**

Successful Application

When/Where?

- In theory, within 30 days of the asylum interview, but often months after

Who is involved?

- Case Owner
- Asylum seeker
- Accommodation provider (G4S)

What happens?

- The Case Owner informs the asylum seeker in writing, by post.
- Asylum seeker is given refugee status for 5 years, or other humanitarian protection
- Asylum seeker/refugee issued with Biometric Residence Permit – stating right to work and recourse to public funds

What next?

- Asylum seeker/Refugee given 28 days to leave their G4S accommodation
- Asylum seeker/Refugee needs to apply for National Insurance Number
- Asylum seeker/Refugee needs to find alternative accommodation

Unsuccessful Application

When/Where?

- In theory, within 30 days of the asylum interview, but often months after

Who is involved?

- Case Owner
- Asylum seeker
- Accommodation provider (G4S)

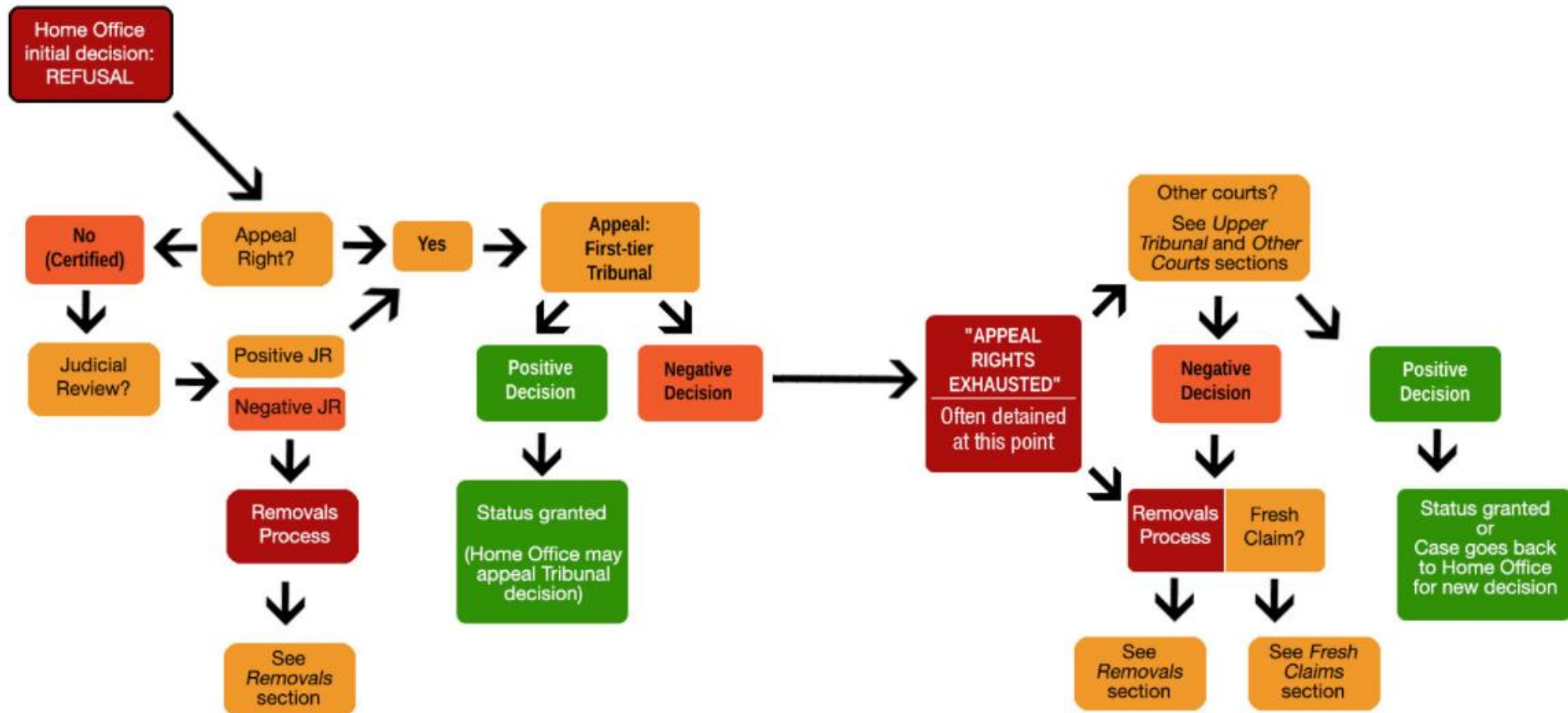
What happens?

- The Case Owner informs the asylum seeker in writing, by post.

What next?

- Asylum seeker told to leave accommodation within
- **ASYLUM SEEKER MUST SEEK LEGAL ADVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**
- Asylum seeker may be able to apply for Section 4 support (ARC card, £36.95)

What happens after unsuccessful Asylum Application



What happens after unsuccessful Asylum Application (simple version)

When/Where?

- Appeals must be received within 14 days of original decision

Who is involved?

- Legal Rep/ Manuel Bravo
- Asylum seeker
- UKVI/Home Office

What happens?

- Asylum Seeker finds Legal Representative
- Legal rep outlines basis of appeal to UKVI/Home Office - usually based on the fact the decision breaches the asylum seekers' Human Rights

What next?

- If appeal is valid, then Tribunal write giving "Notice of Hearing"
- Tribunal takes place in front of a Judge
- Asylum seeker informed of decision with 3 or 4 weeks.

What happens after unsuccessful Asylum Application (simple version)

When/Where?

- Fresh Claims can be submitted at any time after appeal rights have been exhausted (see diagram)

Who is involved?

- Legal Rep/ Manuel Bravo
- Asylum seeker
- UKVI

What happens?

- Asylum Seeker finds Legal Representative
- Legal Rep gathers fresh evidence to support asylum claim
- Fresh claim aka Asylum Application is submitted

What next?

- The process begins again

Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme

When/Where?

- Any time in the asylum process

Who is involved?

- Asylum seeker
- UKVI

What happens?

- Asylum Seeker tells UKVI they are willing to return to country of origin
- UKVI arrange flights and resettlement package (money accommodation)

What next?

- Asylum seekers expected to return within 3 months of application

Detention

When/Where?

- Any time in the asylum process

Who is involved?

- Asylum seeker
- UKVI

What happens?

- Asylum Seeker detained, usually when they are reporting/signing at Home Office
- Asylum Seeker moved to a detention and removal centre
- Asylum seeker may be served with a notice of removal

What next?

- **ASYLUM SEEKER MUST SEEK LEGAL SUPPORT/ADVICE**
- After receiving notice of removal, they can be on a plane within hours

Enforced removal

When/Where?

- Any time after UKVI has informed the Asylum seeker of their intention to remove them

Who is involved?

- Asylum seeker
- UKVI
- (hopefully a Legal Rep/ Manuel Bravo)

What happens?

- Asylum Seeker taken to a removal centre
- Flights arranged

What next?

- Asylum seeker removed
- Asylum seeker unable to return to UK for 10 years

Q&A

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