

**Office of the Refugee Applications  
Commissioner**



**Summary Report of Key Developments in 2016**



## **INTRODUCTION**

Following the commencement of the International Protection Act 2015 on 31 December 2016, the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC) was abolished and responsibility for processing applications for international protection at first instance and for considering whether the Minister for Justice and Equality should give permission to remain to applicants, as part of a single application procedure process, was transferred to a new International Protection Office (IPO).

This report contains a summary of key developments in ORAC during 2016. It is provided by way of a final governance report in order to complete the suite of corporate documents published by ORAC during its existence between November 2000 and December 2016. It covers a variety of matters with particular regard to the processing of applications for refugee status, subsidiary protection and family reunification. It also outlines the planning process undertaken in ORAC in the context of the commencement of the single procedure process in which ORAC staff played a lead role throughout 2016 to ensure the effective and efficient operation of that procedure from the commencement of the 2015 Act. ORAC staff subsequently transferred to the IPO to ensure continuity of experience and skills in the processing of protection claims and that the State continued to seamlessly meet its obligations to applicants for international protection under domestic and international law.

Some key statistical information is also provided on processing by way of appendices to this report. A key feature of the report is the substantial increase in outputs by ORAC in areas such as asylum case processing, the EU Dublin process, family reunification and the servicing of appeals hearings by ORAC staff and Panel members in the Refugee Appeals Tribunal.

ORAC would like to thank all its staff and Panel members for their support over the years and without whom the delivery of its functions would not have been possible. We also wish to express our appreciation to everyone else who assisted and co-operated with us between 2000 and 2016 and for helping us to undertake our important statutory responsibilities.



## **Contents**

Key developments in 2016	4
--------------------------	---

## **Appendices**

1. - Applications/Processing Statistics	13
2. – Dublin Regulation Statistics	23
3. – Subsidiary Protection Statistics	29
4. - Information on Requests Handled by the Corporate and Customer Service Centre and Copying/Registry Unit in 2016	32

## **Key Developments in 2016**

## Processing of Applications for Refugee Status

- 2,244 applications for refugee status were received by the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC) in 2016 which represented a 32% decrease on the 3,276 applications received in 2015. An average of 187 applications per month were received in the course of the year. 262 applications were received in December 2016 which was the highest monthly total. The lowest was in March 2016 when 138 applications were made.
- The top five countries of origin for 2016 were Syria (10.9%), Pakistan (10.4%), Albania (9.9%), Zimbabwe (8.6%) and Nigeria (7.8%).
- 10 or more applications were received from 33 countries and there were 38 countries with 3 or fewer applications.
- The majority of the 1,550 cases awaiting finalisation at the end of 2016 were on hand for less than 6 months.
- In terms of processing, the total number of refugee status applications processed by ORAC in 2016 was 3,280. This was more than double the output for 2015. Asylum applications received and processed under Ministerial prioritisation arrangements increased from 53 in 2015 to 87 and were normally scheduled for interview within 22 working days from date of application. 641 subsidiary protection cases were also finalised.
- Due to limited staff resources, the median processing time for prioritised cases in 2016 increased to 16 weeks from 10.8 weeks in 2015. The remaining asylum applications were processed within a median processing time of 41 weeks as compared to just over 29 weeks in 2015. However with new staff coming on board in Q4 2016 and a number of other strategies put in place, the vast majority of cases that had been interviewed during 2016 were completed.
- To minimise the number of cases that would transition for processing from ORAC to the new International Protection Office (IPO), under the International Protection Act 2015 (the 2015 Act), ORAC made every effort to finalise as many cases as possible under the Refugee Act 1996 before the end of 2016. Even though asylum interviews were suspended from October 2016 onwards to allow for transitional work to be undertaken in connection with the introduction of the 2015 Act, asylum cases on hands on 30 December 2016 (the last day of ORAC's existence) decreased from 2,582 at the beginning of the year to 1,550 at the end of 2016 which represented a fall of some 40%.
- The number of cases which were deemed withdrawn during 2016 increased by some 37% mainly due to applicants failing to co-operate with the asylum process as required under the provisions of the Refugee Act, 1996. This amounted to some 438 in 2016 compared to 319 in 2015.
- The overall grant rate for cases at first instance was over 16% in 2016.
- 34 applications were received from unaccompanied minors and this represented 1.6% of the total number of applications received in 2016. This is consistent with the

number of such applications received in 2015. These applications were processed within a median processing time of 28 weeks.

- A total of 22 persons in places of detention requested asylum in 2016 which is consistent with the rate of 1.0% for the same category in 2015. Such applications continued to be prioritised in line with statutory provisions.
- In 2016 we continued to ensure that our processing procedures were in line with international best practice. In this regard, ORAC reviewed and revised its refugee status determination report template and guidance notes with the assistance of the UNHCR. All procedures and practices in the organisation were examined to ensure that they met the requirements of the International Protection Act, 2015 and any necessary amendments were made for this purpose.
- ORAC continued to co-operate with the UNHCR on training matters. Training on refugee status determination and subsidiary protection was delivered to ORAC staff and an extended Case Processing Panel during the year and was in line with the training curriculum of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), UNHCR guidelines and international best practice. The UNHCR supported the delivery of comprehensive training programmes for Panel members and ORAC staff in November 2016, in relation to the introduction of the International Protection Act, 2015.
- A quality review process continued to be undertaken and fed into the ongoing updating of ORAC procedures.
- ORAC staff also continued to be vigilant in monitoring our process for applicants who might have been subjected to human trafficking. Such cases were reported to the Anti Human Trafficking Unit of the Department of Justice and Equality as well as the Garda National Protective Services Bureau (GNPSB) for further investigation.
- Operational training provided in 2016, with the assistance of external experts included:
  - Refugee Status Determination.
  - Subsidiary Protection Determination.
  - Dealing with the needs of vulnerable persons.
  - Planning for the single procedure in the context of the International Protection Act 2015 including international protection and permission to remain issues.
- 594 outgoing transfer decisions were processed by ORAC under the EU Dublin III Regulation in 2016 as compared to some 302 transfer decisions in 2015, an increase of some 96%. 377 Dublin Regulation interviews were carried out under the European Union (Dublin System) Regulations 2014.
- The EU EURODAC fingerprinting system continued to be utilised to identify cases to be progressed under the terms of the EU Dublin III Regulation. ORAC also continued to check visa and other immigration related histories in the identification of applicants who, having obtained a visa or residence permission in another Member State, travelled to Ireland and applied for asylum often claiming to have no identity or travel documents.



- 1,659 sets of fingerprints were sent to EURODAC in 2016. The fingerprints of 246 applicants resulted in 413 hits with EURODAC which indicated that these applicants had made an application for asylum in one or more Member States. These figures do not include Irish Refugee Protection Programme pledge fingerprints hits.
- A new fingerprinting software suite was successfully installed in November 2016 to provide better technical support in the operation of the EU Dublin Regulation.
- The Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) of An Garda Síochána continued to operate as an integral element of the fingerprint process whereby ORAC exchanges information with the EURODAC fingerprint database. In addition, ORAC continued to use the Automated Visa Application and Tracking System (AVATS) of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service to enable it to identify applications for asylum where the applicant had obtained an Irish visa but had not presented a passport or other relevant documentation when they came to ORAC.
- In 2016, 358 family reunification applications were received, a 32% increase on the 2015 figure of 272. These applications were investigated under the Refugee Act, 1996 in line with ORAC's responsibilities for the investigation of applications from persons with refugee status for family reunification and for providing reports on these investigations to the Minister for Justice and Equality.
- The main source countries of family reunification applications in 2016 were Syria, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Sudan.
- ORAC Presenting Officers serviced 1,018 appeal hearings before the Refugee Appeals Tribunal in 2016 compared with 725 such hearings in 2015, an increase of 40%.
- Work continued in 2016 on the processing of subsidiary protection applications. Some 325 subsidiary protection interviews were scheduled and 641 cases were finalised. This meant that by December 2016, and building on the substantial work undertaken in 2015, of the 3,800 cases transferred to ORAC from INIS in November 2013, only 30 remained to be finalised.
- Some 431 new applications for subsidiary protection were received by ORAC in 2016 as compared with 297 in 2015.
- 375 applications for subsidiary protection were withdrawn or deemed withdrawn, including cases where the applicant advised that s/he did not wish to proceed with their application or had not co-operated with ORAC.
- Throughout 2016 the ORAC Case Processing Panel continued to play a major role in supporting case processing work.

## Other Developments

- An important consequence of the ongoing enhancement of our policies and procedures, training programmes and quality processes has been the general reduction

in the number of successful judicial reviews<sup>1</sup> taken against ORAC. In 2016 we disposed of 12 cases with only 2 in favour of the applicant. ORAC received 37 new judicial review cases<sup>2</sup> in 2016 and had 41 cases on hand at the end of December 2016. By comparison, there were 16 cases on hand at end December 2015.

- ORAC's expenditure under its legal costs subhead in 2016 was €161,205, which represents a reduction on 20% on expenditure in 2015.<sup>3</sup>
- All incoming legal challenges continued to be proactively managed with a view to achieving the best outcome for the State, including in relation to minimising the potential costs involved<sup>4</sup>.
- Country of Origin information from a variety of legitimate sources was used by ORAC during 2016 including the resources of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO). The services of the Refugee Documentation Centre (RDC), including their e-library facility, were again utilised on an ongoing basis during 2016 for the purpose of ensuring the availability and quality of reliable and comprehensive Country of Origin Information for use by ORAC staff and our Case Processing Panel members. As ORAC is one of the main users of the RDC, ORAC also met with the RDC bilaterally as well as attending RDC Steering Group Meetings during 2016.
- In addition, to ensure the continued availability of reliable Country of Origin Information, ORAC maintained an up-to-date Caseworkers' Shared Knowledge Database for use by staff and Case Processing Panel members. This database is updated on an almost daily basis with the latest RDC research and analysis.
- In 2016, ORAC secured the services of a new international language analysis company following a competitive tendering process. Language analysis testing involves the examination of an individual's speech in order to assess, as specifically as possible, whether the individual could be placed in the geographical area or speech community from which they claim to come. Where the language analysis report indicates that the applicant is not from the geographical area or speech community to which they claim to belong, this becomes a credibility issue for exploration at substantive interview. Equally, the report may support the applicant's claim to be from a particular geographic area or speech community. The language analysis report,

<sup>1</sup> This reflects the delays in the court system as ORAC secured relatively few hearing dates to have the legal issues and cases determined.

<sup>2</sup> While the vast majority of legal challenges to ORAC are in the form of judicial reviews, a small number of others are also received namely injunctions and various types of summonses. Appeals to the Supreme Court are also included in these figures. From time to time ORAC is requested to provide information to the Courts in the context of Habeas Corpus applications.

<sup>3</sup> Payments made by ORAC under this subhead are made on foot of Bills of Costs submitted to ORAC (following clearance by the Office of the Chief State Solicitor's Costs Accounting Section) by applicants' legal representatives in respect of, for example, judicial reviews settled or lost by ORAC. There are often considerable delays – sometimes several years – in the submission of Bills of Costs. Hence there is a variable time lag between the finalisation of cases before the courts and the submission of the Bills of Costs over which ORAC has no control.

<sup>4</sup> Settlements usually arise because ORAC seeks to resolve a judicial review at an early stage in order to avoid higher costs arising because of long drawn out proceedings. This can often enable the case to proceed to the Refugee Appeals Tribunal without unnecessary delay. It may also arise that because ORAC is not successful in a particular JR case, we seek to settle, on the basis of a risk assessment, other similar cases in order to avoid long drawn out proceedings even though it is by no means certain that ORAC would be unsuccessful should the case proceed to hearing. Finally, we endeavour to encourage a process of pre-JRs whereby legal advisors would bring potential issues with our determinations to our attention in advance of legal proceedings being issued. This would avoid the cost of proceedings, settlements etc.

on those occasions where it is requested by ORAC, is used to assist with the overall evaluation of the application and is considered in conjunction with all other elements of the claim. Regardless of the contents of the language analysis report, every applicant is given a full opportunity of presenting his/her claim at a substantive interview.

- ORAC continued to participate in the work of relevant international fora dealing with asylum and refugee matters such as Working Groups of the European Union including on the EU Dublin Regulation and the Intergovernmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration matters (IGC) based in Geneva. During 2016 staff also attended a large number of meetings on operational cooperation matters chaired by the European Asylum Support Office including in relation to common EU approaches to training and quality.
- The Commissioner continued his term as Deputy Chairperson of the EASO Management Board during 2016 and attended three board meetings during the year. The aim of the EASO is to help to improve the implementation of the Common European Asylum System, to strengthen practical co-operation among Member States on asylum and to provide and co-ordinate the provision of operational support to Member States subject to particular pressure on their asylum and reception systems.

### **The Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP)**

- The Irish Refugee Protection Programme was established by the Government in September 2015 as part of Ireland’s response to the refugee and migrant crisis in the Aegean and Mediterranean. Under this Programme approximately 2,000<sup>5</sup> asylum seekers will be relocated to the State from Greece and Italy under EU Council Decisions 2015/1523 and 2014/1601 of September 2015, for processing. The first relocation asylum seekers travelled to Ireland in January 2016 and were granted refugee status following consideration of their cases by ORAC. Over the course of 2016 a schedule of monthly visits to Athens by a multi-disciplinary team comprising officials from ORAC, the IRPP and An Garda Síochána was put in place. This team met all of the relocation applicants for Ireland and delivered a cultural orientation, general needs assessment and security assessment. The Irish Embassy to Greece supported the missions. The Irish Relocation Programme Liaison Officer for Greece is an ORAC staff member. Key relocation statistics for 2016 are as follows:

#### **Relocation Missions to Athens during 2016**

<b>Missions</b>	<b>Met in Athens</b>	<b>Arrived in Ireland</b>
Greece 1	10	10
Greece 2	29	28
Greece 3	32	31
Greece 4	39	40
Greece 5	64	65
Greece 6	65	66
Greece 7	86	n/a
Greece 8	80	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>240</b>

<sup>5</sup> The number for the relocation element has not been finalised by the European Commission, and is subject to change depending on the number of EU Member States and Associated States participating in Relocation.

- The relocation asylum seekers came from Syria and Iraq.
- During 2016, 12 Irish experts were assigned to support the work of EASO in Greece and Italy. Of these, ten experts were deployed to Greece (Islands of Lesbos and Chios) to support the work of the EASO. The experts were involved in conducting admissibility interviews and some also carried out vulnerability assessments particularly in cases involving unaccompanied minors. Two experts were deployed to the Dublin Unit of the Italian Ministry of the Interior in Rome to support the Unit in implementing the Dublin III Regulation in the context of the relocation process.

### **Staff Support and Training**

- ORAC continued to support its staff and Case Processing Panel members in 2016 to enable the goals and objectives of our organisation to be delivered. All members of staff continued to participate in the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS). PMDS is regarded as a key management tool within the organisation and is designed to be a fair and effective way of measuring staff performance, and personal development in the context of goal setting and achieving individual, divisional and overall organisational objectives through regular open and constructive discussions between managers and staff.
- In 2016, ORAC continued to prioritise the needs of its staff in the areas of job specific development and training. In total, 406 training units were provided to staff and members of the Case Processing Panel. A substantial portion of this training was provided in preparation for the commencement of the International Protection Act 2015.
- Staffing resources continued to be kept under review with ongoing liaison with the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service during the year on staffing and resource needs particularly in the context of the planned commencement of the International Protection Act 2015.

### **Customer Service**

- ORAC continued to prioritise its customer service function during 2016 with a significant volume of correspondence processed. Further details of the scale of work processed by our Corporate and Customer Service Centre and our Copying Section are available in Appendix 4.
- Two meetings of our Customer Service Liaison Panel took place, the first in May 2016 and the second in December 2016. The latter concentrated on briefing members of civil society groups on preparations for the commencement of the International Protection Act, 2015.

### **Freedom of Information**

- 17 requests were received and processed in accordance with statutory requirements under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

## Partnership

- The ORAC Partnership Committee met 6 times during 2016. These meetings provide an opportunity for staff, management and union representatives to discuss matters of mutual interest such as corporate planning (particularly in light of planning for the International Protection Act, 2015), energy awareness and other organisational issues.

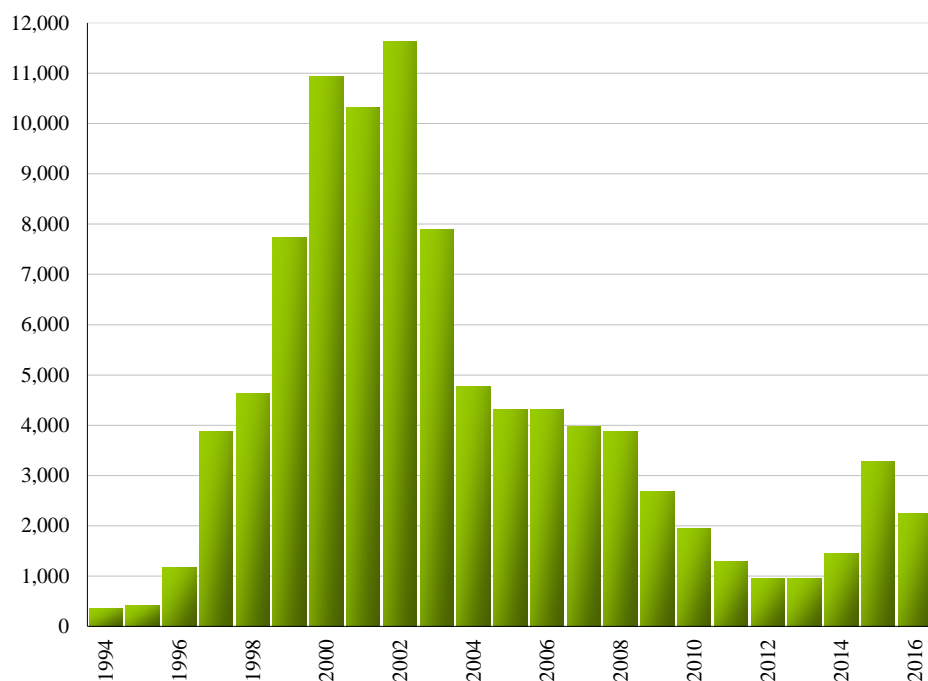
## Planning for the Single Procedure

- ORAC continued its planning for the envisaged commencement in 2016 of the International Protection Act, 2015. The 2015 Act provides for a single application procedure for the processing of protection applications and permission to remain cases. The 2015 Act was commenced on 31 December 2016. ORAC staff led the operational planning for the 2015 Act and participated in many inter-agency planning and implementation groups in the context of ensuring the readiness of the planned new International Protection Office. Work included
  - Examining the transition provisions in the 2015 Act to ensure that all applicants were in the correct category and that applicants were issued with provisional notifications (in the form of a mailshot carried out in December 2016) of how the new legislation would impact on their cases;
  - Ensuring that information material was prepared and letters, procedures and other single procedure documentation were drafted;
  - Attending regular meetings of a planning group to ensure that the necessary IT support was put in place for the new single procedure in the context of the development of an extensive new IT system.
  - Development of training programmes in co-operation with the UNHCR and delivery of training for both staff and case processing panel members;
  - Researching and devising procedures to deal with Permission to Remain, a new area of work for the planned International Protection Office;
  - Regular contact with other areas of INIS as well as with the UNHCR and NGOs on single procedure preparations.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix 1**  
**Applications/Processing Statistics**

**Table 1. Number of applications per year from 1994 to 2016**



Year	Applications	Change on previous year (%)
1994	362	133.3
1995	424	17.1
1996	1,179	178.1
1997	3,883	229.3
1998	4,626	19.1
1999	7,724	67.0
2000	10,938	41.6
2001	10,325	-5.6
2002	11,634	12.7
2003	7,900	-32.1
2004	4,766	-39.7
2005	4,323	-9.3
2006	4,314	-0.2
2007	3,985	-7.6
2008	3,866	-3.0
2009	2,689	-30.4
2010	1,939	-27.9
2011	1,290	-33.5
2012	956	-25.9
2013	946	-1.0
2014	1,448	53.1
2015	3,276	126.2
2016	2,244	-31.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,037</b>	

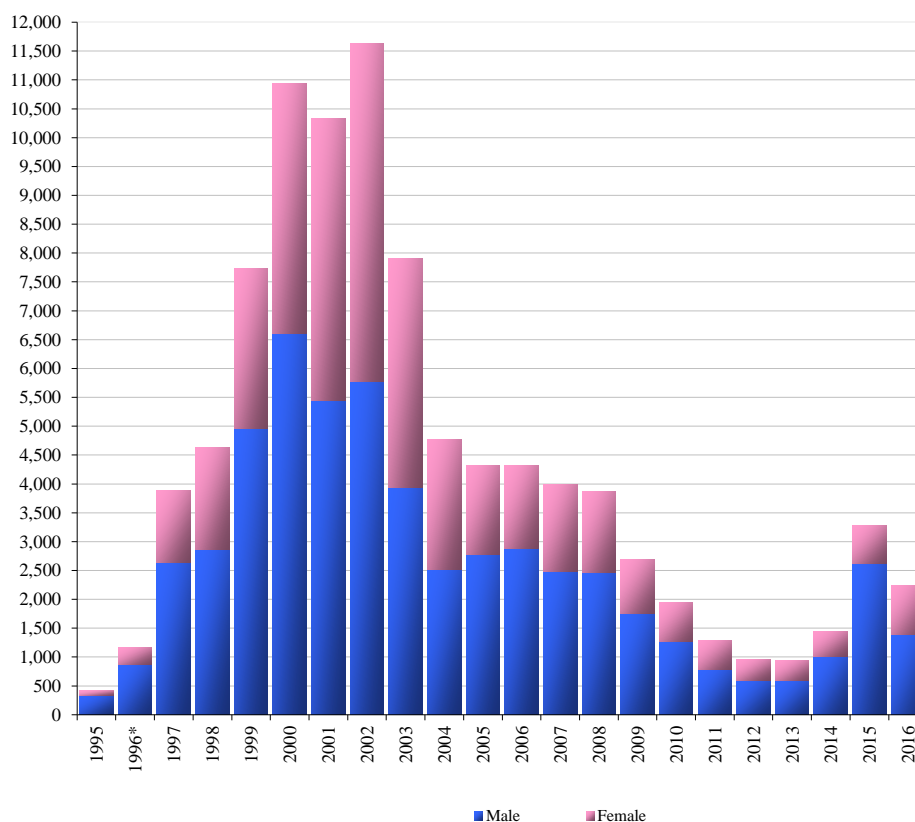
**Table 2. Applications received by month and year**



Month	2015	2016	Year on year change (%)
January	215	213	-0.9
February	201	193	-4.0
March	209	138	-34.0
April	265	154	-41.9
May	257	139	-45.9
June	334	157	-53.0
July	290	163	-43.8
August	332	197	-40.7
September	407	219	-46.2
October	263	186	-29.3
November	291	223	-23.4
December	212	262	23.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,276</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>-31.5</b>



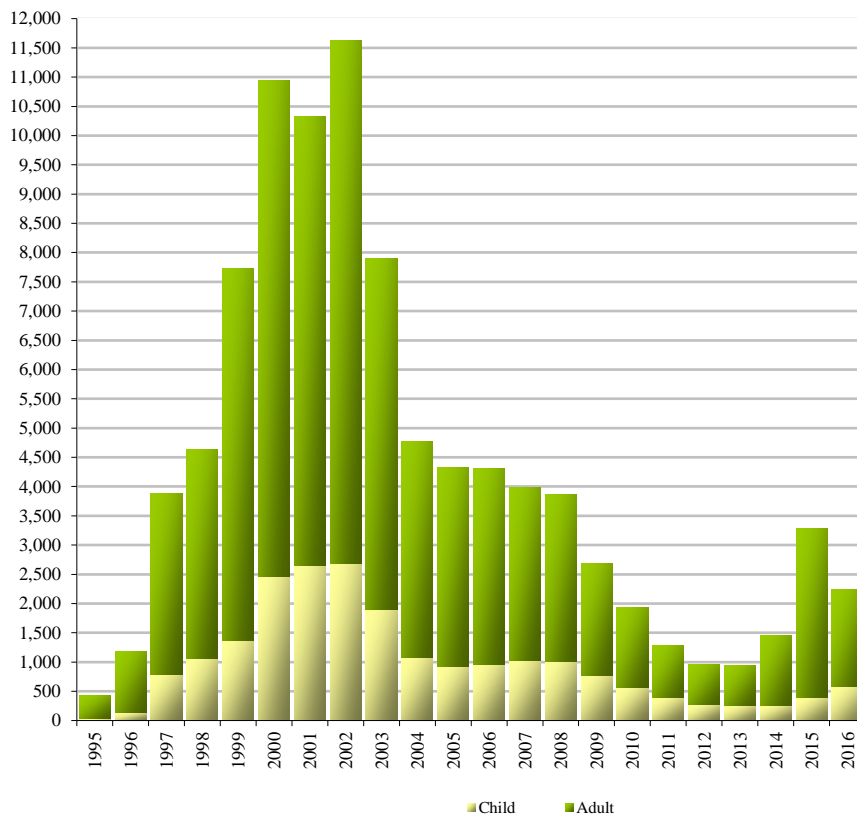
Table 3. Applications per year from 1994 to 2016 by gender



Year	Male	Female	Total	Male to Female ratio
1994*	264	97	362	2.7
1995	334	90	424	3.7
1996*	875	299	1,179	2.9
1997	2,643	1,240	3,883	2.1
1998	2,869	1,757	4,626	1.6
1999	4,958	2,766	7,724	1.8
2000	6,602	4,336	10,938	1.5
2001	5,447	4,878	10,325	1.1
2002	5,773	5,861	11,634	1.0
2003	3,944	3,956	7,900	1.0
2004	2,521	2,245	4,766	1.1
2005	2,778	1,545	4,323	1.8
2006	2,875	1,439	4,314	2.0
2007	2,478	1,507	3,985	1.6
2008	2,469	1,397	3,866	1.8
2009	1,758	931	2,689	1.9
2010	1,265	674	1,939	1.9
2011	779	511	1,290	1.5
2012	599	357	956	1.7
2013	585	361	946	1.6
2014	1,003	445	1,448	2.3
2015	2,614	662	3,276	3.9
2016	1,388	856	2,244	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,821</b>	<b>38,210</b>	<b>95,037</b>	<b>1.5</b>

\* The totals in respect of these years include cases where 'Gender' was not recorded.

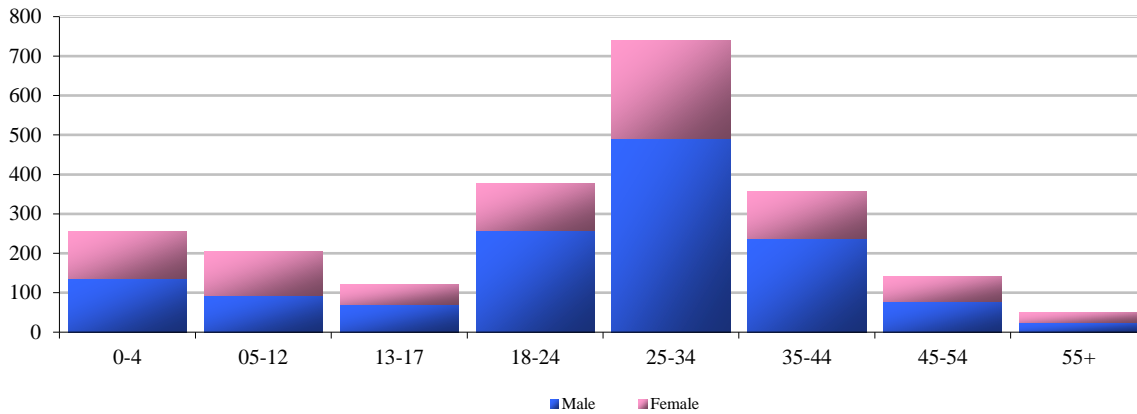
Table 4. Applications per year by age grouping



Year	Child [0 - 17]	Adult [18+]	Total	Adult to Child ratio
1994*	31	330	362	10.6
1995	27	397	424	14.7
1996	138	1,041	1,179	7.5
1997	791	3,092	3,883	3.9
1998	1,063	3,563	4,626	3.4
1999	1,370	6,354	7,724	4.6
2000	2,456	8,482	10,938	3.5
2001	2,653	7,672	10,325	2.9
2002	2,678	8,956	11,634	3.3
2003	1,895	6,005	7,900	3.2
2004	1,071	3,695	4,766	3.5
2005	926	3,397	4,323	3.7
2006	964	3,350	4,314	3.5
2007	1,025	2,960	3,985	2.9
2008	1,016	2,850	3,866	2.8
2009	764	1,925	2,689	2.5
2010	573	1,366	1,939	2.4
2011	387	903	1,290	2.3
2012	277	679	956	2.5
2013	261	685	946	2.6
2014	264	1,184	1,448	4.5
2015	386	2,890	3,276	7.5
2016	579	1,665	2,244	2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,034</b>	<b>71,844</b>	<b>92,884</b>	<b>3.4</b>

\* The total in respect of 1994 includes cases where 'Age' was not recorded.

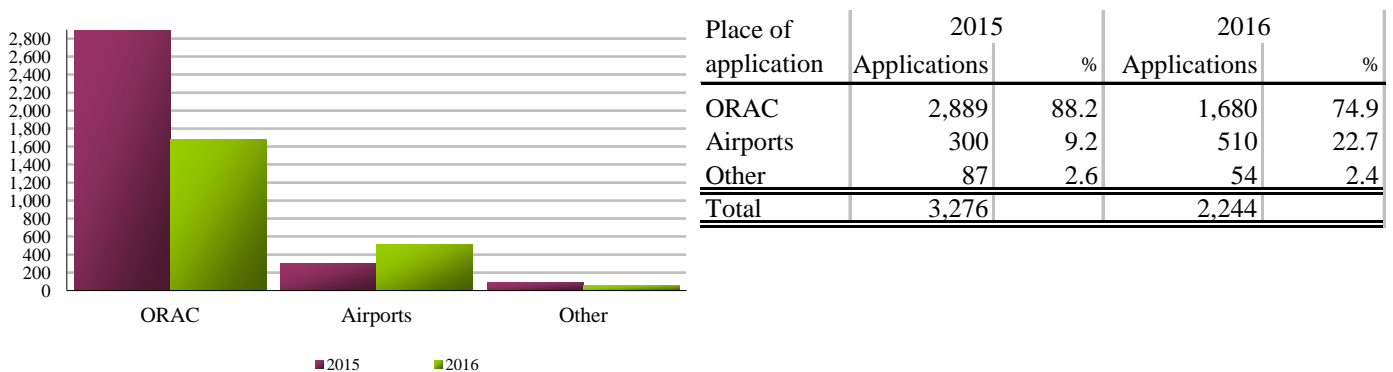
**Table 5. Age stated by applicants 2016**



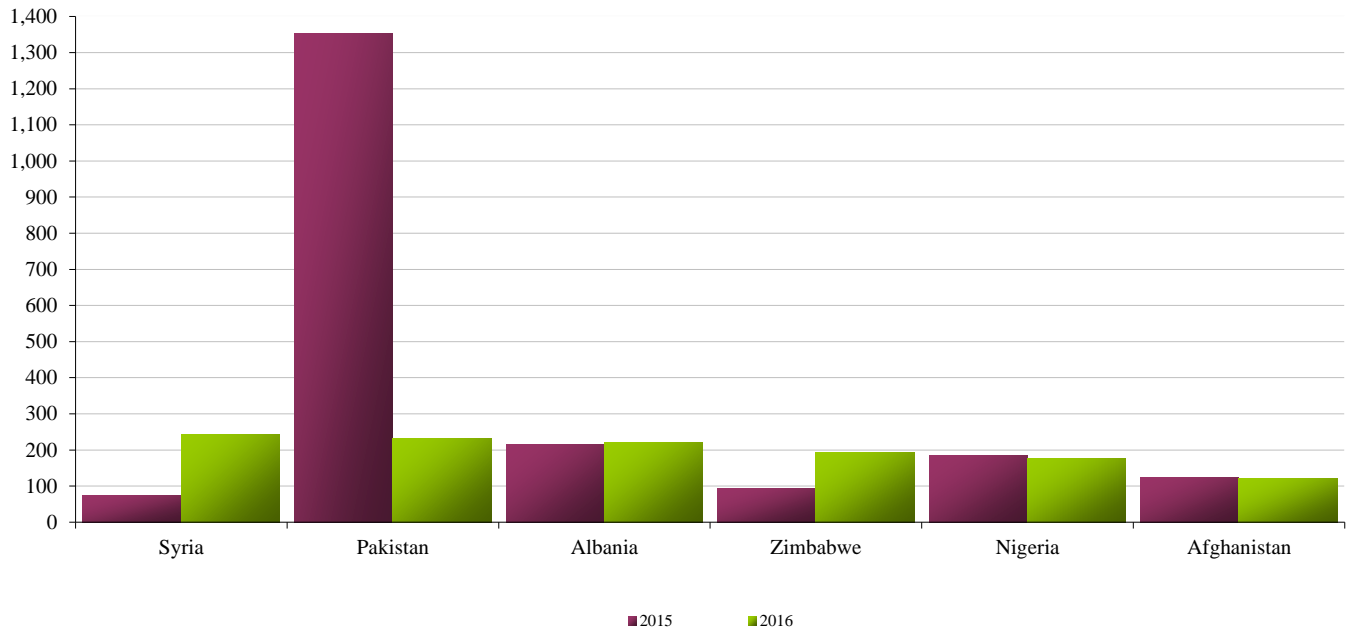
Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Total (%)	Male to Female ratio
0-4	135	120	255	11.4	1.1
05-12	93	111	204	9.1	0.8
13-17	71	49	120	5.3	1.4
18-24	258	118	376	16.8	2.2
25-34	491	249	740	33.0	2.0
35-44	237	120	357	15.9	2.0
45-54	79	62	141	6.3	1.3
55+	24	27	51	2.3	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>2,244</b>		<b>1.6</b>

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 6. Places of application**

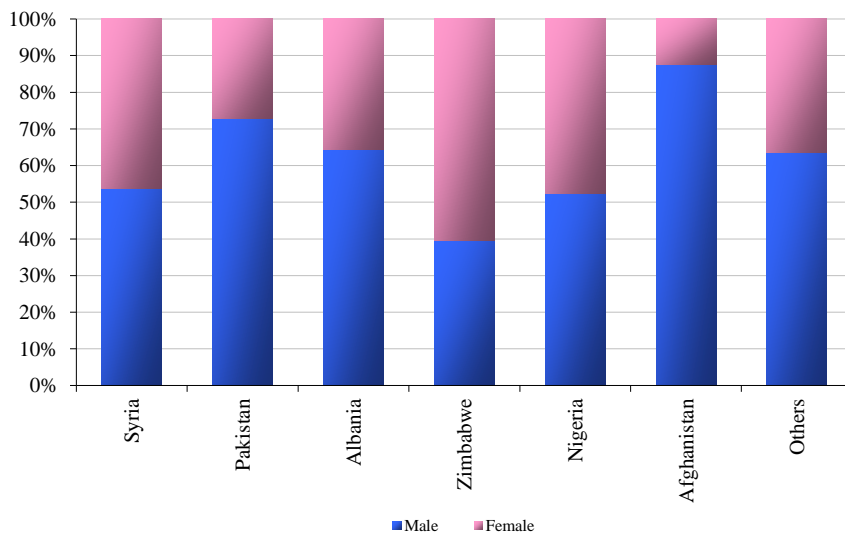


**Table 7. Top six stated countries of origin 2016 and comparison with 2015**



Nationality	2015		2016		Year on year change (%)
	Applications	%	Applications	%	
Syria	74	2.3%	244	10.9%	229.7
Pakistan	1,352	41.3%	233	10.4%	-82.8
Albania	214	6.5%	222	9.9%	3.7
Zimbabwe	93	2.8%	192	8.6%	106.5
Nigeria	186	5.7%	176	7.8%	-5.4
Afghanistan	124	3.8%	121	5.4%	-2.4
Others	1,233	37.6%	1,056	47.1%	-14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,276</b>		<b>2,244</b>		

**Table 8. Top six stated countries of origin 2016 by gender**



Nationality	Male	Female	Male to Female ratio
Syria	131	113	1.2
Pakistan	170	63	2.7
Albania	143	79	1.8
Zimbabwe	76	116	0.7
Nigeria	92	84	1.1
Afghanistan	106	15	7.1
Others	670	386	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>1.6</b>

Table 9. Applications from unaccompanied minors 2000 to 2016 by gender

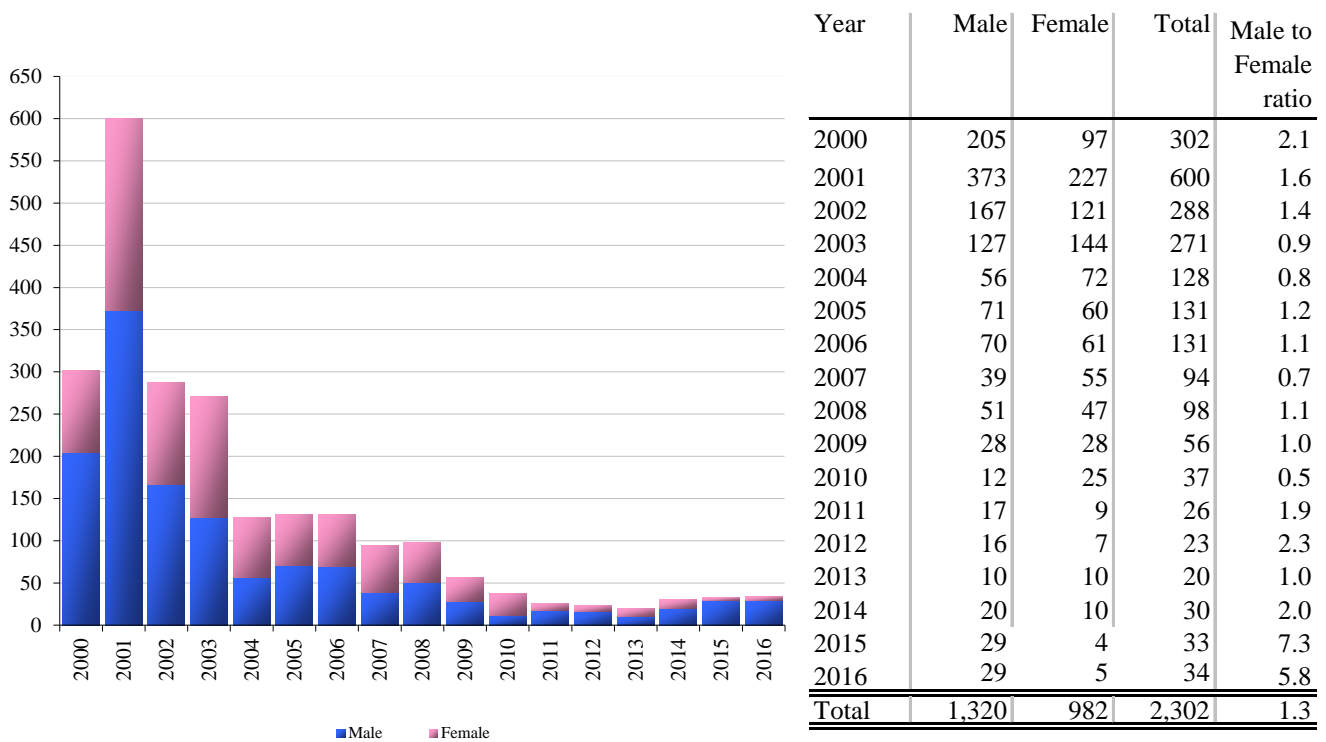
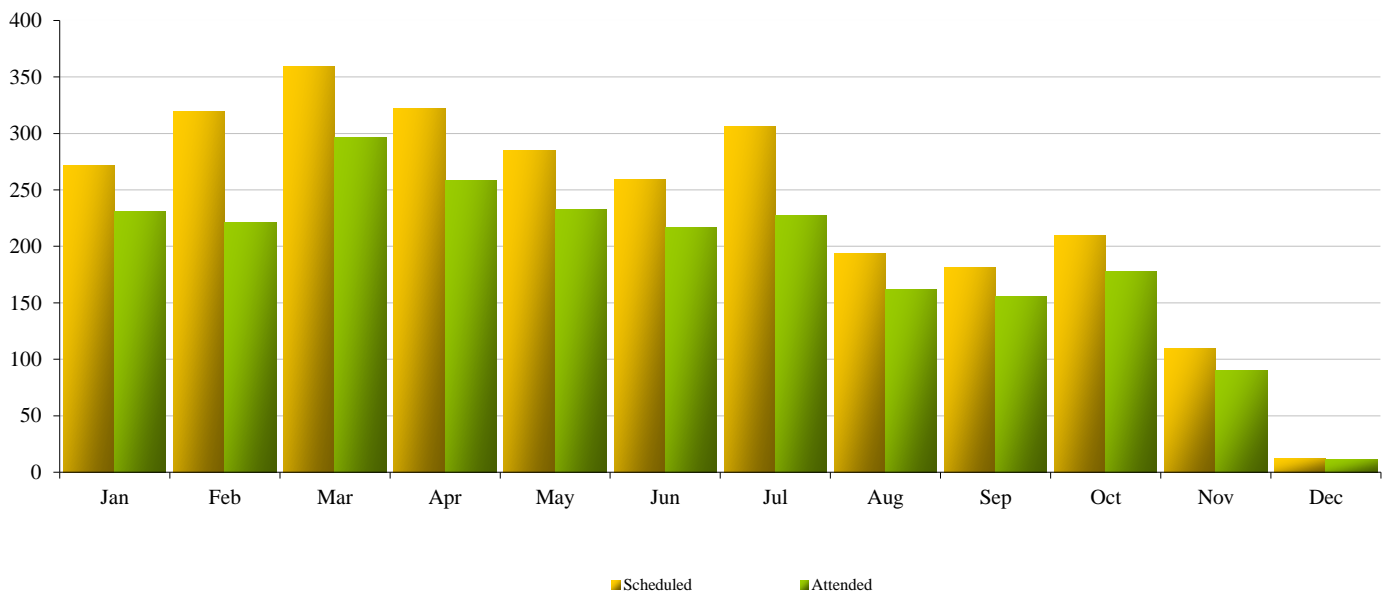


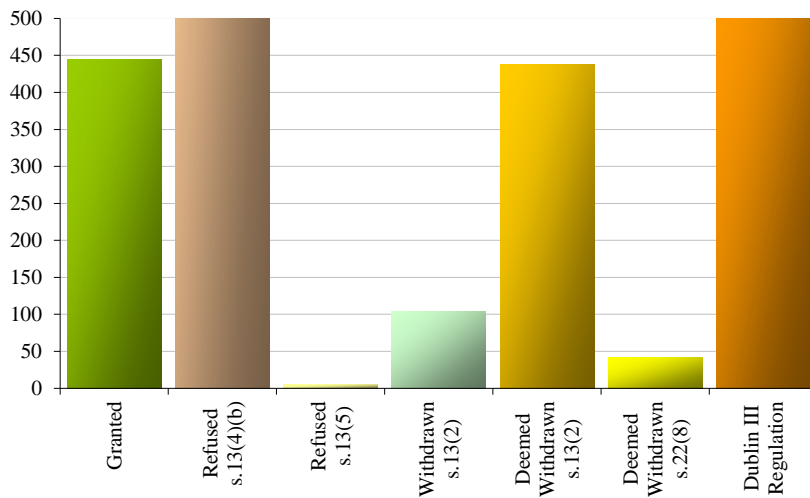
Table 10. Interviews scheduled and attended 2016



Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Scheduled	272	319	359	322	285	259	306	194	181	210	110	12	2,829
Attended	231	221	296	258	233	217	227	162	156	178	90	11	2,280
% Attended	84.9	69.3	82.5	80.1	81.8	83.8	74.2	83.5	86.2	84.8	81.8	91.7	80.6

\* Each month ORAC over-schedules allowing cancellations to be substituted with another active interview, thus preventing the loss of an interview slot. The above figures relate to the amount of interviews that ORAC had the capacity to service.

**Table 11. Cases finalised**



Category	Total (%)
Granted	13.5
Refused s.13(4)(b)	50.4
Refused s.13(5)	0.2
Withdrawn s.13(2)	3.2
Deemed Withdrawn s.13(2)	13.4
Deemed Withdrawn s.22(8)	1.3
Dublin Regulation	18.1
<b>Total cases finalised</b>	<b>3,280</b>

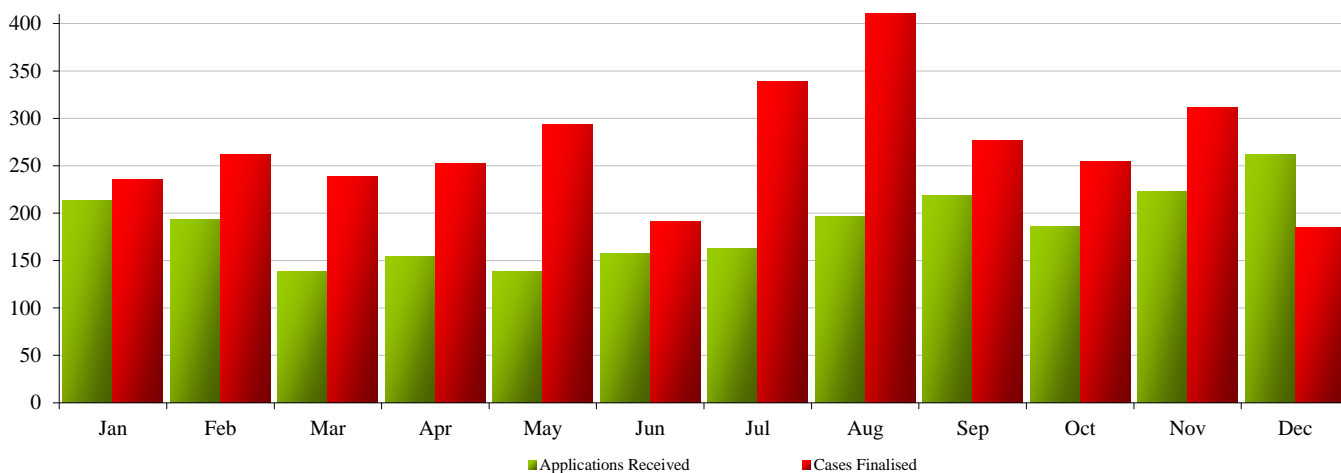
Sections refer to those of the Refugee Act, 1996.

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

See Table 13 for full grant rate in 2016

- Grant** *The Commissioner has made a recommendation that the applicant be granted refugee status.*
- Refused s.13(4)(b)** *The Commissioner has made a recommendation that the applicant should not be granted refugee status. An appeal to the Refugee Appeals Tribunal must be taken within 15 days.*
- Refused s.13(5)** *The Commissioner has made a recommendation that the applicant should not be granted refugee status and has included in his report a finding under section 13(6). An appeal to the Refugee Appeals Tribunal must be taken within 10 days.*
- Refused s.13(2)** *The Commissioner has made a recommendation that the applicant should not be granted refugee status where an application has been withdrawn or deemed to be withdrawn.*
- s. 22(8)** *Cases finalised under section 22(8) relate to applicants transferred under the Dublin III Regulation in respect of which determinations were made by ORAC.*
- Dublin III Regulation** *Where it is established that the applicant's claim for refugee status should be determined in another Contracting State under the Dublin III Regulation.*

**Table 12. Comparison of applications received and cases finalised 2016**



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Applications Received	213	193	138	154	139	157	163	197	219	186	223	262	2,244
Cases Finalised	236	262	239	252	294	191	339	439	277	255	311	185	3,280

**Table 13. Recommendations issued 2016**

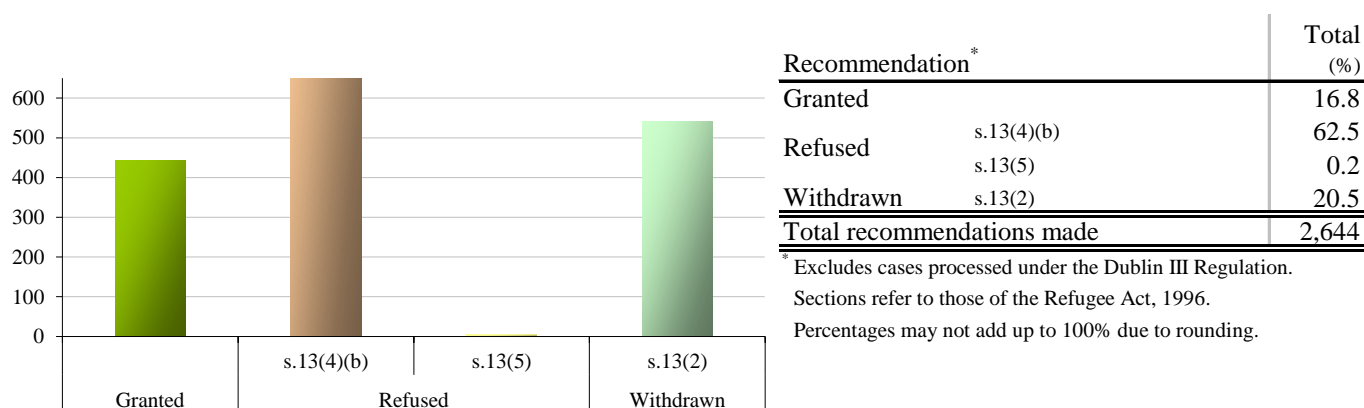


Table 14. Applications outstanding as at 31-Jan-2016 to 30-Dec-2016

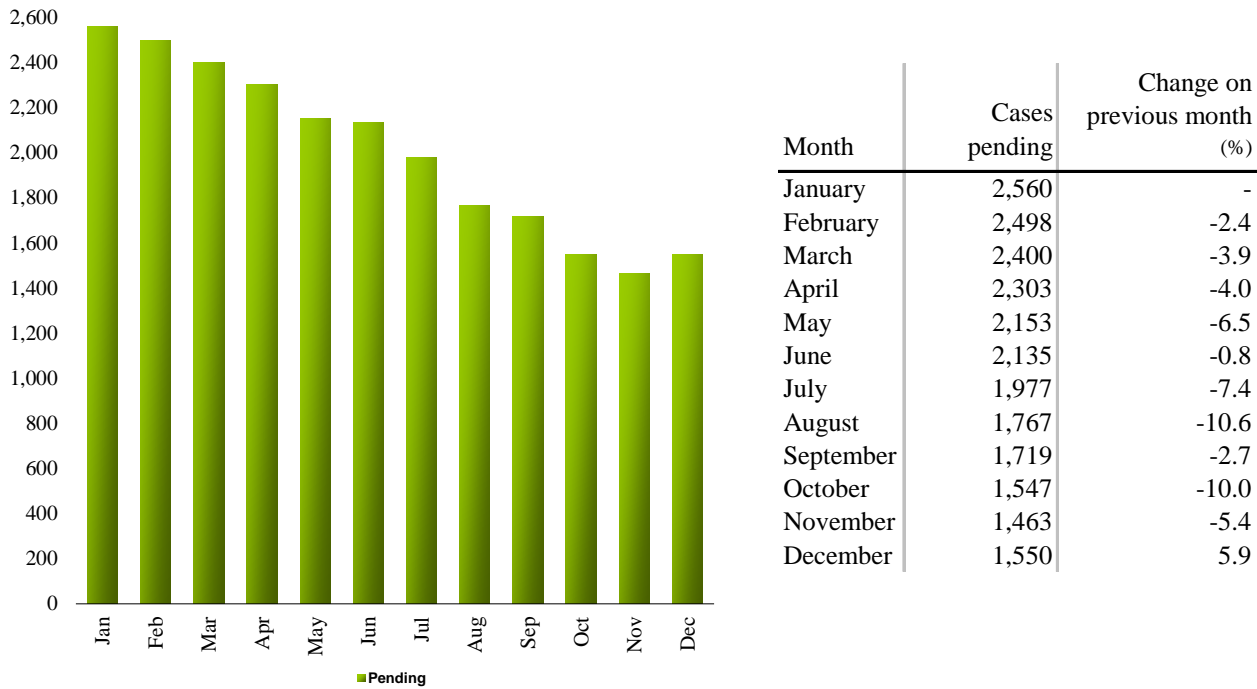
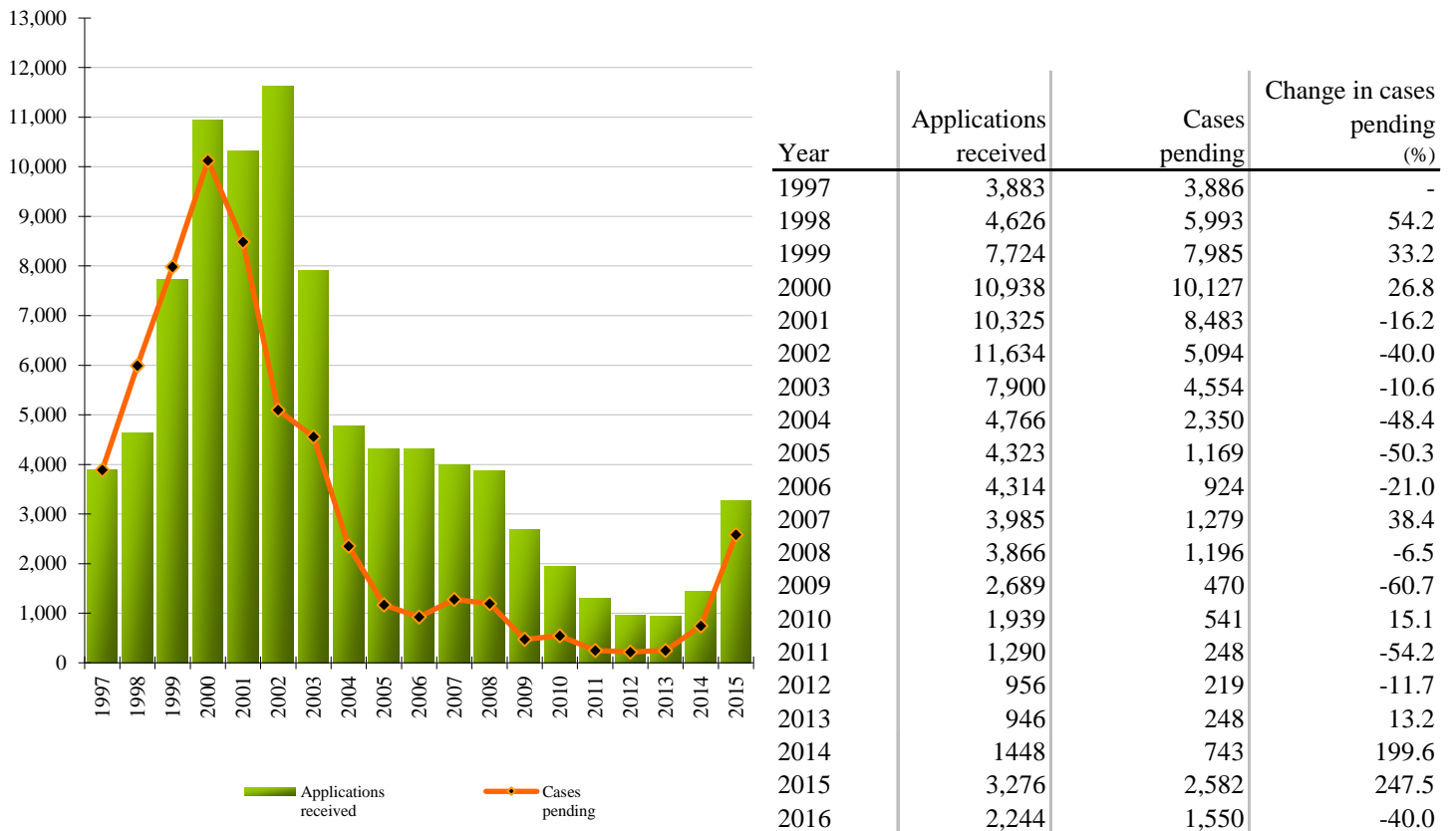


Table 15. Comparison of yearly applications received and those outstanding at year end

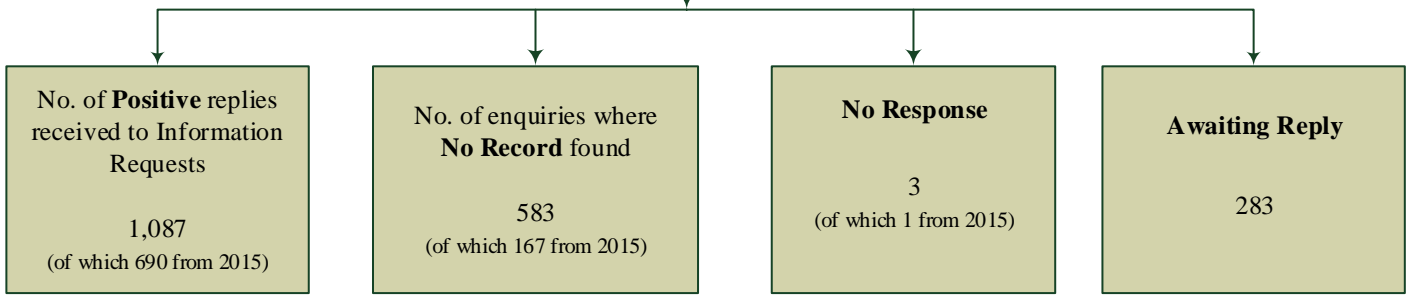




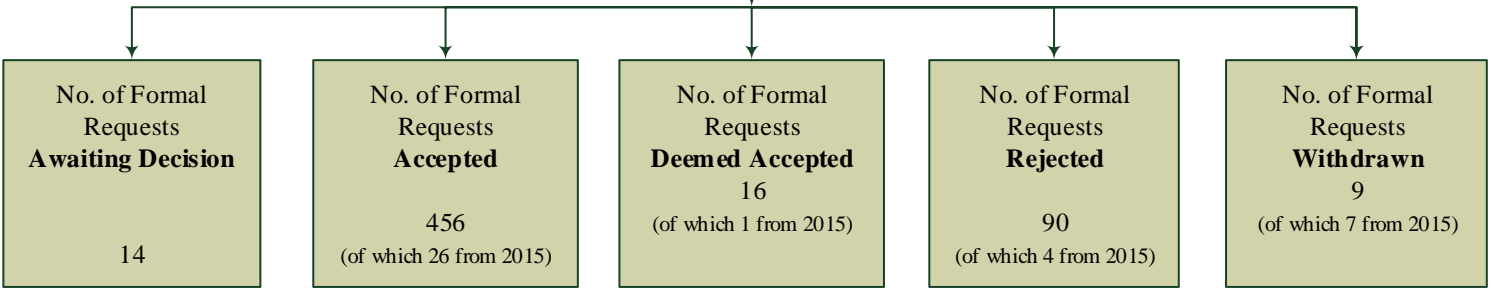
**Appendix 2**  
**Dublin Regulation Statistics**

Statistics for the Dublin III Regulation for the period 1 January 2016 to 30 December 2016

**No. of Information requests made to Dublin III Regulation Member States**  
**1,098**



**No. of Formal Requests made to Dublin III Regulation Member States**  
 212 (take back)  
 335 (take charge)  
**547**

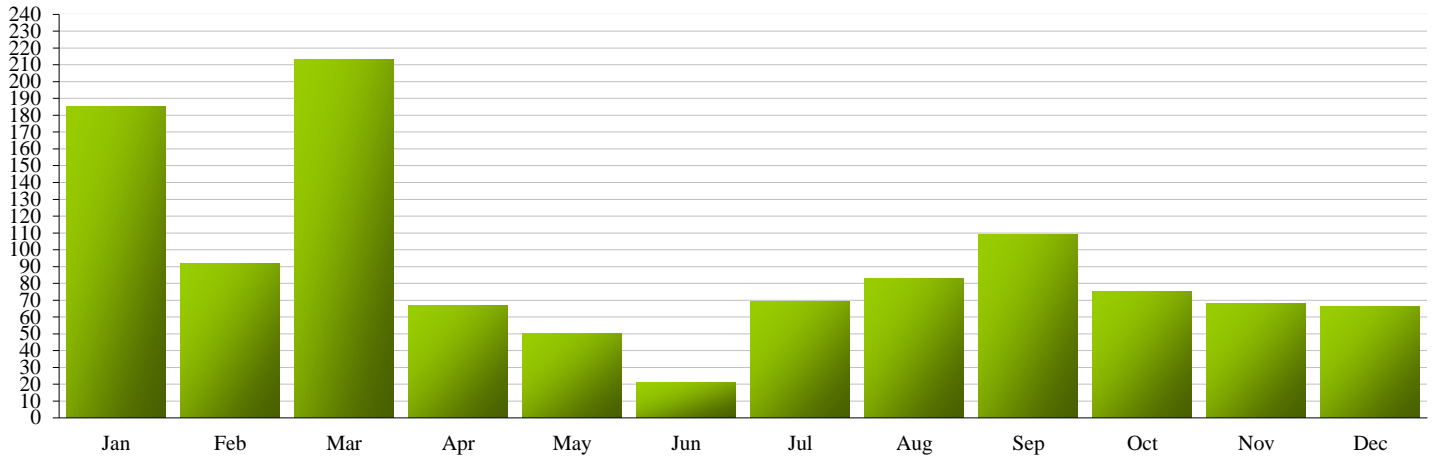


**No. of Decisions issued**  
 594  
 (of which 192 were from 2015 Requests)

**No. of files to DJE\* for removal from the State**  
 594  
 (of which 192 were from 2015 Requests)

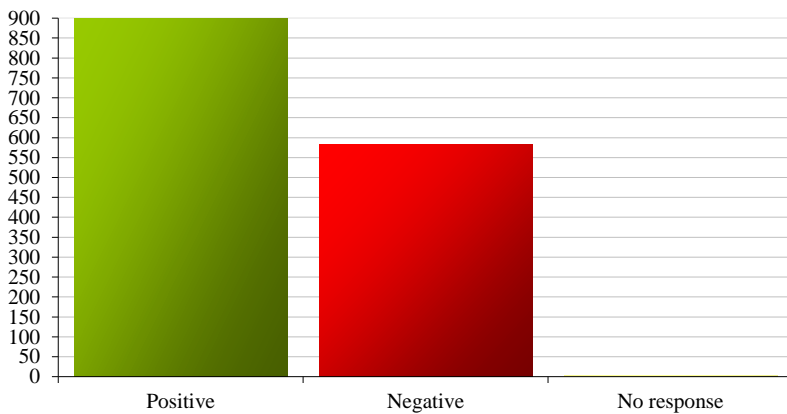
\* Department of Justice and Equality

**Table 1. Information Requests made to Dublin III Regulation Member States in 2016**



Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Requests	185	92	213	67	50	21	69	83	109	75	68	66	1098

**Table 2. Replies received in 2016 to Information Requests to other Dublin III Regulation States**

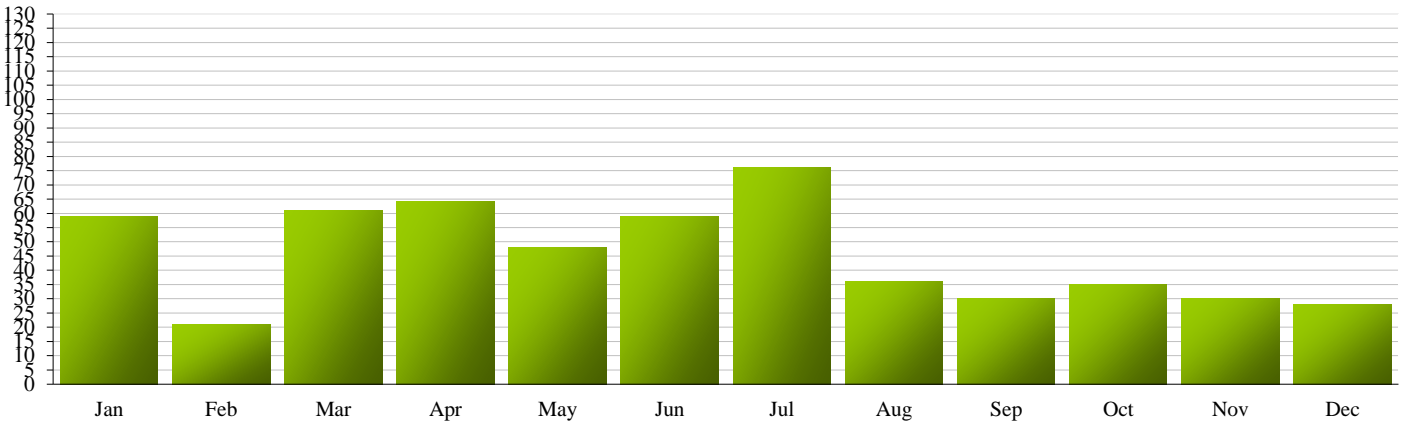


	Replies	Total (%)
Positive	1,087	65.0
Negative	583	34.8
No response	3	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,673</b>	

Note: Replies also include a number of Information Requests made in the previous year.

A total of 283 Information Requests were pending a reply at end of 2016.

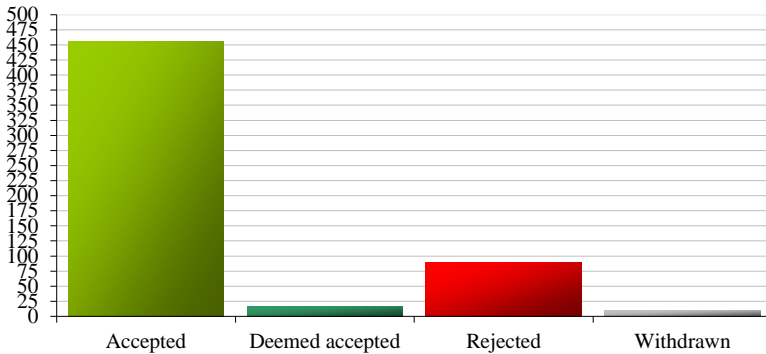
Table 3. Formal requests to Dublin III Regulation Member States in 2016\*



Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Requests	59	21	61	64	48	59	76	36	30	35	30	28	547

\*Note: Total of 547 requests includes 212 'take back' and 335 'take charge' requests.

Table 4. Replies received in 2016 to formal requests made to other Dublin III Member States

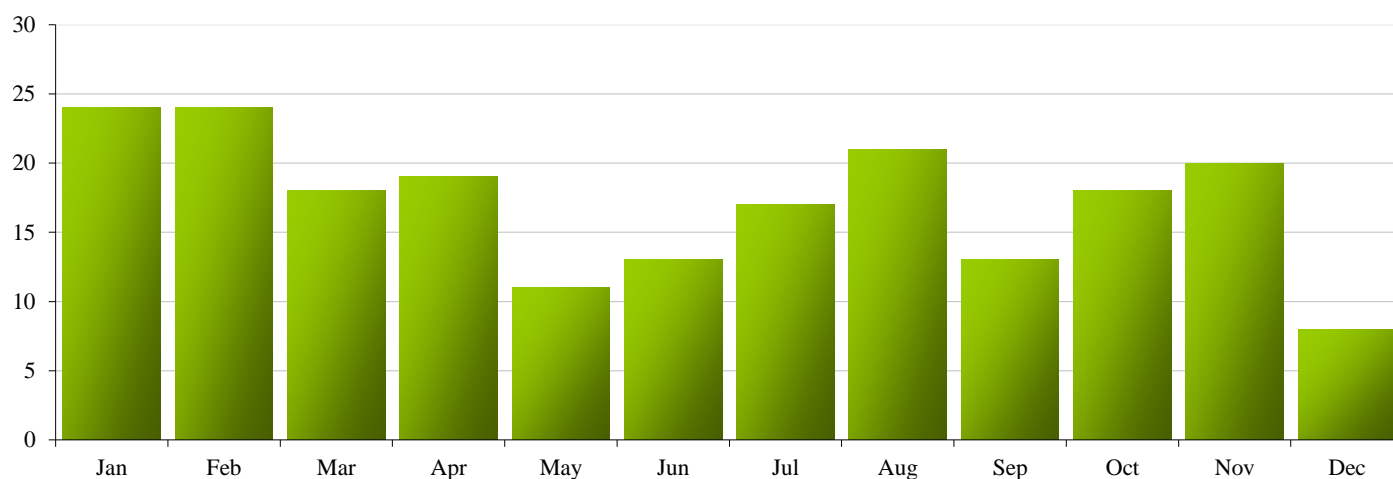


	Replies	Total (%)
Accepted	456	79.9
Deemed accepted	16	2.8
Rejected	90	15.8
Withdrawn	9	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>571</b>	

Note: Replies also include a number of requests received in the previous year.

A number of requests were pending a reply at the end of 2016.

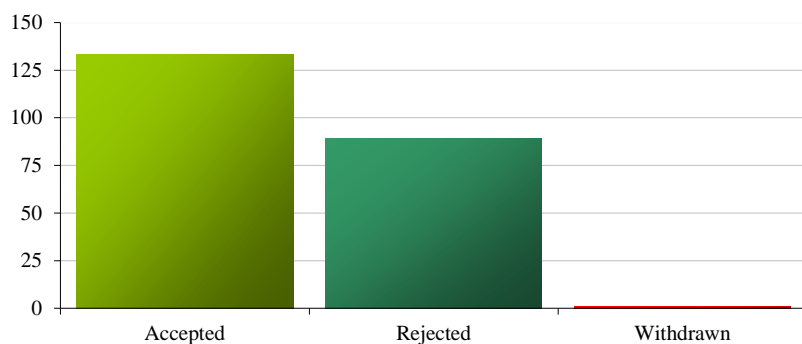
**Table 5. Formal requests from other Dublin III Regulation Member States to Ireland in 2016**



Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Requests	24	24	18	19	11	13	17	21	13	18	20	8	206

Note: Total of 206 includes 175 'take back' and 31 'take charge' requests.

**Table 6. Replies to formal requests from other Dublin III Regulation Member States in 2016**

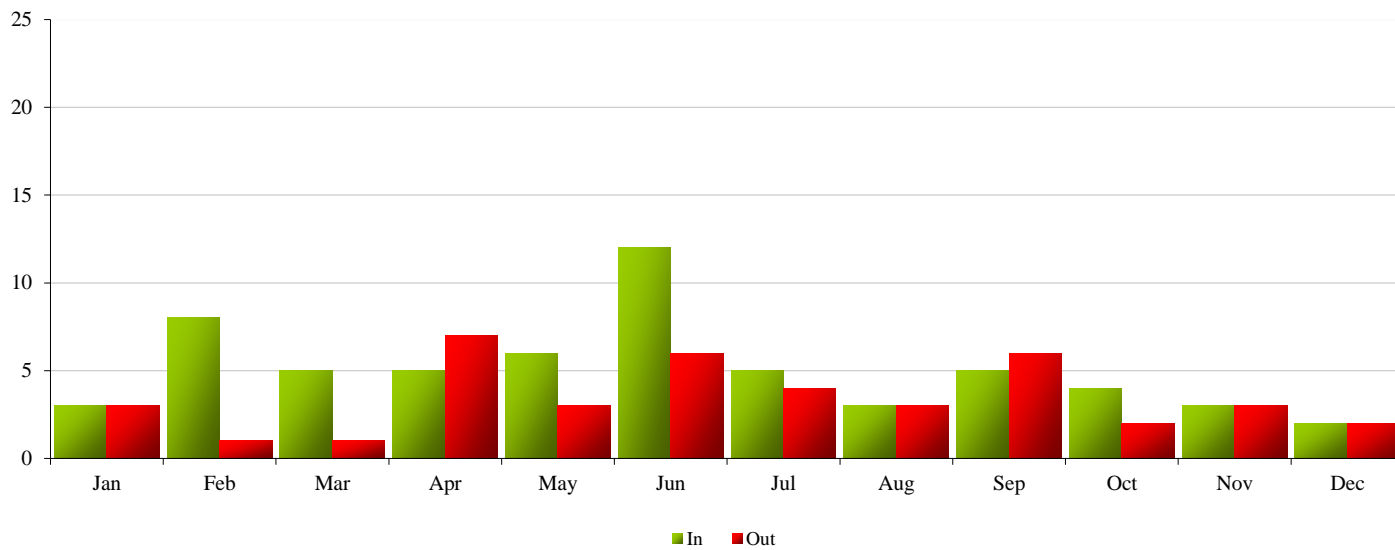


	Replies	Total (%)
Accepted	133	59.6
Rejected	89	39.9
Withdrawn	1	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>	

Note: Replies also include a number of requests received in the previous year.

A small number of requests were pending a reply at the end of 2016.

Table 7. Transfers under Dublin III Regulation in 2016



Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
In	3	8	5	5	6	12	5	3	5	4	3	2	61
Out	3	1	1	7	3	6	4	3	6	2	3	2	41

**Appendix 3**  
**Subsidiary Protection Statistics**

## Appendix 5

### Subsidiary Protection Statistics

#### Subsidiary Protection Statistics – 01 January 2016 to 30 December 2016

#### Cases transferred from INIS to ORAC on 14 November 2013

Responsibility for the processing of 3,840<sup>6</sup> existing subsidiary protection applications transferred from the INIS to ORAC on 14 November 2013.

By the end of 2016, only 30 of the original number remained to be processed. Of those cases remaining, there are only 18 live cases.

#### New applications received in 2016

431 applications for subsidiary protection were made to ORAC during 2016, 120 of which were processed to completion during the year.

**Table 1. Summary of Case Processing position at 30 December 2016**

<b>Subsidiary Protection Applications Received and Case Processing Statistics 1 January to 30 December 2016</b>						
<b>Total Cases Pending 1 Jan 2016</b>	<b>New Applications Received 1 Jan - 30 Dec 2016</b>	<b>Grants During 2016</b>	<b>Refusals During 2016</b>	<b>Otherwise Closed<sup>7</sup> During 2016</b>	<b>Total Cases Finalised During 2016</b>	<b>Total Cases Pending 30 Dec 2016<sup>8</sup></b>
<b>616</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>406</b>

<sup>6</sup> An additional 40 cases came to light and were transferred to ORAC as a result of data cleansing.

<sup>7</sup> The Otherwise Closed cases figure is comprised of 63 cases voluntarily withdrawn, 230 deemed withdrawn and 82 cases closed as a result of the applicants being granted a declaration of refugee status or Irish citizenship by the Minister for Justice and Equality.

<sup>8</sup> Of the 406 pending, 64 of these will be processed under the European Union (Subsidiary Protection) Regulations 2013 and 234 cases will fall to be processed under the International Protection Act 2015. The remaining 108 cases were applications for Subsidiary Protection which were never commenced as there were pending asylum applications for these applicants. Under the Single Procedure these applications will be considered as one and the separate Subsidiary protection application will cease to exist.



**Table 2. Subsidiary Protection Processing Details – 2016**

<b>Subsidiary Protection - Interview Statistics 1 January to 30 December 2016</b>			
<b>Interviews Scheduled During 2016<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>No of Applicants Scheduled for Interview During 2016</b>	<b>Interviews Completed During 2016</b>	<b>Interviews Scheduled but not Completed During 2016<sup>10</sup></b>
<b>325</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>98</b>

**Table 3. Top 5 Countries of Origin in 2016 and comparison with 2015**

	<b>2016 Number of new applications received</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2015 Number of new applications received</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Pakistan</b>	69	16.0	51	17.1
<b>Nigeria</b>	45	10.4	50	16.8
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	38	8.8	24	8.0
<b>Algeria</b>	36	8.4	14	4.7
<b>Albania</b>	35	8.1	11	3.6
<b>Other Countries of Origin</b>	208	48.3	147	49.8
<b>Total Applications</b>	<b>431</b>		<b>297</b>	

<sup>9</sup> The 325 interviews scheduled during 2016 includes instances where applicants were required to be assigned more than one interview date as a result of cancellations, adjournments and call back interviews.

<sup>10</sup> These interviews were not completed because of cancellations, adjournments and non-attendance at interviews by the applicants.

## **Appendix 4**

### **Information on Requests Handled by the Corporate and Customer Service Centre and Copying/Registry Unit in 2016**

## Information on Requests Handled by the Corporate and Customer Service Centre and Copying/Registry Unit in 2016

### Table A - Customer Service Centre

<b>Category</b>	<b>No. Processed</b>
Letters and Faxes	10,843
Telephone Enquiries	3,414
E-mail Enquiries	6,301
Corporate Enquiries	351
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,909</b>

### Table B - Copying/Registry

<b>Category</b>	<b>No. Processed</b>
Enquiries	1,949
Files copied	2,554
File movement transactions	11,521
Other transactions	7,463
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,487</b>

*Note: The total number in relation to files copied refers to the number of actual files photocopied, but does not reflect the fact that in the majority of cases multiple copies of each file are produced.*