

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group: 2006 Statistics

GDWG assisted 619 people in Tinsley House during 2006.

Detainee profile

- **Asylum status:** 78% of the detainees in contact with GDWG were asylum seekers.
- **Gender:** 76% were male and 24% female.
- **Age distribution:** Most detainees that we assisted were aged between 22 and 55. We were in touch with 15 children who were being detained as adults because their age was disputed by immigration, and 40 children who were being detained with their families.
- **Nationality:** The detainees we encountered came from 76 different countries:

Afghanistan (67), Algeria (15), Albania (5), Angola (5), Australia (1), Azerbaijan (2), Bangladesh (2), Bolivia (6), Bosnia (1), Brazil (5), Bulgaria (2), Cameroon (6), Canada (1), Chad (1), Chechnya (2), China (10), Colombia (8), Congo Brazzaville (3), Cuba (5), Democratic Republic of Congo (21), Egypt (1), Ecuador (6), Eritrea (51), Ethiopia (13), France (1), Gambia (4), Georgia (6), Ghana (15), Grenada (3), Ivory Coast (6), Guinea (2), India (15), Iran (32), Iraq (10), Israel (3), Jamaica (11), Kyrgyzstan (1), Kenya (9), Kosovo (11), Lebanon (1), Liberia (1), Macedonia (1), Mali (1), Malta (3), Mauritius (1), Mongolia (3), Morocco (1), Namibia (1), Nepal (6), Nigeria (60), North Korea (1), Pakistan (21), Palestine (1), Peru (1), Philippines (1), Romania (1), Rwanda (1), Senegal (3), Sierra Leone (10), Somalia (8), Somaliland (1), South Africa (5), Sri Lanka (15), St Lucia (1), Sudan (Darfur) (16), Togo (3), Tanzania (1), Trinidad (2), Tunisia (2), Turkey (20), Uganda (36), Ukraine (6), Uzbekistan (1), Vietnam (7), Zimbabwe (7), Zanzibar (1), not known (1)

During 2006 we were in contact with more than twice as many detainees from Afghanistan and nearly three times as many detainees from Eritrea than in 2005. For most of the year, there were fortnightly charter flights to Afghanistan from Gatwick.

About a quarter of the detainees we were in contact with had spent time in other removal centres or in prisons before arriving at Tinsley House. Recent changes in the law have criminalized illegal entry into the UK and this has led to many asylum seekers being imprisoned on arrival. There has also been a drive to remove former offenders who are foreign nationals, although Tinsley House has seen less of these detainees than other removal centres.

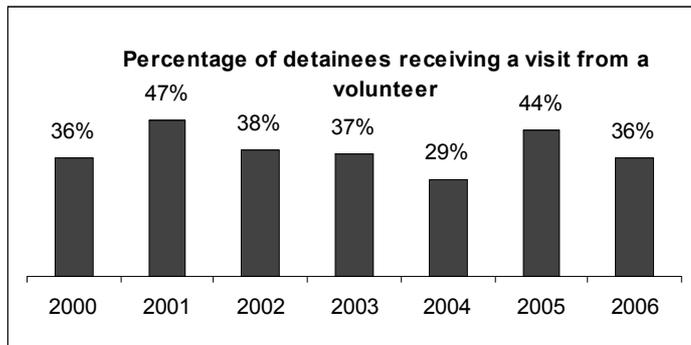
Forms of assistance

Eighty per cent of the detainees who contacted the group requested a visitor. The GDWG office also provided other forms of assistance listed in the table below:

<i>Type of assistance</i>	Detainees assisted in 2003	Detainees assisted in 2004	Detainees assisted in 2005	Detainees assisted in 2006
Telephone card	94	198	339	466
New solicitor	148	74	16	20
Legal liaison / signposting of legal advice	257	380	276	223
Clothing	309	231	179	252
Toiletries	333	292	204	198
Liaison with friends or family	41	61	33	34
Referral / liaison with other agencies	173	121	122	140
Removal money for destitute detainees	48 (£1,022)	38 (£925)	39 (£1120.00)	50 (£1560.00)
Assistance after leaving	101	98	53	54

Visiting Statistics

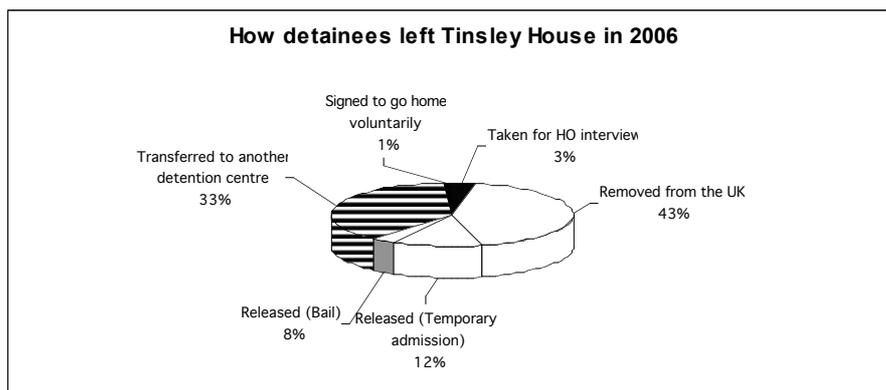
Thirty-six per cent of the detainees who contacted us in 2006 received a one-to-one visit from a volunteer (as opposed to being helped solely by office staff). This was less than in 2005, but more than in 2004, and is probably explained by the rapid movement of people through Tinsley House. Thirty-one per cent of those who contacted us remained at the centre for less than a week.



Outcomes of detention at Tinsley House

Nearly half of those who contacted us in 2006 (48%) had first been detained after being picked up by immigration at their place of work or in their home; 23% had been detained on arrival in the UK; 13% came from prison or police custody and 16% were detained upon routine reporting. It is difficult to know the exact number of detainees who were brought to Tinsley House from prison as it is an issue detainees don't feel comfortable discussing.

During 2006, 75% of our contacts were detained at the centre for less than one month, and nearly half of these for less than a week. Fifteen per cent were held for between one and two months and 8% for over two months. A Ukrainian family was held in the centre for about eight months. One detainee had spent nine months in Tinsley House when he was removed in 2006, after a total of nearly two years in detention.



Volunteer Statistics

In 2006 we have 60 volunteers who speak between them 24 languages; 11% of them come from ethnic minorities. During the course of 2006, 7 new volunteer visitors.

were trained and inducted.