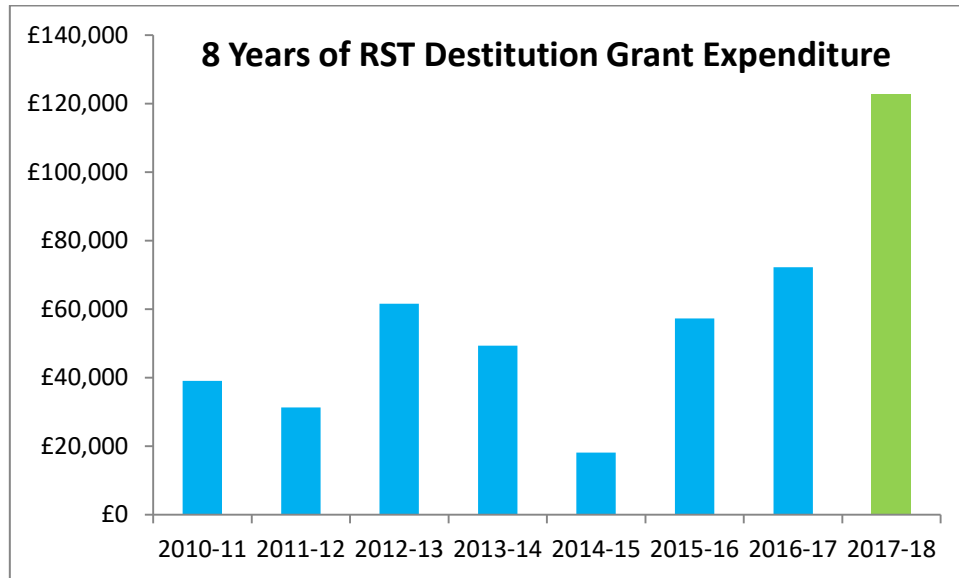


# RST Destitution Grants 2017-18

## Overview

2017-18 saw the Refugee Survival Trust distribute a record-breaking number of destitution grants – **more than 1400 grants, to a total of more than £120,000**. This is the first ever financial year in which we have given out in excess of £100,000.

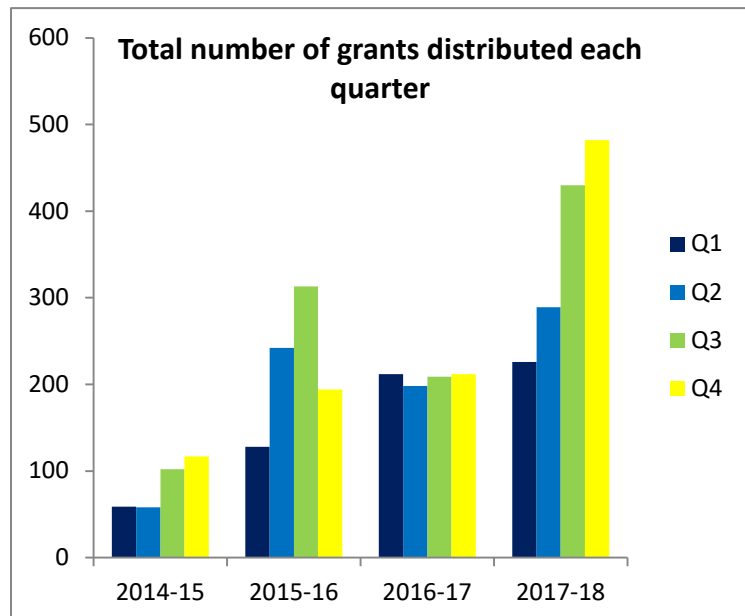


These figures far exceed any other year in the history of RST and represent a 70% increase on grant distribution in 2016-17.

In Q4 we distributed another 482 grants to a total value of more than £40,000, representing the most grants we have ever distributed in one quarter.

### Total number of grants distributed

	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18
Q1	59	128	212	226
Q2	58	242	198	289
Q3	102	313	209	430
Q4	117	194	212	482
	<b>336</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>1427</b>



The increasing demand that we have seen throughout this financial year means that for the first year ever we distributed more than £100,000 (£122,834) and more than 1000 grants (1427).

Given that until now we have seen no sign of this demand slowing, we are now significantly concerned about how a small organisation like RST, which has a staff of 3.7 FTE, and is reliant on small grants and individual donations, will be able to continue to meet demand for these grants.

## Countries of origin

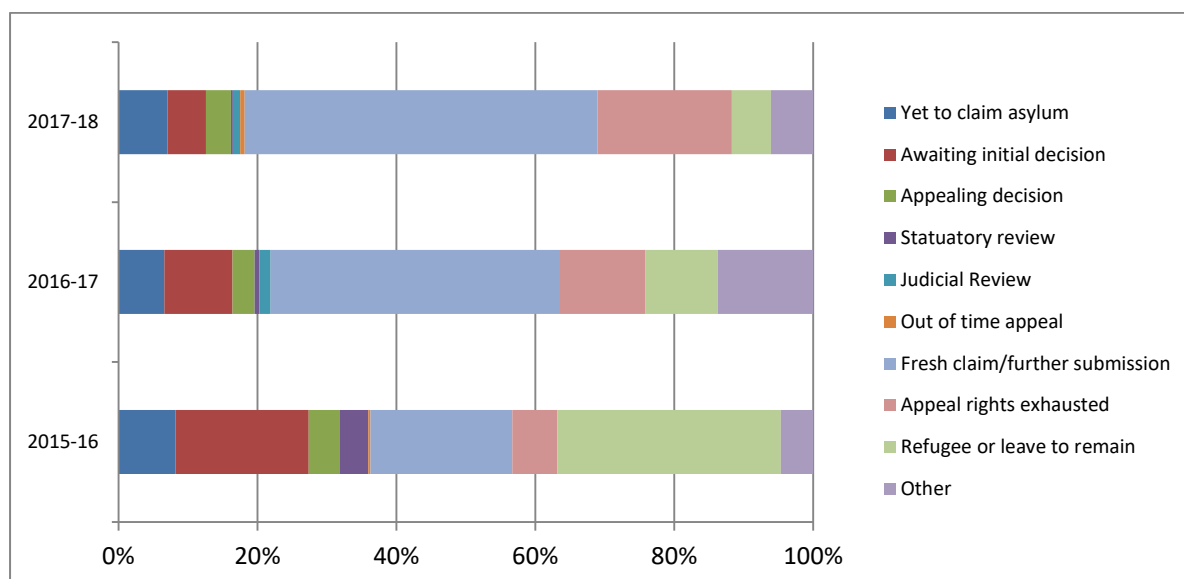
The number of applications from Iran continued to be high in Q4. This year one in five of all applications came from Iranian individuals and families. A further quarter of the applications were from 3 countries: Iraq, Eritrea, Sudan and Pakistan.

In addition to a significant increase in the number of Iranian applicants, there has also been a steady increase over the past 3 years in numbers of people applying from Pakistan, Nigeria, and Libya.

### Top ten countries of origin:

2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
1 Eritrea	141	1 Eritrea	128	1 Iran	294
2 Sudan	131	2 Iran	99	2 Iraq	185
3 Iran	101	3 Syria	89	3 Eritrea	103
4 Syria	69	4 Sudan	77	4 Sudan	90
5 Iraq	59	5 Iraq	62	5 Pakistan	72
6 Nigeria	33	6 Nigeria	54	6 Nigeria	71
7 Pakistan	27	7 Pakistan	32	7 Syria	54
8 Ethiopia	23	8 Libya	29	8 Libya	46
9 Kuwait	22	9 Ethiopia	19	9 Zimbabwe	43
10 Zimbabwe	21	10 Zimbabwe	17	10 Morocco	38

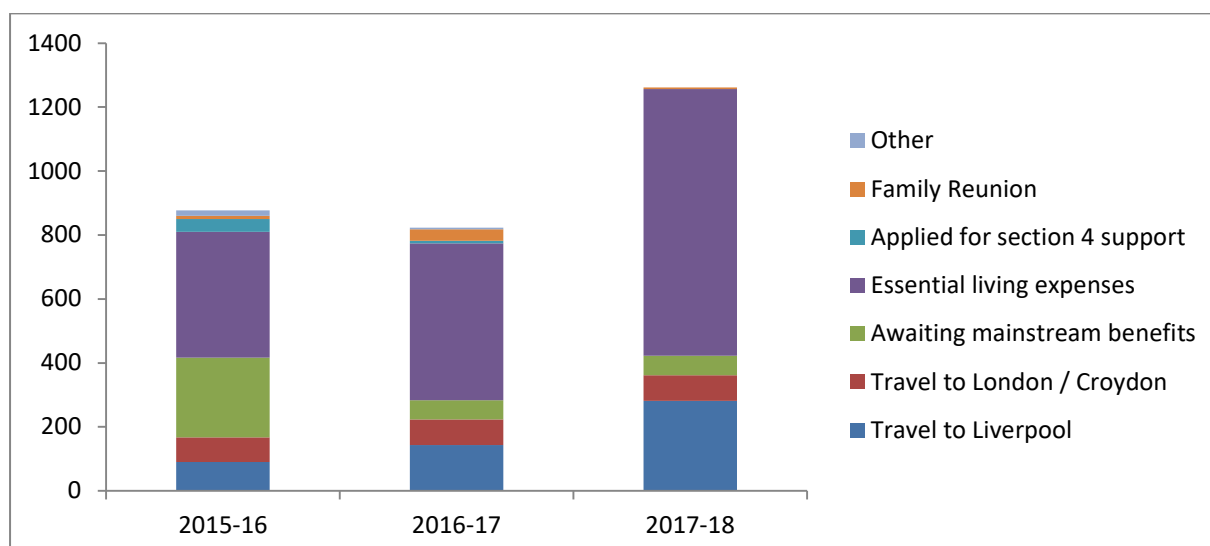
## Asylum status



Half of all grant applicants this year were at the stage of submitting fresh claims or further submissions. This highlights the fact that this is a particularly vulnerable period for asylum seekers. Firstly, this is a time when most applicants have support cut off and they have to rely on RST for essential living expenses. Secondly, since January 2015 any asylum seeker wishing to submit a fresh claim has to travel to Liverpool to submit paperwork and many will need financial support to cover the cost of travel.

An additional 1 in 5 applications came from asylum seekers who were Appeal Rights Exhausted. This increase in support may be due to stronger linkages with our Destitute Asylum Seeker Service, which specifically looks to support people who are in this situation and have no recourse to public funds.

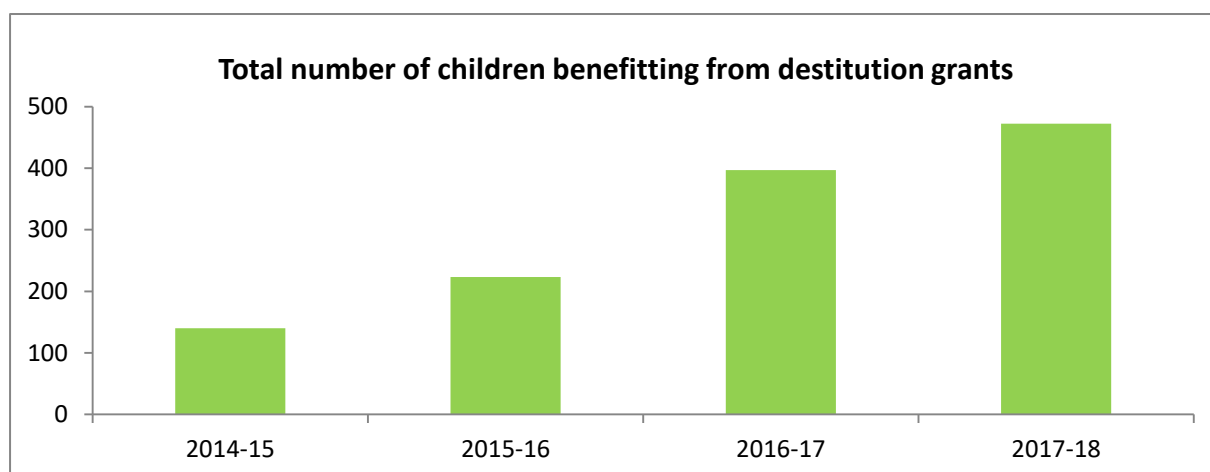
## Reason for claim



Two thirds of applications were for essential living expenses, and around a quarter were for travel to London or Liverpool. The number of people applying for travel grants to Liverpool has seen a steady increase -this is unsurprising given the increase in the proportion of grant applicants who are at the stage of submitting fresh claims or further submissions, as this process has to be done in person in Liverpool. Asylum seekers living in Scotland usually undertake this arduous journey in one day, travelling down on the overnight bus, waiting for an early morning connection, and returning late at night. At the stage of making a fresh claim, because most applicants would have had other support removed they would not have the means to pay for their travel without the support of RST.

The proportion of applications from those awaiting mainstream benefits has decreased, which may indicate that there are now fewer delays in mainstream benefits being processed, or that there is other support available. This is a positive outcome.

## Destitution and children



Of the total 2070 people who benefitted from destitution grants in 2017-18, 472 (or 22.8%) were children. As a proportion this is lower than in 2016-17, but the total number of child beneficiaries has increased. These statistics clearly show that there is a long way to go before Scotland meets its national approach of 'Getting it Right for Every Child' (GIRFEC). There are still hundreds of children in Scotland who are finding themselves in a situation where they and their parents do not have a room over their head or know where their next meal is coming from.