

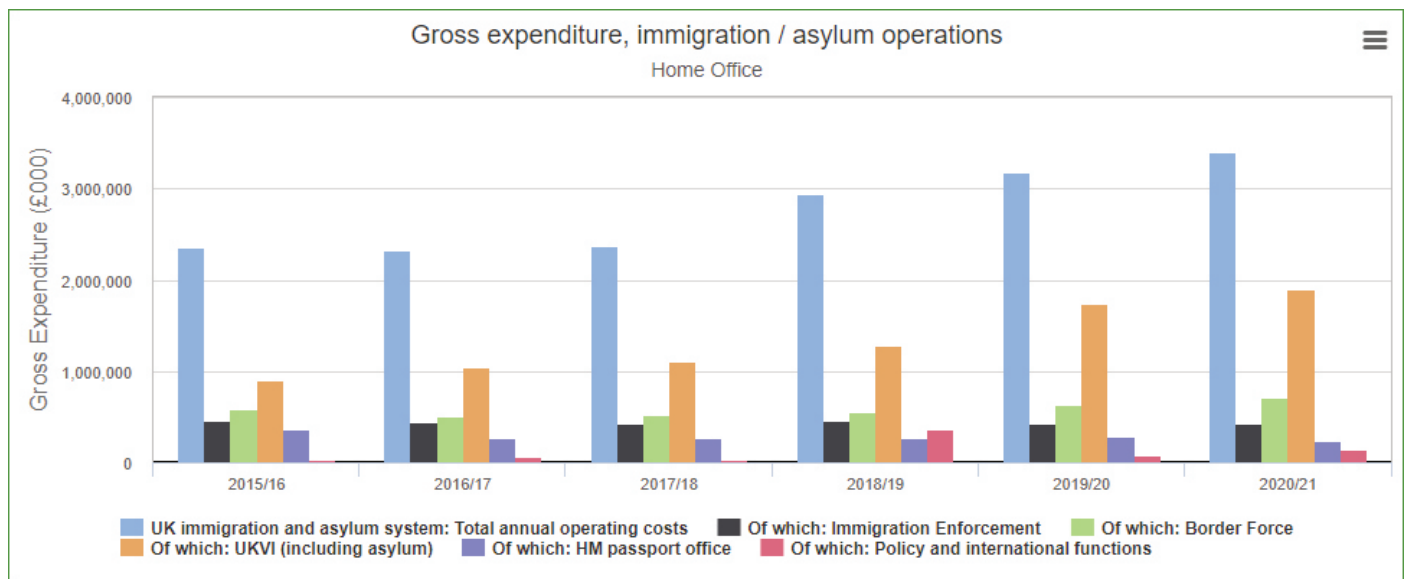


Spending and staffing: UK immigration and asylum system

History & Miscellaneous : MW 497

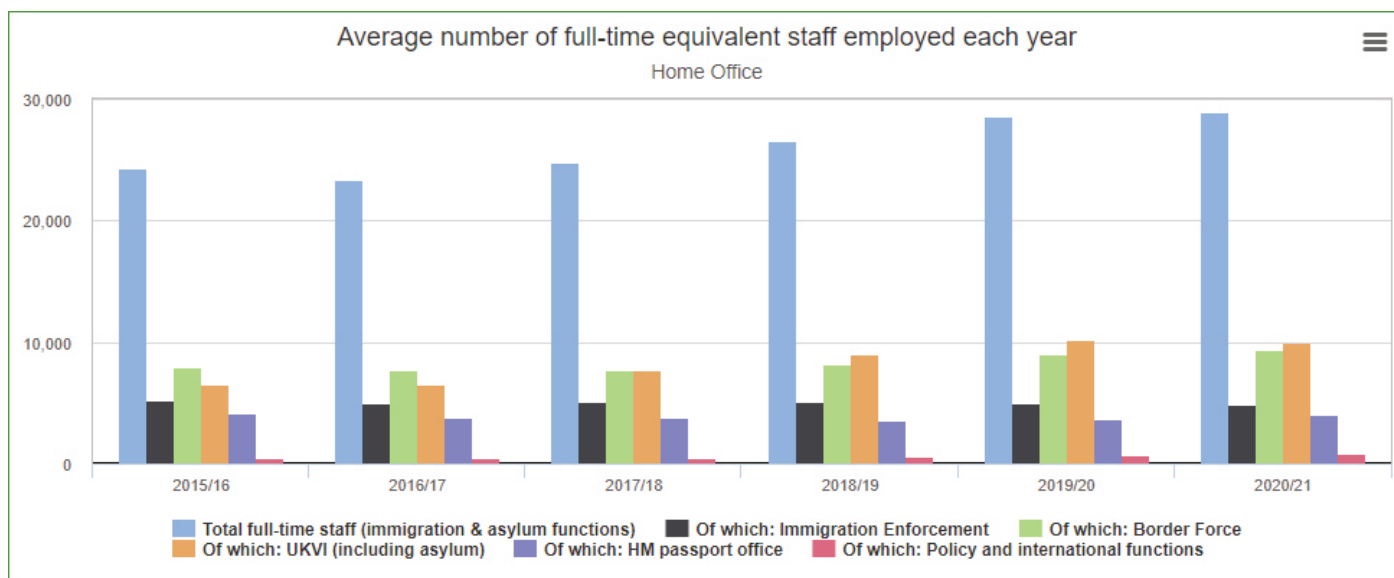
1. Gross expenditure on the UK's immigration and asylum system is now costing around £1 billion more than in 2015/16. Total spending on operations for the five departments carrying out these Home Office functions was **£3.4 billion** in 2020/21 (£1 billion more than just under £2.4 billion gross expenditure in 2015/16). While spending on the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) department (which includes asylum) more than doubled (from £900 million to £1.9 billion), and spending on Border Force (BF) increased by £115 million, **spending on immigration enforcement fell by £43 million**. There was a drop of £42 million from 2018/19 even as illegal entries (for example by small boat) increased substantially.

Figure 1: Gross expenditure, immigration / asylum operations (Home Office)¹.



2. Even as the total number of staff employed in these functions rose by **4,600** (with a 3,400 increase at UKVI and 1,400 more for BF), there was a fall of 316 in enforcement staff over the period (and a drop of 216 since 2018/19). **Spending primarily on temporary agency staff for UKVI, Enforcement and the Passport Office rose by £10 million since 2016/17.**

Figure 2: Average number of full-time equivalent staff employed each year (Home Office)².



29 September 2021

Notes

1. See Home Office annual reports for 2015/16 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539638/HO_AR_16_gov.pdf; 2016/17 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627853/ho_annual_report_and_accounts_2016_2017.pdf; 2017/18 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727179/6_4360_HO_Annual_report_WEB.PDF; 2018/19 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807126/6.5571_HO_Annual_Report_201920_WEB.PDF; 2019/20 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/902593/HO_Annual_Report_and_Accounts_2019-20_FINAL.pdf; 2020/21 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1000127/HO_Annual_Report_and_Accounts_2020-21_FINAL_AS_CERTIFIED_accessible_.pdf
2. Ibid.