

## Appendix A - The Borough We Know Today

The exact number of refugees, migrants and residents seeking asylum in the borough is difficult to estimate and there is no central point where this would be recorded. In recent years central government have launched various refugee resettlement routes and set up asylum contingency hotels in the borough and below we have outlined some of the data the Council does hold:

- Around 248,000 people are living in Islington.
- 40% of Islington residents in 2021 were born outside of the UK.
- Among residents born outside of the UK, over half (53%) have been resident in the UK for more than 10 years.
- The most common country of birth among Islington residents, after the UK, is Italy (over 5,000 residents), followed by France, Turkey, United States, and Ireland (all over 4,000 residents).
- 81% of Islington residents aged three and above speak English as their main language. Spanish was the next most spoken language in Islington in 2021, followed by French, Italian, Turkish, and Somali.
- [Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme](#): Between 2015 and 2019, 18 Syrian households were resettled, consisting of 33 adults and 31 children (including 6 babies born in the UK). Most of the residents have now become British citizens and are likely to stay in Islington longer term.
- [Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy](#) and [Afghan Citizens Resettlement schemes](#): Since October 2021, the Council has resettled 50 households (over 250 people) from Afghanistan and is committed to resettling more. Residents have been granted indefinite leave to remain and are likely to stay in Islington for many years.
- Homes for Ukraine scheme: Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in March 2022, over 500 Ukrainian refugees have arrived in the borough. Residents have been granted limited leave to remain and many stay for only a shorter period of time, whilst others have stayed in Islington for 2+ years.
- Residents seeking asylum: Upwards of 900 asylum seekers are placed in 2 Islington hostels by the Home Office. This accommodation is intended to be for 3-4 weeks whilst applications for asylum support are processed, but residents are staying for upwards of 19 months. Over 60 nationalities live in the hotels and more than 25 different languages are spoken.
- Residents with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF): It is extremely difficult to estimate the number of residents subject to NRPF in the borough, but the Council financially supports approximately 40-50 households per year including destitute families, vulnerable adults and people at risk of rough sleeping.

Please also refer to the [History of Sanctuary webpages](#) on the Islington Website for further information about how Islington has been shaped by migration.