

Immigration and
asylum

Hundreds of Calais child refugees have UK asylum claims rejected

Home Office criticised over failure to give written reasons for decision as children are advised to lodge applications in France

Toufique Hossain, the director of public law at the UK-based [Duncan Lewis solicitors](#), who is representing a large number of asylum seeker children dispersed across France, said he and his team had received reports on Friday from more than 12 children they are representing, all of whom are at different centres.

“From the reports we have received it seems as if this is an organised operation between the Home Office and the French authorities. The children have been told verbally that their asylum claims have not succeeded, but they have not been given any reasons why in writing. This is absolutely shocking.”

Hossain added: “The children are very upset but we are telling them not to run away.”

Although the Home Office recently issued guidance saying it would prioritise under-15s from Sudan and Syria, he said he assumed that officials would then consider the cases of the other children dispersed around France.

“These children are very vulnerable. They have just been told verbally that they can’t come to England without an appropriate adult present to help them deal with this news. We are now looking to see what we can do legally to challenge the fact that the Home Office have failed to provide us with written reasons why they have rejected the children’s asylum claims.”