

05 December 2002

Coverage: Great Britain
Theme: Social and Welfare

QUARTERLY APPEAL TRIBUNAL STATISTICS- JUNE 2002

The Quarterly Appeal Tribunal Statistics relating to the second quarter of 2002 are available from today, providing analyses of appeals handled by the Appeals Service (see Notes to Editors for definition), including numbers of new cases, numbers of cases cleared at tribunal and breakdowns of tribunal outcomes.

Following the change of methodology as outlined in the March publication, revised figures are included in this bulletin.

Main findings

- The number of new lodgements of appeals with first tier agencies in the second quarter of 2002 was 56,910. This compares with 61,755 in the same quarter in 2001. The most recent figures are expected to rise due to a number of lodgements yet to be recorded.
- The number of appeals received by the Appeals Service (AS) in the second quarter of 2002 was 54,710. This compares with 54,655 in the same quarter in 2001 and is an increase of 0.1%. These figures are based on the date that the submission was received by AS.

Figure 1: Lodgements and appeals received, quarters ending December 2000 to June 2002.



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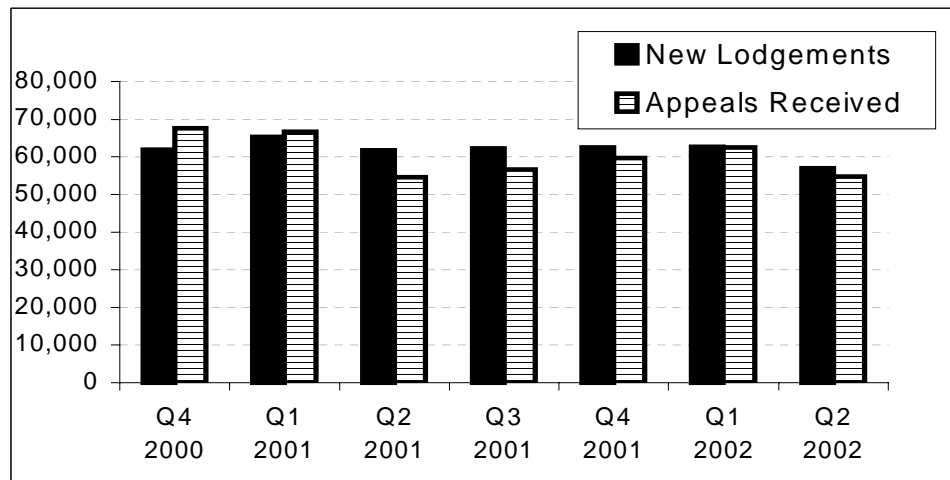
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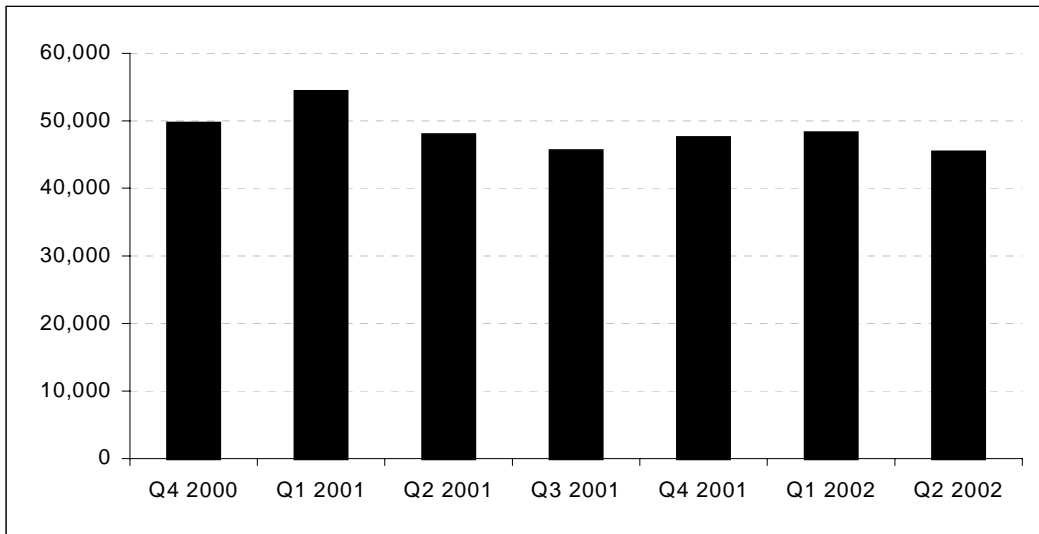
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- The number of appeals cleared at hearing in the second quarter of 2002 was 45,310. This compares with 47,935 in the same quarter in 2001.

Figure 2: Appeals cleared at hearings, quarters ending December 2000 to June 2002.



- Of the 45,310 appeals cleared at hearing in the second quarter of 2002, 75.1% (34,035) were held at oral hearings, 24.5% (11,115) were paper hearings, and the remaining 0.4% (160) were domiciliary hearings. The overall percentage of appeals found in favour of the appellant was 45.1%. The proportion of decisions in favour of the appellant was higher at oral hearings (52.1%) than at paper hearings (23.5%).
- The 52.1% of appeals found in the appellant's favour at oral hearings can be further broken down by whether or not the tribunal was attended by the appellant or their representative:

<u>Oral hearing attended by:</u>	<u>% found in appellant's favour</u>
Appellant only	50.90%
Representative only	59.80%
Both appellant and representative	67.40%
Neither	18.70%

Factors affecting comparisons with historical data.

The Social Security Act 1998 affected the appeals process. Prior to April 1999, AS were notified that an appeal had been received by a first tier agency and the date the appellant lodged the appeal was recorded. Since April 1999, AS are not notified of new appeals until they receive the submission from the first tier agencies. Also since this time, the first tier agency can review its decision before passing the appeal to AS. If they accept the grounds for appeal, the original decision can be amended and the appeal may never reach AS. This has resulted in a marked reduction in appeals lodged with AS since April 1999.

Further details of this can be found in the publication main findings or from the contact point below.

Notes to Editors

The Appeals Service tribunals hear appeals against decisions on Social Security, Child Support, Vaccine Damage, Tax Credit and Compensation Recovery questions throughout Great Britain, and on decisions under the Road Traffic Act in England and Wales. From 2 July 2001, AS took on responsibility for hearing appeals on Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit.

The results contained in this publication are derived from a 100% download of cases contained on the Generic Appeals Processing System (GAPS) on the last working day of the month. These downloads are provided by the Appeals Service and sent to the DWP Information Centre, Information and Analysis Directorate, for processing and publication.

All analyses are on a GB basis and exclude Northern Ireland. Additional data are collected but not published and are available on request, for example by tribunal venue.

Figures prior to quarter 2, 2000 are no longer subject to revision.

Glossary of Terms

Appeal

An Appeal provides a person with an impartial re-examination of the decision under appeal.

Appeals Cleared at Hearing

The number of appeals cleared at hearings by the Appeals Service within the reporting period.

Appeals Received

The number of appeal submissions received by the Appeals Service within the reporting period. Appeals are lodged with first tier agencies, prior to being received by the Appeals Service.

Decided in Favour of the Appellant

This is where the outcome of an appeal is more favourable to the appellant than is the original decision.

First Tier Agencies

The Executive Agency from where the appeal originated.

New Lodgement

An appeal lodged by an appellant within the reporting period, usually the latest quarter.

Oral Hearing

A tribunal at which an appellant has expressed an intention to attend or send a representative.

Paper Hearing

A tribunal at which an appellant has opted not to attend or send a representative

To obtain copies of the publication contact:

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