Migration news roundup week commencing 1 June 2026

This Migration News Roundup presents a selection of news, policy, research and statistics from the previous week on migration-related topics. The contents of each story do not necessarily reflect the views of Migration Yorkshire.

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UK borders and migration policy

A 27-year-old Sudanese national accused of piloting a small boat across the Channel in April has now pleaded guilty to endangering life, after four people died during the Channel crossing attempt. It is not clear from the article whether the accused was a smuggler or fleeing on the small boat himself. Meanwhile, over the May
Bank Holiday heatwave weekend six individuals arriving on small boats were detained and charged with illegal immigration offences. (Sources: BBC, Crown Prosecution Service)

Plans to build a UK-backed French migrant detention centre near Dunkirk have been stalled by legal action from a French environmental group. The building, which is due to receive £160 million of Home Office funding, is said to pose 'serious health risks for occupants'. (Source: BBC)

Meanwhile, as the Labour Party leadership continues to be discussed,Andy Burnham appears to be taking a tougher stance on immigration, having previously backed calls for an end to the No Recourse to Public Fund condition. (Source: the Guardian)

Specific migrant groups

On asylum, this briefing analyses asylum accommodation in the UK, noting that the use of contingency accommodation, often hotels, has fallen dramatically since its peak in 2022. (Source: Migration Observatory)

On migrant workers, analysis of the latest immigration statistics focuses on work visas. It shows a dramatic fall in arrivals to work in the care sector following the closure of the health and care visa route. This in turn has resulted in a sharp decrease in work visas for the key nationalities associated with that visa route - reductions of more than 85% for Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ghana and Bangladesh between 2023 and 2025. Relatedly, the revoking of sponsor licenses has reached an all-time high.
(Source: FreeMovement)

On young people, in light of national news about young people not in education, work or training (NEET), a centre-right think tank is blaming this trend on employers hiring young non-EU migrants rather than young Brits over recent years. (Source: Centre for Social Justice).

Meanwhile, concerns have been raised over the way young people that seek asylum are being age-assessed in the UK, after new data showed immigration officers are more likely than social workers to class them as adults. (Source: the Guardian)

On international students, this article highlights that students from countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nigeria are increasingly being rejected when applying to study in the UK, whilst students from China and the US are more likely to be accepted. At the same time students are increasingly incurring financial losses at the application stage, such as non-refundable tuition fee deposits if their visa application is later rejected. (Sources: Icef monitor, The PIE)

On EU nationals, the Home Office has been taken to court in a challenge to travel restrictions being placed on some EU citizens living in the UK. (Source: FreeMovement)

Further analysis of published immigration data picks up on two figures:

- More than 147,000 Ukrainians and Hong Kongers have been granted extended temporary leave in the UK.

- Separately, more than 312,000 people applied for British citizenship in the year up to March 2026; an increase in citizenship applications is thought to be due to proposed government restrictions on settlement. (Source: Independent)

On modern slavery, this article explores why modern slavery is so rarely reported and argues that whilst the UK focuses on policing and prosecution, the underlying causes that make people vulnerable to exploitation persist (such as poverty, homelessness, and insecure immigration status). The author calls for the UK definition of modern slavery to recognise ‘vulnerability’ as a central feature. (Source: Big Issue)

During the Global Fashion Summit that focused on 'sustainability', this article calls for the fashion industry to focus on the rights of workers, stating modern slavery is endemic to the industry. (Source: Walk Free)

Cohesion and integration

This article looks at how recent local election results might affect integration support for newcomers. It particularly explores how new ‘Strategic Authorities’ may create an enabling space for ‘newcomer integration’ and local contribution. (Source: London School of Economics)

This article explores the effects of asylum policy on rising levels of homelessness in the UK, particularly with regards to changes to the discontinuation period for individuals on support following an asylum decision. (Source: Chartered Institute of Housing)

From a health perspective, this article examines the unique challenges and barriers to vaccinations for migrants in the UK including vaccine hesitancy, and offers practical tips for practitioners. (Source: Nursing in Practice)

International news

The Spanish government announced it will be pairing its current migrant regularisation drive with a job-matching initiative. The aim is to support tens of thousands newly legalised migrants into regular employment, to facilitate integration, harness potential, meet major labour shortages and drive economic growth. (Source: InfoMigrants)

France is detaining migrants for longer periods, but deporting fewer of them, with more than half being released eventually due to legal or procedural issues. Furthermore, there are reports of immigrant school students receiving deportation orders after finishing school due to stricter visa rules, administrative delays, and gaps in legal protections once they turn 18. Finally, Germany's spending on

refugee and migration services fell by over €3 billion in 2025, driven by fewer asylum claims and rising pressure to cut costs. (Sources: InfoMigrants, Al Jazeera)

Stories that inspired us this week

The 6th Iranian Contemporary Art Biennale was held in London in May, bringing together over 100 Iranian artists from within Iran and those living in exile. The exhibition explores themes of exile, identity, and migration, highlighting challenges and celebrating resilience.
(Source: the Conversation)

Calderdale's mayor has recognised Greetland Academy for achieving 'School of Sanctuary' status for promoting a safe and welcoming environment for refugees and people seeking asylum. This is the fifth school in Calderdale to receive the award, reflecting an ongoing local commitment to inclusion.
(Source: Halifax Courier)

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