A Profile of the Migrant Population in Tower Hamlets



Net international migration accounted for **three quarters** of the borough's rapid population growth over the past decade.



The proportion of borough residents born outside the UK rose from 35% in 2001 to **43%** in 2011.



The number of residents born in **Lithuania** grew by over **1000%** between 2001 and 2011, the largest increase of any migrant group.



Tower Hamlets has the **4th highest** number of NINo registrations in the country. The most common country of origin was **Italy**.



Tower Hamlets has the **3rd highest** number of new GP registrations by migrants in London. There were around **14,000** new registrations in 2015.



Tower Hamlets has the **2nd highest** number of short-term migrants in London. The majority of short-term migrants are students.



Around 8% of the school population was born outside the UK, and **around a third** of these pupils were born in **Bangladesh**.



Around half of rough sleepers in Tower Hamlets were born outside the UK, with a recent rise in those born in Romania.



In 2016, there were **19** asylum seekers receiving Section 95 support and **15** unaccompanied asylum seeking minors in Tower Hamlets.



17% of borough residents born outside the UK cannot speak English well or at all.



Corporate Research Unit

April 2017

Introduction

This briefing provides analysis of a range of data which helps to build a profile of the migrant population in Tower Hamlets. It examines data from a range of sources including: the Census, the mid-year estimates, National Insurance number registrations, 'Flag 4' GP registrations, short-term migration, the School Census, asylum seekers, and rough sleeping.

The borough's diverse population

The most recent estimate of the population of Tower Hamlets stands at 295,200.¹ According to the last Census in 2011, 43 per cent of our residents were born outside the UK, and more than two thirds of the population (69 per cent) are from ethnic minority groups.² The borough has the 9th highest proportion in England of residents born outside the UK³, and is ranked as the 16th most ethnically diverse local authority in England in terms of the mix of different ethnic group populations in the borough⁴.

The borough's migrant population is hugely diverse and includes older residents who migrated to London decades ago alongside more recent arrivals. Around a quarter of the borough's residents who were born outside the UK (28 per cent) are long established migrants who arrived in the UK twenty or more years ago (before 1991), 18 per cent arrived between 1991 and 2000, and over half (54 per cent) arrived between 2001 and 2011.⁵ The majority of the borough's migrants arrived in the country as young adults (57 per cent) or children (24 per cent).⁶

Residents born in Bangladesh are, by far, the largest single migrant group in Tower Hamlets, representing 15 per cent of the borough population and over one third of the total migrant population.⁷ The Census identified a further 20 migrant groups with significant populations of more than 1,000 residents. The largest groups of migrants were from India, China, Italy, France, Somalia, Ireland, Poland, Australia, Germany, the US and Spain.⁸

The borough's diverse population enjoys a high level of social cohesion, with 87 per cent of residents agreeing that their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.⁹

Population change

The population of Tower Hamlets has been growing rapidly since the early eighties. According to the ONS mid-year estimates, the population of the borough has more than doubled in the past thirty years, rising from 144,800 in 1985 up to 295,200 in 2015. This has made Tower Hamlets by far the fastest growing local authority in England & Wales. Recent

¹ Office for National Statistics, Mid-Year Estimates 2015.

² 'Ethnic minority groups' are defined as all ethnic groups except the White British group.

³ Office for National Statistics, Census 2011 Table QS203.

⁴ Greater London Authority, 2011 Census Snapshot: Ethnic Diversity Indices, December 2012

⁵ Office for National Statistics, Census 2011 Table QS801.

⁶ Office for National Statistics, Census 2011 Table QS802.

⁷ Office for National Statistics, Census 2011 Table QS203.

⁸ Office for National Statistics, Census 2011 Table CT0048.

⁹ Tower Hamlets Annual Residents Survey 2016

projections suggest that this trend will continue with the population increasing by a further 26 per cent to 374,000 by 2026.¹⁰

Population change is driven by two main factors: natural change and migration. *Natural change* is the excess of births over deaths and is estimated through the Civil Registration System which records all live births and deaths.

Migration is the net flow of population into and out of the borough from elsewhere in the UK and abroad. *Internal migration* between local authorities in the UK is estimated through administrative data on health and higher education. *International migration* is a combination of immigration and emigration (UK residents moving abroad) and is estimated through the International Passenger Survey, along with administrative data sources on new NI number applications, international students, asylum seekers, and patients registering for a new NHS number.

Figure 1 shows the components of population change in Tower Hamlets from 2005 to 2015. It shows that net internal migration is generally low or negative, with more people moving out of Tower Hamlets for other areas in the UK than are moving into the borough. However, international migration is the largest driver of population growth, contributing nearly three quarters (74 per cent) of the borough's population growth over the past decade. Figure 1 also shows that international migration into Tower Hamlets has increased substantially over the past few years.

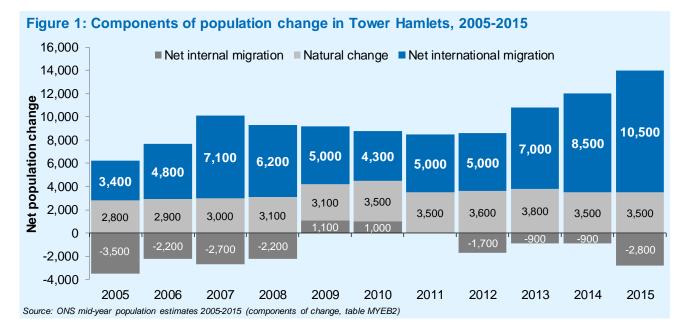
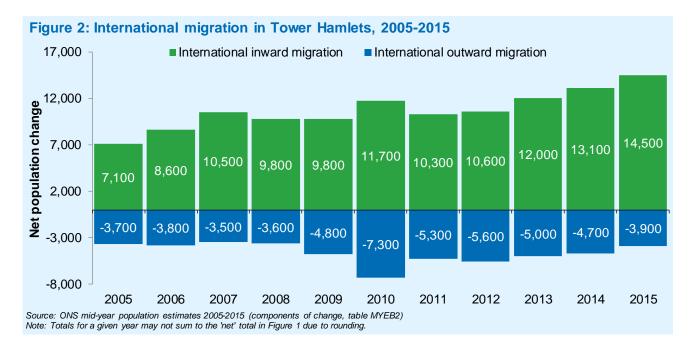


Figure 2 provides more detail on inward and outward international migration. It shows that the recent rise in international migration is driven both by growing numbers of international migrants into the borough, and also a reduction in the number of outward migrants (i.e. borough residents who have moved abroad).

Between 2014 and 2015 alone, it is estimated that 14,500 new international migrants moved into Tower Hamlets.

¹⁰ GLA 2015 Round SHLAA Population Projections



According to the mid-year estimates, men have made up slightly over half of the borough's international migrants (53 per cent), and women have made up 47 per cent in the past four years.

Nearly half (46 per cent) of migrants arriving in the borough in the past four years were young adults (aged 16-29), 33 per cent were aged between 30-59, 16% were children under the age of 16 and 5 per cent were aged 60 or older.

Country of birth (2001 vs. 2011 Census)

By comparing the 2001 and 2011 Census, we can see how the borough's migrant population has changed, and which countries recent migrants have come from. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the population by region of birth. It shows that the proportion of Tower Hamlets residents born outside the UK increased from 35 per cent in 2001 to 43 per cent in 2011.

The region with largest increase in migrants (in terms of number) was Europe: there were over 19,000 more borough residents who were born in Europe in 2011 than there were in 2001. This meant that European resident went from making up 5 per cent of the total borough population in 2001 to making up 12 per cent of the total borough population in 2011.

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the borough's migrants by their country of birth, ranked by the fastest growing groups between 2001 and 2011. It shows that the number of residents born in Lithuania grew by over 1,000 per cent, rising from 102 residents in 2001 to 1,140 in 2011. This was followed by a 901 per cent increase in residents from Poland and a 585 per cent increase in residents from China. In terms of number, Bangladesh saw the largest increase (3,057 additional residents) followed by China (3,008 additional residents) and India (2,798 additional residents).

Table 1: Change in population by region of birth, Tower Hamlets, 2001-2011								
			Change 2001-2011		compo	Population composition (% totals)		
	2001	2011	Increase	% change	2001	2011		
All usual residents	196,106	254,096	57,990	30	100	100		
Born in UK	128,129	144,662	16,533	13	65	57		
Born outside UK	67,977	109,434	41,457	61	35	43		
Born outside UK: by area								
Europe*	10,269	29,363	19,094	186	5	12		
Africa	7,147	11,342	4,195	59	4	4		
Middle East*	560	1,687	1,127	201	<1	1		
Asia	42,130	54,819	12,689	30	21	22		
- Bangladesh	35,820	38,877	3,057	9	18	15		
- Rest of Asia	6,310	15,942	9,632	153	3	6		
Americas & Caribbean	4,340	8,257	3,917	90	2	3		
Australasia/Oceania/other	3,531	3,966	435	12	2	2		

Source: ONS 2001 Census (Table UV08); 2011 Census (Table KS204)

* In 2001, ONS included Cyprus under the Middle East, whereas in 2011, it was included as part of Europe. To adjust for this, 2001 data have been adjusted in this table to include Cyprus under Europe not the Middle East to provide a better like for like comparison. This means these figures are marginally different from published ONS data.

Table 2: Change in population by country of birth (largest migrant groups), Tower Hamlets,2001-2011 (ranked by fastest growing)

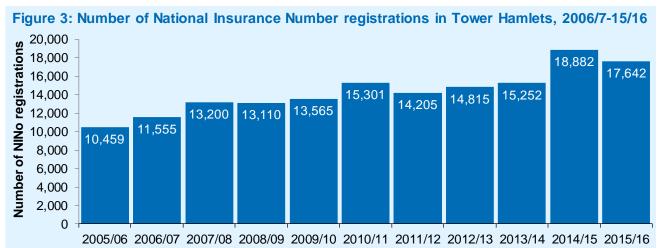
	Population	size	Population	% change
	2001	2011	change	(ranked)
All born outside UK	67,977	109,434	41,457	61
Countries of birth (>1000 residents in 2011):				
Lithuania	102	1,140	1,038	1,018
Poland	267	2,674	2,407	901
China	514	3,522	3,008	585
Brazil	216	1,439	1,223	566
Spain	418	2,025	1,607	384
Italy	733	3,047	2,314	316
India	1,091	3,889	2,798	256
France	851	3,014	2,163	254
U.S.A	820	2,143	1,323	161
Germany	1,005	2,318	1,313	131
Turkey	444	1,005	561	126
Somalia	1,353	2,925	1,572	116
Australia	1,568	2,671	1,103	70
Hong Kong	857	1,218	361	42
Pakistan	827	1,141	314	38
South Africa	1,146	1,481	335	29
Nigeria	1,012	1,269	257	25
Bangladesh	35,820	38,877	3,057	ç
Ireland	2,692	2,862	170	6
New Zealand	1,213	1,249	36	3
Vietnam	1,147	1,109	-38	-3

Source: Commissioned tables: 2001 Census (C0413); 2011 Census (CT0048)

Economic migration (NINo registrations)

Registrations for new National Insurance numbers (NINo) can be used as a proxy for international economic migration, as new migrants require a National Insurance number to take up work in the UK. However, this data does not provide an indication of when the registrant arrived in the country, or whether they are still resident in the local authority area, as this data relates to the local authority where they were resident at the time of application.

Tower Hamlets has the fourth highest number of National Insurance number registrations in the country after Newham, Brent and Birmingham, reflecting the large number of job opportunities in the local area. The number of overseas nationals registering for a National Insurance number in the borough has generally been rising over the past decade. Figure 3 shows that in 2005/06, there were 10,459 registrations in the borough which rose to around 17,642 in 2015/16. Over the past five years, the number of NINo registrations has risen by 15 per cent.



Source: DWP, National Insurance Number (NINo) registrations via Stat-Xplore

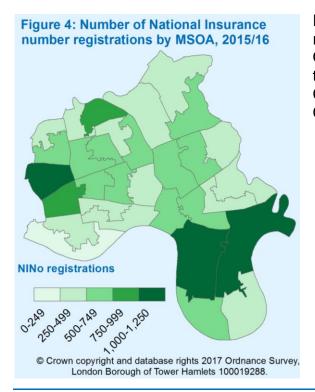


Figure 4 shows a breakdown of NINo registrations in the borough by Middle Super Output Area (MSOA). It shows that the areas with the highest number of registrations are around Canary Wharf, Blackwall & Cubitt Town, and the City Fringe.

Figure 5 provides a ranking of the number of NINo registrations by country of origin compared with London and England. It shows that the most common country of origin in Tower Hamlets is Italy, while it is Romania in both London and England.

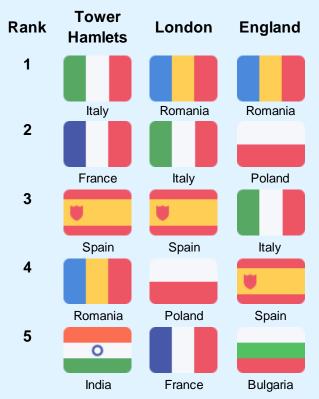
Table 3 also provides the number and percentage of the borough's NINo registrations from the top five countries of origin. It shows that in 2015/16, there were 3,613 new NINo registrations by Italian nationals in Tower Hamlets, making up one in five of the borough's economic migrants. This also gives Tower Hamlets the highest number of Italian registrants in the country. Anecdotal information from council services and the voluntary sector suggests that this increase could be driven by the arrival of Italians of Bangladeshi origin.

The large majority of registrants, 88 per cent, are aged under 35. Around 11 per cent of registrants are aged between 35 and 54, and less than 1 per cent are aged 55 or older. However, the age of registrants varies by country of origin. For example, whilst registrants from Italy come from all age groups, Australian registrants in the borough are mostly in their 20s.

GP registrations ('Flag 4')

The NHS generates a 'flag 4' record when an individual registers with a GP and they were born outside the UK and are registering with an NHS GP for the first time, or an individual's previous address was outside the UK and the time spent outside the UK was more than three months.

Figure 5: Top five countries of origin for NINo registrations in 2015/16



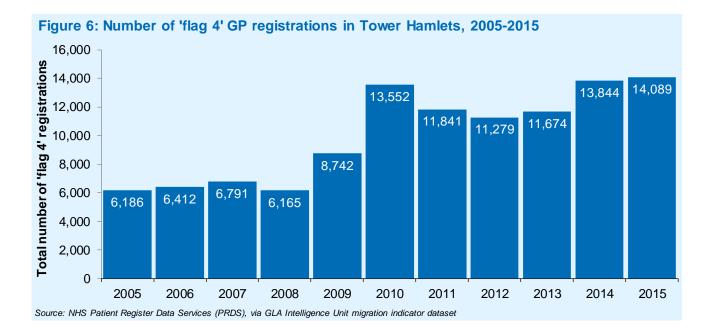
Source: DWP, National Insurance Number (NINo) registrations via Stat-Xplore

Table 3: Top five countries of origin forNINo registrations in Tower Hamlets,2015/16

Country of birth	Number of NINo registrations	% of all NINo registrations
Italy	3,613	20.5
France	2,032	11.5
Spain	1,921	10.9
Romania	846	4.8
India	693	3.9
Total	17,642	100

Source: DWP, National Insurance Number (NINo) registrations via Stat-Xplore

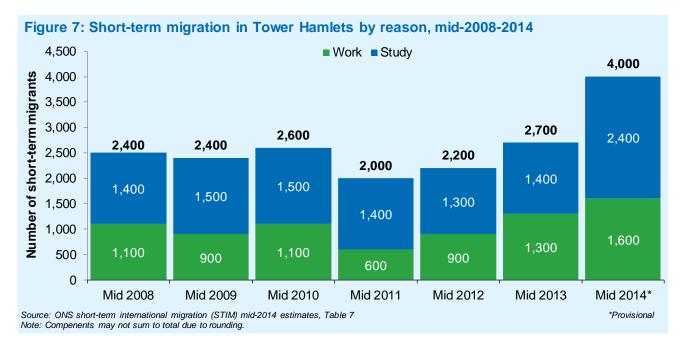
In 2015, Tower Hamlets had 14,089 'flag 4' registrations, giving the borough the third highest number in London after Newham (15,556) and Brent (15,118). Figure 6 also shows that 'flag 4' registrations have increased in the borough over the past ten years. The number of 'flag 4' registrations more than doubled from 6,186 in 2005 to 14,089 in 2015.



Short-term international migration

Short-term international migration, defined as those who intend to stay in the UK for between 1 to 12 months, is estimated using the International Passenger Survey. Short-term migrants may be in the UK for a variety of reasons; however only data on those in the UK for work or study is available at a local authority level. In 2014, it is estimated that Tower Hamlets had around 4,000 short-term migrants who were in the UK for work or study – the second highest number in London next to Newham (5,600).

Figure 7 shows that the majority of the borough's short-term migrants are in the UK to study. Students made up 60 per cent of short-term migrants in 2014. Tower Hamlets had the 8th highest number of international students in the country in 2014. 40 per cent of the borough's short-term migrants were in the UK to work. Tower Hamlets had the 5th highest number of short-term economic migrants nationally.



The school population

While around two thirds of the borough's population are from an ethnic minority group (i.e. not White British), nine in ten pupils attending school in Tower Hamlets are from an ethnic minority group. The majority of pupils, 63 per cent, are from a Bangladeshi background.

In the Spring School Census 2017, the Department for Education collected information on a pupil's country of birth for the first time. While this information provides insight into migrant children and young people in the borough, it should be noted that data was missing for a significant proportion of pupils. Around a quarter of all records (23 per cent) are missing country of birth. Records for secondary pupils are particularly unreliable, with four in ten (41 per cent) records missing country of birth. This issue, in part, is likely due to campaigns for parents to boycott requests for this information for fear it could be used by the Home Office to enforce immigration regulations. Slight ethnic differences in the response to this question means that the numbers of migrant children and young people are likely to be underestimates.

The available data shows that the borough's school population is very diverse, with pupils born in over 100 different countries. Table 4 provides a summary of the data from the School Census. It shows that around 8 per cent of the pupil population was not born in the UK. Of these migrant children and young people, around half were born in Europe, and around four in ten born in Asia. Around three in ten of these pupils were born in Bangladesh (32 per cent) and Italy (30 per cent).

Table 4: Tower Hamlets pupil population I	by country of birth (geographic area),	Spring 2017
	Number of pupils	% of all pupils	% of non-UK born pupils
Born in the UK	31,437	91.6	-
Not born in the UK	2,878	8.4	100.0
Africa	189	0.6	6.6
The Americas & the Caribbean	93	0.3	3.2
Asia	1,116	3.3	38.8
Bangladesh	920	2.7	32.0
Other Asian countries	196	0.6	6.8
Europe	1,426	4.2	49.5
Italy	856	2.5	29.7
Spain	110	0.3	3.8
Other EU countries	403	1.2	14.0
Other European countries	57	0.2	2.0
Middle East	41	0.1	1.4
Oceania / Australasia	13	0.0	0.5
Missing data	9,970	_	_
Total	44,285	100	100

Source: Tower Hamlets School Census, Spring 2017

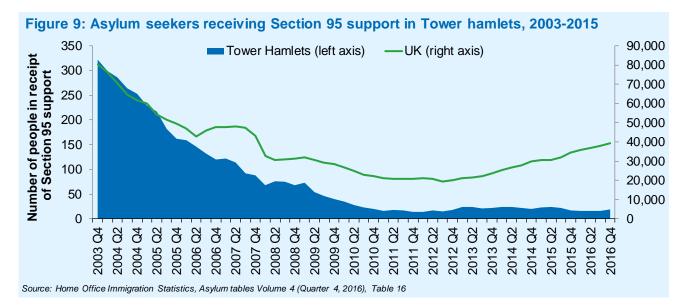
Notes: Figures include pupils of all age groups: nursery, primary, secondary and post-16. Figures exclude dual-registered pupils. Countries in which at least 100 pupils were born have been listed individually. Percentages are based on valid data only (excluding records with missing data).

Of the 856 pupils the School Census has identified as being born in Italy, 770 of these pupils (90 per cent) are from a Bangladeshi ethnic background. Other information on main language and ethnicity identifies an additional 112 pupils as Italian-Bengali, which together totals 882 Italian-Bengali pupils attending school in Tower Hamlets. This data supports anecdotal information from schools and other services that there has been an increase in the arrival of Italians of Bangladeshi origin in the borough.

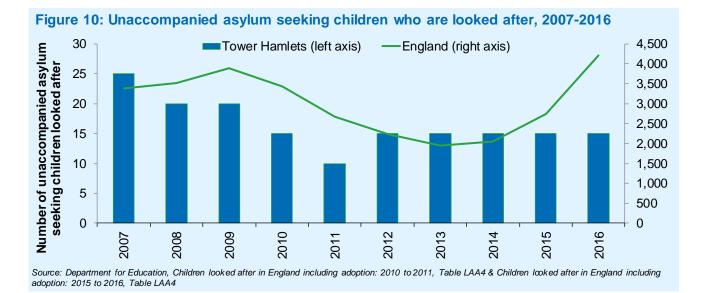
Asylum seekers

Data on adult asylum seekers at a local authority level is limited to those who are in receipt of Section 95 support, which is a special scheme that provides housing and support to asylum seekers whose claims are ongoing and who do not have adequate accommodation or enough money to meet living expenses for themselves or their dependants.

Figure 9 shows that the number of asylum seekers receiving Section 95 support in Tower Hamlets fell significantly in recent years. In the fourth quarter of 2003, there were 322 asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 but by the fourth quarter of 2016, this had fallen to only 19 asylum seekers. There has been a similar downward trend nationally, however the number of asylum seekers receiving Section 95 support in the UK has been rising since 2012 while it has remained relatively stable in Tower Hamlets.



Data is also available on unaccompanied asylum seeking minors who are looked after by local authorities. Similar to the data on adult asylum seekers, the number of unaccompanied minors in England fell between 2007 and 2013, which is broadly reflected in the numbers of minors in Tower Hamlets (see Figure 10). However, while the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking minors in England began to rise after this, most sharply between 2015 and 2016, the number of minors remained constant in Tower Hamlets. In 2016, there were an estimated 15 unaccompanied asylum seeking minors in the borough.



Rough sleepers

Data on rough sleeping is collected by the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) through a multi-agency database. It is the UK's most detailed and comprehensive source of data on rough sleeping.

CHAIN data for Tower Hamlets shows that around half of rough sleepers in the borough are not born in the UK. In 2015/16, 20 per cent of the borough's rough sleepers were from Central and Eastern Europe, 9 per cent from elsewhere in Europe, 9 per cent from Africa, 7 per cent from Asia, and 1 per cent from the Americas.

Table 5 shows that in the past five years, the borough has seen the proportion of rough sleepers from Central and Eastern Europe fall, from 30 per cent in 2011/12 to 20 per cent in 2015/16. This is contrary to the trend in Greater London, which has seen a rise in the proportion of rough sleepers from Central and Eastern Europe, from 27 per cent in 2011/12 to 37 per cent in 2015/16.

The decline in the proportion of rough sleepers from Central and Eastern Europe has largely been driven by a fall in the proportion of Polish rough sleepers, from 12 per cent in 2011/12 to 5 per cent in 2015/16. However, the borough saw an increase in the proportion of rough sleepers from Romania, which rose from 2 per cent in 2011/12 to 5 per cent in 2015/16.

Table 5: Rough sleepers in Towe	r Hamlet	ts by n	ationalit	ty, 201 ²	1/12 to 2	015/16				
	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	116	46	152	47	169	53	203	55	200	52
Central & Eastern Europe	75	30	95	29	73	23	79	22	77	20
Bulgaria	3	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	5	1
Czech Republic	4	2	2	1	3	1	0	0	1	0
Estonia	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1
Hungary	3	1	3	1	4	1	3	1	5	1
Latvia	7	3	11	3	8	3	12	3	5	1
Lithuania	17	7	24	7	18	6	16	4	16	4
Poland	31	12	37	11	28	9	21	6	19	5
Romania	5	2	15	5	11	3	23	6	21	5
Slovakia	4	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Europe (EEA)	16	6	24	7	26	8	29	8	36	9
Portugal	2	1	4	1	5	2	6	2	6	2
Ireland (Republic of)	4	2	2	1	3	1	3	1	3	1
Italy	4	2	3	1	3	1	7	2	12	3
Spain	2	1	7	2	5	2	7	2	3	1
France	1	0	4	1	3	1	3	1	7	2
Other European (EEA) countries	3	1	4	1	7	2	3	1	5	1
Other Europe (non-EEA)	2	1	4	1	2	1	3	1	1	0
Other Europe (unknown)	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Africa	24	9	22	7	28	9	29	8	36	9
Asia	16	6	22	7	15	5	20	5	26	7
Americas	4	2	2	1	3	1	3	1	5	1
Australasia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	253	100	323	100	316	100	367	100	382	100

Source: St. Mungo's, CHAIN data

Language and English proficiency

Tower Hamlets is the 4th most linguistically diverse area in England and Wales after Newham, Brent and Ealing.¹¹ The 2011 Census identified at least 90 different languages being used in the borough.¹² Around 66 per cent of our residents use English as their main langue and 18 per cent use Bengali (which includes Sylheti and Chatgaya). After Newham and Brent, Tower Hamlets also has the third highest proportion of residents who use a main language other than English, 34 per cent compared to 22 per in London and 8 per cent nationally.

The 2011 Census found that 9 per cent of borough residents aged 16+ - a total of 18,311 adults – had low levels of English proficiency. This is the second highest proportion of residents with low levels of English proficiency in England, after Newham. It is also substantially higher than the average across London (4 per cent) and England (2 per cent).

¹¹ Greater London Authority, 2011 Census Snapshot: Main Language, February 2013

¹² Tower Hamlets Council, Language in Tower Hamlets, April 2013.

Migrant residents make up 98 per cent of all those with low proficiency in English, just 2 per cent were UK-born. Figure 11 provides a breakdown of English proficiency by region and country of birth. It shows that overall, 17 per cent of Tower Hamlets residents who were born outside the UK cannot speak English well or at all. Residents born in Bangladesh had the lowest levels of proficiency, with 37 per cent saying they cannot speak English well or at all. More than one in five Somali-born residents (22 per cent) also have low levels of English proficiency.

There are also age and gender differentials in English proficiency: women comprise almost two thirds (64 per cent) of all those with low proficiency in the borough and older residents (65+) are more likely than young adults (16-24) residents to have low proficiency in spoken English (21 vs. 3 per cent).

Figure 11: Proficiency in English by country of birth, Tower Hamlets, 2011

% main language is English

All residents

- % main language not English: can speak English very well/well
- •% main language not English: cannot speak English well or at all

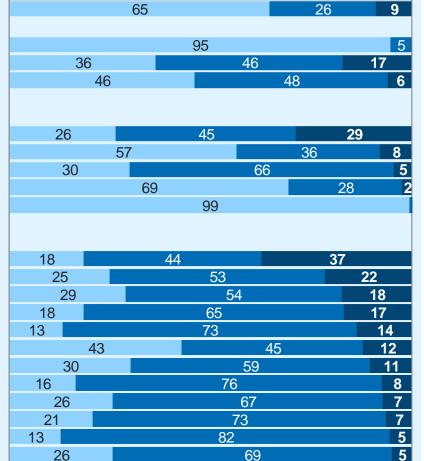
Born in UK Born outside UK Born outside UK (exc.Bangladesh)

By continents/region:

Middle East & Asia Africa Europe Americas & Caribbean Australasia/Other

Selected countries/areas:

Bangladesh Somalia Afghanistan/Iraq Turkey EU Baltic States* Pakistan China Poland Cyprus/Greece Central/South America Spain/Portugal EU accession countries (nes)* Romania/Bulgaria



% residents aged 16 and over

71

Source: 2011 Census (table CT0633).

* Countries listed are key countries/areas where the proportion with poor fluency is 5% of more. Appendix tables A1/A2 provide fuller detail for all areas/countries available (35 country groupings in total). EU Baltic States are Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. EU Accession countries not elsewhere specified are: Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Malta.

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Further information

This report was produced by the council's Corporate Research Unit (CRU). Our research provides timely and in-depth analysis about Tower Hamlets and can be found on the <u>Borough Statistics pages</u> of the council's website.

The data used in this briefing were sourced from:

- ONS, Mid-year Estimates, available on GOV.UK
- Tower Hamlets, Annual Resident Survey, available on the council's website
- ONS, 2001 & 2011 Census, available on NOMIS
- DWP, National Insurance Number Registrations, available on Stat-Xplore
- NHS, Patient Register via GLA, available on London Datasore
- ONS, Short-term International Migration Estimates, available on GOV.UK
- DfE, School Census, not publicly available
- Home Office, Immigration Statistics, available on GOV.UK
- DfE, Children looked after in England, available on GOV.UK
- CHAIN, Rough sleeping in London, available on London Datastore

For more information about this report, please contact <u>Lisa Stidle</u>, Research Officer, <u>Corporate Research Unit</u>.