



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2019-0073, 26 March 2019

Modern slavery and victim support

Summary

A Westminster Hall debate on Modern slavery and victim support is scheduled for Wednesday 27 March 2019 at 9.30 am. The Member leading the debate is Iain Duncan Smith MP

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Background

The Government has described modern slavery as a “brutal form of organised crime in which people are treated as commodities and exploited for criminal gain”, which “takes a number of forms, including sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude”. [The Home Office says that the true extent of modern slavery is difficult to ascertain, as it is a “highly complex and hidden crime”.](#)

Legislation to tackle modern slavery was enacted across all UK jurisdictions in 2015. The [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) (MSA 2015) received royal assent on 26 March 2015. The [Human Trafficking and Exploitation \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) and the [Human Trafficking and Exploitation \(Criminal Justice and Support for Victims\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#) were passed in Scotland and Northern Ireland, respectively. The legislation provides for similar victim support measures and law enforcement powers throughout the UK.

As Home Secretary, Theresa May set up [an independent review of the 2015 Act a year after it came into force. The review, by barrister Caroline Haughey QC](#), found that it had set “an international benchmark to which other jurisdictions aspire”. It found that slavery remained under-reported, but the operational response was improving. However, the review said there were problems, including a lack of consistency between law enforcement and criminal justice agencies and poor-quality intelligence at all levels. The review recommended better training and a more structured approach to prosecuting and preventing slavery.

In April 2017 the [Work and Pensions Committee](#) published a report following its inquiry into victims of modern slavery. The Chair, Frank Field MP, announcing the report, said there was “a shocking lack of awareness and co-ordination in the front-line services dealing with modern slavery” and called for an “urgent review” to ensure some minimum safeguards for victims were in place.

On 2 May 2018 the Public Accounts Committee published a [report](#) which found that potential victims are waiting far too long for a decision on whether they will be treated as a victim of modern slavery. It also found that no minimum care standards have been put in place, so it is unclear whether victims are receiving adequate care, and that there is little evidence of what happens to victims after they have gone through the system. The Government has published a [response](#), in which it agreed with the Committee’s recommendations and set target dates for implementation.

On 30 July 2018, the Home Office announced plans to launch an independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The review is

being led by Frank Field MP, Maria Miller MP and Baroness Butler-Sloss. The aim of the Review is to understand and report on how the 2015 Act is operating in practice, how effective it is, and whether the legal framework for tackling modern slavery is fit for purpose now and in the future. The Review is due to report to the Home Secretary before the end of March 2019.

The review has published four interim reports, on the [independent anti-slavery commissioner](#); [transparency in supply chains](#); [independent child trafficking advocates](#); and [legal application of the MSA 2015](#).

The [Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) is a private member's bill introduced by Lord McColl of Dulwich. The Bill proposes to amend the MSA 2015 to provide a statutory basis for support and assistance for potential victims of modern slavery during a reflection and recovery period of 45 days, and for a further period of twelve months following confirmation of their status as a victim of modern slavery. It has now completed its passage through the House of Lords and has been introduced in the House of Commons. No date for second reading has yet been announced.

2. Media

2.1 Press releases and speeches

Hestia

[Police response to modern slavery victims hinders prosecution of traffickers](#)

25 March 2019

[Crime Minister addresses government work to tackle modern slavery](#)

Victoria Atkins delivered speech at Paris Supply Chains conference, 25 February 2019

Home Office

[Home Office tells business: open up on modern slavery or face further action](#)

18 October 2018

Home Office

[UK agrees principles for tackling modern slavery in supply chains](#)

25 September 2018

Home Office

[Government commissions independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)

30 July 2018

Home Office in the media

[Crime Minister's statement on independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)

30 July 2018

Catholic Church in England and Wales

[UK's first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner resigns - Cardinal Nichols praises Kevin Hyland](#)

17 May 2018

Archbishop of Canterbury

[Archbishop pays tribute to "outstanding leadership" of UK Anti-Slavery Commissioner](#)

17 May 2018

2.2 Articles and blogs

RightsInfo

[Child Slavery Rockets as Gangs Use Young People As Drug Mules](#)

21 March 2019

The Guardian

[One in 200 people is a slave. Why?](#)

25 February 2019

Independent

[Thousands of suspected modern slavery victims waiting more than a year for decision from Home Office](#)

22 January 2019

The Times

[The Modern Slavery Act is toothless](#)

15 November 2018

Independent

[Home Office cuts to modern slavery victims' benefits are unlawful, High Court rules](#)

08 November 2018

The Times

[Slavery cannot be solved overnight, but we will not let up until we end this suffering](#)

By Victoria Atkins, 12 October 2018

UK Human Rights Blog

[Human trafficking: is our system for combating it fit for purpose?](#)

28 September 2018

Guardian

[Modern slavery in the UK is inflicting misery under our noses every day](#)

Abda Khan 20 September 2017

Independent

[Brexit plan to bring in more non-EU workers could lead to 'sharp rise' in exploitation, warns charity](#)

18 September 2018

Guardian

[Latest figures reveal more than 40 million people are living in slavery](#)

19 September 2017

Rights Info

[UK child trafficking cases more than double over last year](#)

11 September 2018

Independent

[Labour accuses Theresa May of 'hollow' modern slavery pledges](#)

29 August 2018

Financial Times

[Modern slavery campaigners turn to online exploitation](#)

28 August 2018

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

[New report finds low compliance with Modern Slavery Act in UK agricultural sector](#)

15 August 2018

Telegraph

[How your high street manicure or hair cut could be funding modern slavery](#)

11 August 2018

Recruiter

[Home Office launches review into modern slavery and labour exploitation](#)

7 August 2018

Out-Law.com (Pinsent Masons)

[Review of UK modern slavery laws commissioned](#)

31 July 2018

Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority

[Government commissions independent review of Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)

30 July 2018

BBC news

[Modern slavery law review as gangs 'evolve'](#)

30 July 2018

Guardian

[Modern-day slavery costs UK up to £4.3bn a year, says Home Office](#)

30 July 2018

Evening Standard

[Victims of sex slavery suffering hundreds of rapes and assaults, new figures reveal](#)

30 July 2018

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

[Joint statement calls on Government for central modern slavery registry](#)

3 July 2018

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

[Government must use the power of public procurement to tackle slavery](#)

18 June 2018

The Conversation

[Why the Home Office must allow survivors of modern slavery the right to remain in Britain](#)

17 July 2018

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

[Eradicating recruitment fees is crucial for tackling modern slavery](#)

11 June 2018

Guardian

[Home Office under fire over 'muddled' strategy on slavery that fails victims](#)

23 May 2018

Independent

[UK's first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner resigns citing government interference](#)

17 May 2018

Guardian

[Home Office has no way of monitoring success of modern slavery crackdown](#)

2 May 2018

3. Parliamentary material

3.1 Ministerial statements

[Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)

Victoria Atkins (The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability):

On 30 July, the Home Office announced plans to launch an independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. The review is being led by the rt hon. Frank Field MP, the rt hon. Maria Miller MP and the rt hon. Baroness Butler-Sloss.

The introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the first legislation of its kind in the world, has helped to transform the UK's response to modern slavery. More victims are being identified and supported; more offenders are being prosecuted; and thousands of companies have published statements setting out the steps they have taken to tackle modern slavery in their supply chains. The UK is determined to lead global efforts to tackle this barbaric crime and as the methods used by criminals to exploit vulnerable people evolve, and our understanding of this crime evolves, it is important to consider our legislative approach.

The aim of the Review is to understand and report on how the 2015 Act is operating in practice, how effective it is, and whether the legal framework for tackling modern slavery is fit for purpose now and in the future. In doing so, the Review will need to take into account any significant economic, social and technological changes since the 2015 act was passed.

The following provisions of the Act will be considered in the Review:

- section 3 on the meaning of exploitation
- sections 8-10 on reparation orders
- sections 40 to 44 on the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
- section 45 on the statutory defence
- section 48 on independent child trafficking advocates
- section 54 on transparency in supply chains

The Review will gather evidence and seek views from relevant stakeholders across a range of sectors and interest groups. The findings and recommendations of the Review will represent the views of the reviewers, who will be supported by a secretariat seconded from the Home Office.

The Review will aim to report to the Home Secretary before the end of March 2019. Following approval, the Home Secretary will lay the report in Parliament.

A copy of the Review's terms of reference will be placed in the House Library and are available on www.gov.uk.

5 September 2018 | Written statement | HCWS 935

[Safeguarding Announcement](#)

Robert Goodwill (The Minister of State for Children and Families):

I am pleased to publish this statement about the safeguarding of unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children jointly with my Right Honourable Friend Brandon Lewis MP, Home Office Minister of State (Immigration and International).

Today the Department for Education and the Home Office are publishing three documents relating to the care of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children.

The new safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children

This new safeguarding strategy sets out the additional actions the Government will take to safeguard and promote the welfare of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children that recognises the increasing numbers and specific needs of these children in the UK.

The strategy includes commitments to:

- increase placement capacity, improve the skills and confidence of foster carers, and review funding available to local authorities;
- improve information and advice available to children and families who are reunited through the Dublin Regulation;
- support professionals caring and working with these children through revised guidance, information and resources;
- improve processes for transfer of children from Europe and supporting local authorities to assess and provide support for both them and their families.

Alongside the safeguarding strategy, we are publishing two related documents: the Government's response to the consultation to revise the statutory guidance; and the updated guidance, now called: Care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery, for local authorities on the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children - first published in 2014. This updated guidance acknowledges the safeguarding challenges that local authorities and partners continue to deal with to give these children stability. I will place a copy of these documents in the House Libraries.

Events around the recent migration crisis have meant that it was necessary to update the guidance to be of maximum use to local authorities who are caring for a bigger and more varied cohort of children. A number of respondents during the public consultation requested that there should also be further recognition of the needs and vulnerabilities specific to unaccompanied children and the measures required to keep them safe and the guidance has been expanded accordingly. The updated statutory guidance also reflects the legislative developments such as the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and policy developments such as the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the local authorities, non-governmental organisations and carers who have helped us develop the safeguarding strategy. They will play an integral part in delivering its commitments and we continue to be immensely grateful.

We would also like to express our deep thanks and gratitude to Edward Timpson for all of his work supporting vulnerable children. We are pleased that we can fulfil the commitment to publish this strategy, set out in a joint Written Ministerial Statement in November 2016, in our new roles as Minister of State for Children and Families and Minister of State (Immigration and International).

[UASC Safeguarding Strategy 2017](#) (PDF Document, 612.43 KB)

[UASC Statutory Guidance Gov. Consultation Response](#) (PDF Document, 423.11 KB)

[UASC Statutory Guidance 2017](#) (PDF Document, 667.65 KB)

1 November 2017 | Written statement | HCWS 216

3.2 Debates

[Modern-day Slavery](#)

HC Deb 09 October 2018, cc66WH-84WH

[Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)

HC Deb 26 October 2017 cc479-514

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill \[HL\] 2017-19](#)

Second reading

HL Deb 8 September 2017 cc2212-48

3.3 Parliamentary questions

[UK Visas and Immigration: Training](#)

Asked by: Paul Blomfield

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether UK Visas and Immigration staff receive mandatory training on (a) identifying signs of exploitation and (b) what actions to take if exploitation is identified; and what information is covered in this training.

Answered by: Caroline Nokes | Home Office

“UK Visas and Immigration takes the protection of vulnerable applicants seriously and expects staff to complete mandatory e-learning courses on modern slavery. The courses, which cover human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour provide important information on indicators of vulnerability and the actions to be taken in the event that these indicators are identified during interaction with applicants.

Additionally, as part of the package of reforms to the National Referral Mechanism, the UK’s system for identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery and human trafficking, the Home Office is leading a multi-agency review to determine how to strengthen training on identifying and supporting victims for all First Responders, including those at UK Visas and immigration”.

18 March 2019 | Written questions | 232000

[Slavery](#)

Asked by: Lord Alton of Liverpool

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of cuts in financial support to victims of human trafficking and modern slavery offences on charities providing support services to such victims; what are their 2019 arrest and charge targets for human trafficking and modern slavery offences; and whether they are on course to meet those targets.

Answered by: Baroness Williams of Trafford | Home Office

The Home Office provides support to victims of human trafficking and modern slavery offences through the Victim Care Contract with The Salvation Army and their twelve sub-contractors. The contract provides a comprehensive package of support, including access to safe house accommodation, outreach support, and medical care including counselling as required.

It also provides financial support through weekly subsistence payments. Following the High Court ruling last year in the case of K & AM vs SSHD, the Home Office immediately reinstated the top up paid to those in the Victim Care Contract who are also receiving support from the asylum support system, so that they receive a total of £65 per week. The Home Office has put in place a process to ensure those who have been affected by the judgement receive a back payment. We accept the court’s judgement and are considering this in our future approach to subsistence rates.

As with other crime types, the Government does not set targets for the number of arrests and charges; rather, our focus has been to improve the operational response to this complex crime, through for example, bespoke training and dedicated intelligence capabilities.

21 March 2019 | Written questions | HL14174

[Home Office: Staff](#)

Asked by: Paul Blomfield

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the appropriateness of the (a) experience level required, (b) skill level required and (c) wage rate paid to National Referral Mechanism decision-makers.

Answered by: Caroline Nokes | Home Office

The Government is committed to tackling modern slavery and supporting all victims through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). We are reforming the NRM to ensure victims of modern slavery get the support they need and are introducing measures to ensure quicker, more effective decision-making.

National Referral Mechanism decision makers receive extensive classroom based training and considerable guidance, mentoring and ongoing support from experienced colleagues. Their performance and quality of work is routinely monitored. All NRM decision-makers are paid in line with the rate for Home Office Executive Officers, which is the grade for the decision-making role.

21 February 2019 | Written questions | 222716

[Slavery: Victims](#)

Asked by: Paul Blomfield

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what number and proportion of people who received (a) negative reasonable grounds decisions and (b) negative conclusive grounds decisions under the National Referral Mechanism for potential victims of human trafficking (i) appealed or had those decisions reconsidered and (ii) were subsequently given positive decisions in the most recent period for which information is available.

Answered by: Caroline Nokes | Home Office

The National Crime Agency publishes statistics on referrals into the National Referral Mechanism on a quarterly basis. These reports are available via the following links:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

Requests for reconsideration of negative conclusive grounds decisions can be made in line with the published policy which is available via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/victims-of-trafficking-guidance-for-competent-bodies>

The specific information you have requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. This is because a manual search through individual records would be required to identify requests for reconsideration that were rejected because they were not

in line with policy or those that were refused due to insufficient grounds for reconsideration. In addition, it is not possible to distinguish solely from database records whether a reconsideration case type was the result of a reconsideration request as defined in the published policy, the result of litigation or the result of the reconsideration of a suspended case.

21 February 2019 | Written questions | 222715

[Slavery: Detainees](#)

Asked by: Jess Phillips

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people who have been identified as potential victims of human trafficking or modern slavery during immigration detention and who have then received reasonable conclusive grounds under the National Referral Mechanism are released on receipt of that grounds decision.

Answered by: Caroline Nokes | Home Office

The necessary assistance and support, including medical treatment, information and interpretation services are available in immigration removal centres to fulfil the UK's obligations under Articles 12 and 13 of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking and Article 11 of Directive 2011/36/EU. However, under current Government policy, potential victims of modern slavery identified in detention will be referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and will be released following a positive reasonable grounds decision, unless there are public order considerations to justify their detention.

Those who receive a positive conclusive grounds decision to the effect that they are a victim of modern slavery under the NRM, but who have no leave to remain in the UK, may be detained in order to effect their removal. However, they will be regarded as vulnerable in the terms of the Home Office's adults at risk in immigration detention policy (AAR). This means that such individuals will be detained, or their detention continued, only when the evidence of their vulnerability is outweighed by the immigration considerations in their particular case, including likely date of removal, compliance with immigration law and public protection.

19 February 2019 | Written questions | 219466

[Work Capability Assessment: Slavery](#)

Asked by: Frank Field

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many survivors of modern slavery making a claim for employment and support allowance have undergone a Work Capability Assessment; and of those claimants, how many were (a) placed in the Support Group, (b) placed in the Work Related Activity Group and (c) found Fit For Work.

Answered by: Sarah Newton | Department for Work and Pensions

The information requested is not available, however we have agreed to explore options for improving the process of data collection in collaboration with the SSAC to consider how current practices could be enhanced, and to publish a report on our joint conclusions.

For survivors of modern slavery, the Department for Work and Pensions' main role is to ensure those who are entitled to support receive it. Where a claimant indicates that they are a victim of crime (including trafficking or modern slavery) and they feel that this will adversely affect their ability to meet the conditions of entitlement to benefits, they are supported by the same Jobcentre Plus adviser or Work Coach for each appointment. As each victim will be affected in a different way, advisers and Work Coaches use their discretion to tailor support based on individual conversations they have had with the claimant.

DWP are keen to continue to work closely with the Home Office and other organisations to improve the support available to victims and we have put in place training and awareness raising for front-line staff enabling them to direct victims, at the earliest opportunity, to agencies that are able to support them. Work coaches use discretion to tailor support and offer greater flexibility on work requirements. DWP is sensitive to the challenges faced by victims of this terrible crime.

We provide a tailored service that recognises those with complex needs at any point throughout their journey and ensures appropriate support is quickly made available: a fundamental principle in the delivery of Universal Credit (UC). UC continues to support victims of domestic abuse to claim benefits through a range of measures. These include same day advances and signposting to expert third-party support. As it can be difficult for individuals facing domestic abuse to come forward, all work coaches undergo mandatory training in how to support vulnerable claimants including recognising the signs of domestic abuse. By summer 2019, we will have implemented domestic abuse specialists in every Jobcentre to further raise awareness of domestic abuse, and support work coaches.

13 February 2019 | Written questions | 217480[Human Trafficking: Children](#)**Asked by: Paul Farrelly**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to (a) ensure that social workers are adequately trained to respond to cases of trafficked children that subsequently go missing and (b) improve the recording and reporting practices by local authorities on trafficked children.

Answered by: Nadhim Zahawi | Department for Education

On 1 November 2017, the government published revised and expanded statutory guidance for local authorities on the care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery, which sets out the training and awareness requirements for all those involved in the care of

these vulnerable children. This guidance is available to social workers along with the statutory guidance on children who go missing from care, and practice guidance on children who may have been trafficked. Local authorities are best placed to then ensure that social workers receive the training they need to meet the needs of children locally.

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced a duty to local authorities to refer all child victims of trafficking or modern slavery into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the UK's system for identify and supporting victims. A referral into this system enables accurate recording and reporting by the Home Office on a quarterly basis. As part of NRM reform the government is conducting a review of how first responders should be trained. This will include understanding how to support all first responders in making these referrals which will support improved recording and reporting.

07 February 2019 | Written questions | 216148

[Work Capability Assessment: Slavery](#)

Asked by: Vernon Coaker

To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether victims of modern slavery are exempt from the requirement to take an annual work capability assessment; and if she will make a statement.

Answered by: Sarah Newton | Department for Work and Pensions

Ending modern slavery is one of this Government's top priorities, and we are sensitive to the challenges faced by victims. We have worked with the Salvation Army to improve the service provided by DWP to victims. The purpose of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) is to assess the impact of mental and physical health conditions, including any resulting from being a victim of modern slavery on a person, so that the right level of benefit and support can be provided. There are no exemptions from being assessed for those claiming Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), or Universal Credit (UC) due to illness or disability. In addition to completing the application form or forms people or those supporting them are encouraged to provide additional evidence, including medical reports, to support their claim. If it is possible for the assessor to provide advice to the decision maker without requiring the claimant to attend a face-to-face assessment, they will do so.

The WCA is not an annual assessment. Re-referral dates can be up to 24 months for those found to have limited capability for work, and up to 3 years for those found to have limited capability for work-related activity. Furthermore, from 29 September 2017 those placed in ESA's Support Group and the UC equivalent who have the most severe and lifelong health conditions or disabilities, whose level of function would always mean that they would have Limited Capability for Work and Work-Related Activity, and be unlikely ever to be able to move into work, will no longer be routinely reassessed.

04 February 2019 | Written questions | 213946[Human Trafficking: Children](#)**Asked by: Baroness Doocey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the (1) longest, (2) shortest, and (3) average waiting time for victims of child trafficking to receive positive conclusive grounds decisions from the National Referral Mechanism for each year since the Modern Slavery Act 2015 came into force.

Answered by: Baroness Williams of Trafford | Home Office

The National Crime Agency (NCA) regularly publishes National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data. It does not publish data about the time taken for victims of child trafficking to receive positive conclusive grounds decisions for each year since the Modern Slavery Act 2015 came into force. Latest statistics on NRM referrals and decisions are available at the following link:

<http://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics/2018-nrm-statistics>

Further information is also available in the 2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery which was published on 18 October 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2018-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

21 December 2018 | Written questions | HL12284[Slavery: Victim Support Schemes](#)**Asked by: Siobhain McDonagh**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 December 2018 to Question 196679 on Slavery: Victim Support Schemes, whether he plans to adopt directly the Human Trafficking Foundation's slavery and trafficking survivor care standards or introduce standards based on those produced by the Human Trafficking Foundation.

Answered by: Victoria Atkins | Home Office

The Government is committed to ensuring minimum standards of care in the new victim care contract. Compliance with a minimum standard of care will be monitored using an inspection regime, which will be based on the Human Trafficking Foundation's Slavery and Trafficking Survivor Care Standards.

20 December 2018 | Written questions | 202031[Human Trafficking: Victim Support Schemes](#)**Asked by: Siobhain McDonagh**

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Home Office's national referral mechanism reform guidance published in October 2018 and the High Court judgement on AM & K versus SSHD, whether the plans to make the cuts proposed as part of the national referral mechanism reforms will still go ahead in February and March 2019.

Answered by: Victoria Atkins | Home Office

The Home Office has paused the staged implementation of the alignment of subsistence rates for potential victims of modern slavery with those received by asylum seekers, which was due to start in February 2019, whilst it considers the implication of the judgment in AM and K vs SSHD.

We will work through the implications of the judgment in respect to our future approach to financial support, and will share further details as soon as we are able. The Home Office has immediately reinstated the top up paid to those in the Victim Care Contract who are also receiving support from the asylum support system, so that they receive a total of £65 per week whilst this work is carried out.

We are committed to reforming the National Referral Mechanism to ensure that as many victims of modern slavery as possible

07 December 2018 | Written questions | 196680

[Asylum: Human Trafficking](#)

Asked by: Alex Norris

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the High Court Judgement K & Anor, R (on the application of) v Secretary of State for the Home Department of 8 November 2018, how the back payments to victims of trafficking will be made; who will be responsible for administering the back payments to victims who have left the National Referral Mechanism; whether the back payments will result in any deduction from any other benefits; and what financial literacy support will be put in place to help victims manage large payments.

Answered by: Victoria Atkins | Home Office

The Government is committed to tackling the scourge of modern slavery and supporting those affected by this crime.

In 2017, Home Office Ministers agreed a comprehensive package of reforms to the National Referral Mechanism, which included the introduction of places of safety for those leaving situations of exploitation, trebling the period of move on support to assist victims moving out of government funded support and aligning the subsistence rates paid to potential victims of modern slavery with those received by asylum seekers.

In light of the judgment in K and AM, the Home Office has immediately reinstated the top up paid to those in the Victim Care Contract who are

also receiving support from the asylum support system, so that they receive a total of £65 per week.

We are currently putting in place processes to ensure that those who have been affected receive a full back payment as soon as possible, and will set out how we plan to respond in due course, including our communications with all those affected. These back payments will not be deducted from the asylum support payments which individuals may be receiving.

We are committed to reforming the National Referral Mechanism to ensure that as many victims of modern slavery as possible get the support they need.

23 November 2018 | Written questions | 193523

[Slavery: Compensation](#)

Asked by: Lord McColl of Dulwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government how many compensation orders under section 130 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 have been made in respect of offences flagged as modern slavery offences by the Crown Prosecution Service in each of the last five years; and what was the (1) total, and (2) average amount of those compensation awards.

Answered by: Lord Keen of Elie | Ministry of Justice

Modern Slavery was introduced as a specific offence as part of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. Therefore, data related to this offence is only available from 2015. Centrally held data relates to the number of individuals sentenced to pay compensation for modern slavery offences.

Since 2015, there have not been any individuals ordered to pay compensation as part of their sentence for a modern slavery offence.

14 November 2018 | Written questions | HL11277

[Legal Aid Scheme: Slavery](#)

Asked by: Paul Blomfield

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 1 November 2018 to Question 185051 on Legal Aid Scheme: Slavery, whether the specific legal aid provision for victims of modern slavery and human trafficking for immigration advice and representation, including assistance with applications for leave to enter or remain, subject to means and merits, applies to applications for (a) permanent residence, (b) pre-settled status and (c) settled status; and if he will make a statement.

Answered by: Lucy Frazer | Ministry of Justice

There is specific legal aid provision for victims of modern slavery and human trafficking for immigration advice and representation, including

assistance with applications for leave to enter or remain, subject to means and merits testing. This provision will apply to applications made under the EU Settlement Scheme.

For those EU citizens who might need additional help when applying under the scheme, the Home Office has announced a grant scheme for the voluntary and community sector which will help ensure support is available.

The Secretary of State for Justice has no plans to make a statement on this issue.

13 November 2018 | Written questions | 188815

[Human Trafficking: Standards](#)

Asked by: Yvette Cooper

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of referrals to the National Referral Mechanism received a conclusive grounds decision during the 45-day recovery and reflection period; and what the timeframe was for decisions to be made on the remainder of referrals in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

Answered by: Victoria Atkins | Home Office

The National Crime Agency (NCA) is responsible for publishing National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data and does so on a quarterly basis.

The NCA does not publish data about the timescales for reaching reasonable grounds or conclusive grounds decisions. No NRM decisions are made during a potential victim's 45 day reflection and recovery period.

Published data on the referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is available via the following link:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>.

Further information is also available in the 2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/749346/2018_UK_Annual_Report_on_Modern_Slavery.pdf which was published on 18 October 2018.

26 October 2018 | Written questions | 182690

[Human Trafficking: Convictions](#)

Asked by: Lord Hylton

To ask Her Majesty's Government what information, if any, they have received from North Africa, the Middle East and Europe about successful prosecutions for offences connected with trafficking in persons; and if none, whether they will call for better intelligence sharing about such crimes.

Answered by: Lord Keen of Elie | Attorney General

There is no information held about successful prosecutions for offences connected with trafficking in persons in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

However, the UK shares relevant information on organised immigration crime (OIC) with partners in source, transit and destination countries for illegal migration. This takes place both on a bilateral basis and through the European Migrant Smuggling Centre within Europol.

Through the multi-agency Organised Immigration Crime Taskforce, the government is improving the intelligence picture around OIC, modern slavery and human trafficking, undermining the criminal business model and building the capacity of upstream law enforcement partners to tackle the threat.

The police transformation program includes an analytical team, the Joint Slavery and Trafficking Analysis Centre (JSTAC) which is building and developing the strategic intelligence picture by improving data collection and focused analysis of the information gathered. To aid in international dissemination of information, a seconded national expert to Europol to coordinate activity between UK law enforcement and European counterparts during cross-border investigations has been implemented.

14 September 2018 | Written question | HL 9975[Human Trafficking](#)**Asked by: Baroness Doocey**

To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have issued instructions for officials to delay consideration of discretionary leave for victims of trafficking until they consider the Court of Appeal judgment in *PK(Ghana) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2018] EWCA Civ 98.

Answered by: Baroness Williams of Trafford | Home Office

Following the judgment in *PK(Ghana)* officials were instructed to temporarily defer most decisions on whether to grant discretionary leave to remain to trafficking victims. This was to enable new guidance to be prepared that would take account of the findings of the Court.

Grants of discretionary leave continued to be made if it was found that a grant was necessary to enable a trafficking victim to seek compensation through the courts or to assist the police with a criminal investigation or prosecution. Victims also continued to be granted leave if they qualified for refugee status or under other provisions in the Immigration Rules.

The new guidance was published on 8 August 2018 and normal decision making has therefore resumed. The guidance is available on the GOV.UK web-pages at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/732594/dl-for-victims-of-modern-slavery-v1.0ext.pdf

14 September 2018 | Written question | HL 9943

[Agriculture: Seasonal Workers](#)

Asked by: Afzal Khan

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he plans to take to ensure that the new seasonal workers scheme does not facilitate modern slavery; and what role the (a) modern slavery taskforce and (b) anti-slavery commissioner will have in oversight over that scheme.

Answered by: Caroline Nokes | Home Office

Full details of how the seasonal workers pilot will operate will be announced in due course. Ensuring the protection and wellbeing of participating migrant workers is of primary importance. We are working with the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority to ensure that we get this right.

13 September 2018 | Written question | 171481

[Human Trafficking](#)

Asked by: Afzal Khan

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether decisions on National Referral Mechanism referrals on behalf of potential victims of trafficking in detention are allocated to a specific team within the UK Competent Authorities.

Answered by: Caroline Nokes | Home Office

When referred into the National Referral Mechanism, potential victims of trafficking or modern slavery are considered by one of the UK's competent authorities: the National Crime Agency (NCA), UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI), and Immigration Enforcement (IE) for a very small number of cases.

The consideration of referrals for potential victims of trafficking who are detained and are not UK or EEA nationals is conducted by trained decision makers within UKVI and IE, depending on the nature of the detention. The consideration of referrals for UK and EEA nationals is conducted by the NCA.

13 September 2018 | Written question | 171419

[Slavery: Victims](#)

Asked by: Stephanie Peacock

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what his policy is on the eligibility of survivors of modern slavery for publicly-funded education; what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the application of the Immigration Rules to institutions which provide education for survivors of modern slavery.

Answered by: Nadhim Zahawi | Department for Education

Under international law, all children have the right to an education. Children and young people who are the survivors of modern slavery will normally be in local authority care while their immigration status is under consideration.

Such 'looked-after children' must be given highest priority for admission to English state-funded schools and young people in this situation are eligible for funding for 16-19 education or training in England.

To meet the eligibility requirements for student support for higher education in England, a student should normally be resident in England, have 'settled' status or a recognised connection with the UK and have been a resident of the UK and Islands (Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) for the three years prior at the start of the course. Exceptions are made for students who have been granted refugee status following a successful asylum claim, including the proportion of that group who have been confirmed as victims of modern slavery.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State regularly meets Cabinet colleagues to discuss a variety of issues.

11 September 2018 | Written question | 169676

[Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner](#)

Asked by: Stephanie Peacock

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what budget is allocated to the Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner; and how much of that budget has been spent in the current financial year.

Answered by: Victoria Atkins | Home Office

The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's budget for 2018/19 is £575,000. Expenditure for this financial year to the end of August 2018 is £270,497.

10 September 2018 | Written question | 170396

[Modern Slavery: Prosecutions](#)

Oral questions

HC Deb 6 September 2018 c322-4

Including:

Asked by: Kerry McCarthy

I welcome the fact that the number of prosecutions has gone up, I think by 27%. Is the Solicitor General having discussions about how we treat young people who are involved in county lines? Will they be treated as criminals, or as the victims of, in many cases, modern slavery?

Answered by: Robert Buckland | Solicitor General

I know the hon. Lady takes a keen interest in this issue through her all-party group and in other work, and she hits the nail on the head when it comes to the difficult decisions that are sometimes made. I assure her that the typology on county lines that the CPS published only a few months ago has a particular focus on such issues. There will be times when a decision to prosecute must be made, but many of the people involved—particularly young people—are victims who need support.

Asked by: John Lamont

In Scotland the police are alarmed by the rise in reports of potential human trafficking offences, and those individuals and gangs do not stop at the border. What discussions is the Solicitor General having with his counterparts north of the border to ensure that there is a UK-wide approach to this issue?

Answered by: Robert Buckland | Solicitor General

As a border MP, my hon. Friend knows the issue acutely. In February 2016 the Directors of Public Prosecutions for England and Wales and for Northern Ireland, and indeed the Lord Advocate for Scotland, met and pledged their commitment to providing a whole-of-UK approach to human trafficking and slavery. As a result, quarterly meetings are held at official level between the jurisdictions, and there is a regular exchange of information and best practice to make sure we get it right.

3.4 Parliamentary committees' publications

Home Affairs Committee, [Modern slavery inquiry](#)

Home Affairs Committee, [Call for written evidence into modern slavery](#), 18 July 2018

Public Accounts Committee, [Reducing Modern Slavery inquiry](#)

Work and Pensions Committee, ["Inexcusable" lack of support for modern slavery victims](#), 30 April 2017

Work and Pensions Committee, [Victims of modern slavery](#), HC 803, 30 April 2017

4. Organisations and further reading

[Modern Slavery Act 2015 review: fourth interim report](#), Independent review of the Modern Slavery Act, 21 March 2019

[Modern Slavery Act 2015 review: third interim report](#), Independent review of the Modern Slavery Act, 21 March 2019

[New Stats Reveal The Reality of Modern Slavery In London](#), Hestia, 20 March 2019

[Independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 second interim report: transparency in supply chains](#), January 2019

[Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 first interim report: The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner](#), December 2018

UK Visas and Immigration; Immigration Enforcement, [Operational guidance: discretionary leave for victims of modern slavery](#), 10 September 2018

[Modern Slavery Act 2015: recent developments](#), Commons Library Briefing Paper CBP-7656, 25 October 2017

Home Office, [Modern Slavery Act 2015 independent review: terms of reference](#), 17 August 2018

Home Office, [Economic and social costs of modern slavery](#), 17 August 2018

HM Government; Northern Ireland Executive; Scottish Government; Welsh Government, [2017 UK annual report on modern slavery](#), October 2017

[Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner](#)

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, [Annual report 2016-2017](#), October 2017

Caroline Haughey, [Modern Slavery Act 2015 review: one year on](#), Home Office, 31 July 2016

An independent review into the effectiveness of the criminal justice provisions in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 one year after coming into effect, commissioned by the Prime Minister in her previous role as Home Secretary.

National Audit Office, [Reducing modern slavery](#), HC 630, 15 December 2017

Parliament

Bills before Parliament 2017-19

[Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill \[HL\] 2017-19](#)

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill \[HL\] 2017-19](#)

All-Party Parliamentary Group

Register Of All-Party Parliamentary Groups, [APPG on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery](#)

Human Trafficking Foundation, [APPG on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery](#)

Organisations and research reports

Anti-Slavery International, [Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group](#)

Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, [Modern Slavery Registry](#)

Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, [First year of FTSE 100 reports under the UK Modern Slavery Act: towards elimination?](#), September 2017

[Walk Free Foundation](#)

University of Nottingham Rights Lab, [Modern slavery meaning and measurement: new approaches](#), PaCCS [Partnership for Conflict, Crime and Security Research] Policy Briefing, 2018

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and University of Nottingham Rights Lab, [Collaborating for freedom: anti-slavery partnerships in the UK](#), 2017

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and University of Nottingham Rights Lab, [Researching modern slavery in the UK: a survey of research about UK modern slavery and by UK-based researchers](#), 2018

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and University of Nottingham Rights Lab, [Modern slavery research: the UK picture](#), 2018

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and University of Nottingham Rights Lab, [Agriculture and Modern Slavery Act reporting: poor performance despite high risks](#), 2018

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