



Home Affairs Committee

Thursday, 3 April 2025

Jess Phillips MP
Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls
Home Office
Via email

Subject: Modern Slavery Act: ten-year review

Dear Minister

I am writing to ask for further clarification on issues raised during the [evidence session](#) held by the Committee on 25 March 2025 with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and others on the tenth anniversary of the Modern Slavery Act.

During the session we heard evidence of inconsistency and misapplication of the Act, a lack of awareness and understanding of its provisions, and a lack of resources to support effective implementation. We heard calls for more cross-government and multi-agency coordination, clearer definitions, and a greater emphasis on providing timely, trauma-informed support for victims. What came across very strongly was the need for an updated Modern Slavery Strategy, a review of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), and greater consistency in training and implementation of the NRM across both statutory and non-statutory bodies. As you know, similar themes were raised during the debate in the House on 27 March.

In light of the above, can I ask that you respond to the questions set out below?

Modern Slavery Strategy and the National Referral Mechanism

- What plans does the Home Office have to publish a new, comprehensive Modern Slavery Strategy?
- What is the Home Office's timeline for reform of the identification system for victims of modern slavery? Does the Home Office plan to conduct a broader review of the National Referral Mechanism?
- What measures are the Home Office considering to improve the quality of decisions in the National Referral Mechanism and support for First Responder Organisations. Is the Home Office considering the need for more FROs?



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- What is the timeline for rolling out the Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) across England and Wales? What plans are there for expansion of other initiatives to support victims of modern slavery such as devolved decision-making panels, single points of contact (SPOC) at local authority level, and victim navigators?

Prosecutions

- What steps are being taken to make more financial investigators available from the start of investigations into modern slavery cases?

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC)

- What consideration has been given to the recommendations made in the 2019 Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act which have not been implemented, including the recommendation that the IASC should not be in the Home Office?

I would be grateful for a response to these questions by 22 April.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Dame Karen Bradley MP
Chair of the Home Affairs Committee