



Alexander Murray
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Lord Alton of Liverpool
Chair, Joint Committee on Human Rights
[Delivered by Email]

Thursday 26th June 2025

Dear Lord Alton,

Forced Labour in UK Supply Chains: Response to letter dated 13 June 2025

Thank you for your letter dated 13th June 2025. You asked for the National Crime Agency's (NCA) views on the rebuttable presumption established under the US Government's Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act (UFLPA). You specifically asked for the NCA's opinion on how this presumption might impact the work of the NCA if it were introduced in the UK and whether it would make it less burdensome for the NCA to seize and confiscate suspect goods.

My understanding is that the UFPLA came into force in June 2022 with the aim of preventing goods made with forced labour in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) from entering the US. The rebuttable presumption is a legal assumption that goods made wholly or in part in the XUAR are presumed to be made with forced labour and so therefore prohibited from import into the US.

The UK already prohibits the import of goods made with forced labour but the burden of proof lies with law enforcement to prove that forced labour has occurred. Under the UFPLA the burden of proof lies with importers to rebut the presumption that forced labour has occurred.

I am grateful for the opportunity to comment on this important subject. However, I am mindful that given the lack of precedent operations in relation to this type of offending the NCA is not in a position to draw on experience and so comment with authority. This is exacerbated by the lack of clarity as to how such a legal mechanism would operate in the UK and what role the NCA would have in relation to it. As a non-ministerial department the NCA would of course work with the relevant government policy owners and partner agencies in assessing more detailed proposals.



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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Murray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alexander Murray
Director, NCA Threat Leadership

Protecting the public from serious and organised crime

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