



**CHELMSFORD
AGAINST SLAVERY
PARTNERSHIP**

Legislation, Statutory Updates and Resources

Contents

- 1. Legislation**
- 2. Recent Changes in Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance**
- 3. Supporting Statutory Resources and Reports**

1. Legislation

[Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)

[Care Act 2014](#)

[Children Act 1989](#)

[Children and Social Work Act 2017](#)

[Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings](#)

[Housing Act 1996](#)

[Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#)

[Illegal Migration Act 2023](#)

[Immigration Act 2016](#)

[Immigration, Nationality and Asylum Act 2019](#)

[Nationalities and Borders Act 2022](#)

[Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)

[United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#)

[Homeless Code of Guidance for Local Authorities](#)

Chapter 25 relates to Local Authorities providing services to victims of modern slavery.

[Annex F within The Modern Slavery Act](#) and provision of accommodation

2. Recent Changes in Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance

Dec 2023, Updates to Modern Slavery Victim Support and 'Places of Safety' Policies

A commitment was made in December 2021 by former Ministers that all those who receive a positive Conclusive Grounds (CG) decision, and are in need of tailored support, will receive appropriate individualised support for a minimum of 12 months. The Home Office's Modern Slavery Unit have since reviewed the commitment and concluded that the existing needs-based approach already ensures that necessary assistance to victims with a positive Conclusive Grounds decision is available. As such, they will not be moving forward with the previous commitment. Additionally, a 'Places of Safety' support model was considered to provide a safe and secure place for survivors in immediate need. This too is no longer being brought forward due to a lack of available funding. Read the full Home Office newsletter update [here](#).

Oct 2023, Change to the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance

A change to the [Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance](#) was published on Monday 9th October 2023. Following a change in [Allocation of Asylum Accommodation](#) policy, potential victims referred into the National Referral Mechanism can be accommodated at large sites, vessels and room shares prior to a Reasonable Grounds decision. Survivors who have received a positive Reasonable Grounds decision will continue to not be accommodated at these sites.

Oct 2023. The National Referral Mechanism: Webinar for First Responders

The [First Responder Webinar](#) documents recent changes in legislation. In October 2023, the Human Trafficking Foundation held an online conference for over 700 First Responders across the UK, which took an in-depth look at what makes a good NRM referral and how the decisions are made, explored how to take a trauma-informed approach to making a referral, and took a look at the importance of partnership working.

Oct 2023, [Government County Lines Guidance](#) Update

The government guidelines for frontline professionals on dealing with criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults across county lines has been updated. The guidance outlines the definition of county lines, signs to look for in potential victims and what to do about it.

June 2023

Further to a [judicial review challenge](#) brought by two survivors and solicitors at Duncan Lewis, the Home Office has agreed to withdraw, reconsider and revise parts of the Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance which required 'objective' evidence to receive a positive reasonable grounds decision in the National Referral Mechanism.

The Secretary of State has now agreed to withdraw the Guidance and has:

- Stated it is her intention to devise and publish new Guidance by 10 July
- Stated that in the interim period until publication, no negative reasonable grounds decisions will be made

May 2023 Updates to Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance

The [gov.uk guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance) on identifying and supporting survivors of modern slavery has been updated.

- Guidance has been added to chapter 9 on how child victims of modern slavery, supported by local authorities through the Care Act, can transition into Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC) support when they become an adult.
- Reference to HM Prison and Probation Service and HM Prison Service modern slavery guidance for staff and prisoners has been added to Chapter 4.
- Annex F has been updated to:
 - Clarify that those in emergency pre-Reasonable Grounds accommodation are not eligible to receive the Recovery Rate, until a positive Reasonable Grounds decision is made.
 - Give an overview of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection regime of the MSVCC; and
 - Explain how the MSVCC provides accommodation to eligible victims seeking bail from prison.
- All references to the 'Scottish Guardianship Service' have been updated to 'Independent Child Trafficking Guardians Service' following a change of service in Scotland.
- Refer to the Human Trafficking Foundation's [briefing](#) regarding the impact of the Nationality and Borders Act and Changes to the Reasonable Grounds Threshold

3. Supporting Statutory Resources and Reports

Local Government Association

[Council guide to tackling modern slavery](#)

[Tackling modern slavery in supply chains](#)

[Councillor Guide to tackling modern slavery](#)

[Supporting modern slavery victims: guidance and good practice for council homelessness services](#)

[Establishing modern slavery risk assessment and due diligence in Adult Social Care: A commissioning officer's guide](#)

[Tackling labour abuse and modern slavery in the hand car wash sector](#)

[Tackling modern slavery in Government Supply Chains](#)

[Council modern slavery maturity matrix](#)

Home Office [National Enforcement Powers Guide](#)

The Shiva Foundation [A Self-Assessment Scorecard and Supporting Guidance for Local Authorities](#)

Dec 2023 Home Affairs Committee Report on Human Trafficking

The Home Affairs Committee was appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Home Office and its associated public bodies. This report details the findings of their first inquiry, and concludes that improvement is required in utilising sanctions for non-compliance in publication of businesses' supply chain transparency statements. It also argues that addressing human trafficking is no longer a priority for the UK government, with irregular migration policies instead taking priority, and support for UK survivors is suffering consequently. Read the report in full [here](#).

Sept 2023 Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre Explainer: The Illegal Migration Act Modern Slavery Provisions

The Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre (MSPEC) have released an updated version of its Explainer which aims to answer common questions about the modern slavery provisions in the Illegal Migration Act. It is based on a rapid assessment of what is known from research, evidence and data about the rationale for the modern slavery provisions and their potential implications and a legal analysis of the human rights compatibility of the Act's modern slavery provisions. Read the updated report [here](#).

Oct 2023, National Referral Mechanism Statistics Released for Quarters 2 and 3

The Government has published the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) statistics for the second and third quarters of 2023, covering April to June and July-September. For the first time, reconsideration request details have been published with the statistics, as has an analysis of the devolved decision making pilot for children. Read the statistics for Q2 [here](#) and Q3 [here](#).

Dec 2023, MSOIC Unit Investigations Overview

The Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit have published their Non-LEA Overview of Live Modern Slavery Investigations in UK Policing. is produced to help inform

the work that non-law enforcement agencies are doing in response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The document covers data for December 2023. Access [here](#).

Slavery and Trafficking Risks and Prevention Orders (STROs and STPOs) Report

The University of Nottingham Rights Lab has published a Background Review of the history and use of slavery and trafficking Risk and Prevention Orders. The Background Review offers an introduction to STROs and STPOs within the relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks, discusses their implementation and enforcement to date, and considers implications and lessons learned. Read the full report [here](#).

Shiva Foundation Report: Understanding the Potential of Licensing Frameworks and Teams to Tackle Modern Slavery in the UK

The Shiva Foundation have released a report which makes recommendations for strengthening statutory guidance, and explores the opportunities for licensing authorities and practitioners to utilise tools at their disposal to enhance local anti-modern slavery responses. The report outlines: how national licensing guidance can be strengthened to tackle modern slavery across the UK, how councils can update local licensing policies to directly address modern slavery and how local licensing teams can practically confront modern slavery in their daily operations. Download the report [here](#).

Council of Europe Report: Non-Punishment of Victims/Survivors of Human Trafficking in Practice: A Case Study of the United Kingdom

A new Council of Europe/GRETA study on the operationalization of the non-punishment principle provides a comprehensive analysis of this decision and considers how the UK Government sought to comply with the principle in domestic law and policy, following the ECHR judgment in VCL vs UK. It also considers the potential implications of these developments for the interpretation and application of the non-punishment principle in other states. Read the full study [here](#).