

News story: Modern Slavery Taskforce agrees new measures to support victims

Three new measures to improve the way in which victims of modern slavery are identified and supported have been announced, following a meeting of the Prime Minister's Modern Slavery Taskforce on Monday 16 October 2017.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the system by which victims of modern slavery are identified and provided with support, will be reformed to improve both the decision-making process and support offered.

The first measures to be announced, as part of a broader package of reforms which will be announced in due course, include:

- a single, expert unit to be created in the Home Office to handle all cases referred from front line staff and to make decisions about whether somebody is a victim of modern slavery, this will replace the current case management units in the National Crime Agency and UK Visas and Immigration, and will be completely separate from the immigration system
- an independent panel of experts to review all negative decisions, adding significantly to the scrutiny such cases currently receive
- a new digital system to support the NRM process, making it easier for those on the front line to refer victims for support and enabling data to be captured and analysed to better aid prevention and law enforcement

Several of the reform proposals have been shaped and influenced by the findings of a pilot scheme testing a new approach to the NRM process, and in consultation with the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

The new measures were agreed at a taskforce meeting today, chaired by Home Secretary Amber Rudd.

The Home Secretary said:

The taskforce agreed that reform of the NRM was essential to make sure the best interest of victims is at its heart. Those people who are dealing with victims on a daily basis must continue to be properly trained and have access to the right information to provide high-quality support tailored to the unique needs of victims to help them begin to rebuild their lives.

Members of the taskforce are absolutely determined to deliver a more efficient decision-making process, with robust quality assurance, and for all partners to keep working together to protect victims and pursue offenders. The UK has led the world in exposing and fighting modern slavery and, as our understanding of its scale and nature evolves, so must our response.

Anti-Slavery Commissioner Kevin Hyland OBE said:

Reforming support for victims of modern slavery has been a top priority for me as the UK's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. I have previously shared recommendations with the government to address gaps in support for victims, so I am extremely pleased that we have been able to rectify shortcomings, develop solutions and commit to improve the lives of those who have suffered.

This is a significant step forward in the fight against modern slavery and reflects the important work of the Prime Minister's Modern Slavery Taskforce and the commitment of the Home Secretary.

Director of the National Crime Agency's Vulnerabilities Command, Will Kerr, said:

We welcome the review and digital streamlining of the NRM, and also the introduction of a dedicated unit to examine referrals with the appropriate level of expertise. These developments will enhance the UK's ability to identify, safeguard and support potential victims of trafficking and slavery. For example, in May and June of this year alone, there were 111 arrests and 130 potential victims identified in the UK; the NCA will continue to lead and co-ordinate UK law enforcement activity to disrupt traffickers and prevent the most vulnerable being exploited for profit.

The Prime Minister's taskforce brings together ministers from relevant government departments, senior police officers, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, the heads of intelligence agencies and key practitioners. It was established in September 2016 and aims to do more to bring perpetrators to justice and to support victims both domestically and overseas.

Subject to discussions in the taskforce, the Prime Minister will bring forward more detailed reform plans in due course.

[News story: Christine Tacon introduces mini GCA survey](#)

[unable to retrieve full-text content]Christine Tacon explains the GCA mini survey and invites groceries suppliers to participate before the 31st October deadline

[Press release: Smoother A66 journeys in £800,000 resurfacing project](#)

Drivers are to benefit from smoother journeys along a 1½ mile section of the A66 between North Stainmore and Brough in Cumbria – thanks to an £800,000 Highways England resurfacing project.

The overnight work to resurface the westbound carriageway between Hardhills and Augill junctions, will start on Monday (23 October) and is scheduled to take about a month.

Highways England project manager Nichola Capstick said:

We'll be partially reconstructing sections of the foundation of the road and then resurfacing both lanes of the westbound carriageway. Studs and road markings will also be renewed.

While most of the work will be done using single lane closures we will need to close the westbound carriageway overnight at weekends to do the reconstruction work safely. Clearly-signed diversions will be in place.

Drivers are being advised that full westbound carriageway closures will be in place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights between 8pm and 6am each night otherwise single lane closures will be used with a 40mph speed limit operating around the clock.

When the westbound carriageway is closed drivers will need to use the A1 and A69 to get to the M6.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

[News story: CT Policing supports new awards](#)

Counter Terrorism Policing is supporting the inaugural Counter Terrorism Awards, which will take place next Spring.

The competition is designed to recognise the efforts of both public and private sector organisations in helping tackle terrorism and keep the public safe.

There are a number of categories which will focus on innovation and collaborative working. NaCTSO is keen to encourage this work as part of its remit to promote and develop the best possible protective security arrangements for organisations operating in the UK and overseas.

Officers from National Counter Terrorism policing will be entering projects of their own and assisting with the judging of other categories.

The award ceremony, organised by Counter Terror Business Magazine, will take place in London on 6 March 2018, to coincide with the Security and Counter Terror Expo staged at London's Olympia.

Anyone wanting more information should visit <http://awards.counterterrorbusiness.com/>.

[News story: Public bodies band together on new mobile voice and data procurement](#)

Crown Commercial Service (CCS) is harnessing the buying power of the public sector to reduce the cost to the public purse of purchasing mobile voice and data services.

[Expressions of interest](#) are now being taken from public sector organisations who want to take part in this latest bulk buying project.

The competition will be awarded in March 2018, with customer requirements being gathered between now and December.

The winning supplier will provide mobile voice and data services to the public sector at the most competitive price available – supporting the provision of efficient, effective public services that meet the needs of

citizens.

The most recent exercises of its kind organised by CCS have saved customers, including local authorities and NHS trusts, on average 60% compared to their previous bills. The more organisations that take part, the greater the benefits will be.

Niall Quinn, Director of Technology Strategic Category said:

I'd encourage all public sector organisations who are looking to purchase mobile voice and data services to consider joining this aggregation. These projects have a great track record of utilising the buying power of the public sector to leverage the best deals from suppliers, ensuring that public bodies can deliver efficient public services.

Each participating customer will sign their own individual contract with the winning supplier.

How it works

The project is a National Further Competition completed under Lot 6 of CCS's Network Services framework. The chosen supplier will be one of those currently appointed to this Lot.

It will put in place a mobile voice and data services contract offering a high level of flexibility by:

- Establishing a zero line rental model for basic connections, avoiding customers incurring costs from unused lines
- Structuring services as 'bolt-ons' which can be added to the basic connection, enabling packages to be built to customer specifications
- 30-day terms for 'bolt-ons' to enable customers to change their mix of services during the contract term

Find out more

If you are interested in getting involved please [get in touch](#) – simply tick the aggregation box and quote NFC81.

CCS's last competition [saved 17 customers over £2.7 million](#).