



DATE 01 December 2023

Dear Stakeholder,

This newsletter provides an update on:

- [Eleanor Lyons appointed as new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner](#)
- [Pre-Reasonable Grounds decision emergency accommodation](#)
- [Market engagement for potential grant on reintegration](#)
- [Updates to modern slavery victims support policy](#)

## Eleanor Lyons appointed as new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC)

The Home Secretary recently appointed a new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC), which was announced on 11th October. Eleanor Lyons, who is currently Deputy Children's Commissioner, is due to take up post on 11th December.

The unique role was established by the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and is independent of government. The role of the Commissioner is to work collaboratively with the government and its partners to ensure modern slavery is effectively tackled in the UK, as well as working with international partners to promote best practice.

More information on the appointment can be found here - [Home Secretary announces new Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Pre-Reasonable Grounds decision emergency accommodation

On 09 October 2023, the [Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance](#) was updated to explain the types of accommodation that are generally suitable for individuals referred to the National Referral Mechanism prior to a Reasonable Grounds decision and to clarify the circumstances in which pre-Reasonable Grounds emergency accommodation will be provided by the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract.

## Market engagement for potential grant on reintegration

The Home Office is considering funding a grant seeking to improve voluntary return and reintegration outcomes for survivors of modern slavery.

This is a market engagement exercise to enable the Home Office to identify organisations that are best able to deliver the outcomes of this potential grant funding.

If your organisation would be interested in bidding if we did go out for a competition for this grant, please respond to our short survey by Tuesday 5 December at 12.00 GMT.

Further details on the potential grant and the link to the survey are available from: <https://find-government-grants.service.gov.uk/grants/improving-reintegration-outcomes-for-survivors-of-modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking-1>

## Updates to modern slavery victim support policy

12 months of support

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.

We have carefully reviewed the commitment and concluded that the existing needs-based approach already ensures that necessary assistance to victims with a positive CG decision is available. We will not be moving forward with the previous commitment.

The Recovery Needs Assessment (RNA) ensures that Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC) support is available to victims with a positive CG decision for the necessary length of time. If support following a positive CG decision is needed for 12 months, or longer, the victim will receive it through their RNA; the MSVCC is currently supporting victims who have been in the RNA process for over 12 months.

Confirmed victims may also qualify for leave to remain after their CG decision for periods of up to 12 months to pursue a compensation claim, or up to 30 months to pursue a criminal case against their trafficker(s) or where they have recovery needs that can only be met in the UK (see [Temporary Permission to Stay for Victims of Human Trafficking or Slavery guidance published in January](#)).

Providing 12 months of support outright to all victims with a positive CG decision where it is not necessary would risk creating a longer-term dependency on the NRM, counter to its purpose to provide a short-term bridge to wider state services and specialist support, or where applicable, to help a victim return home, or to a safe third country.

A 'places of safety' support model

Within the current MSVCC a 'places of safety' support model to provide a safe and secure place for individuals rescued by a law enforcement officer from an immediate situation of exploitation was considered as an optional service.

We have reviewed its viability and funding is unavailable to introduce and efficiently implement this new service and therefore, we are not moving forward with a 'places of safety' support model within the current MSVCC contract.

We remain focused on delivering the existing £379m Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract service as smoothly as possible for victims, and to working with First Responders to ensure those referred to the NRM understand the support and protection that is available.

We are continuing to progress policy development on the future adult victim support model for victims in England and Wales? through a multidisciplinary project team who are exploring options for a new model and accompanying policy.

Best wishes,

**Modern Slavery Unit**