



Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking
9 September 2013
Minutes

Attendees:	
Mark Harper MP	Home Office – <i>Chair</i>
Oliver Heald QC MP	Solicitor General
Jo Swinson MP	Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
David Mundell MP	Scotland Office
Helen Grant MP	Ministry of Justice
Edward Timpson MP	Department for Education
Helen Grant MP	Ministry of Justice
Hugo Swire MP	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Lynne Featherstone MP	Department for International Development
Mark Hoban MP	Department for Work and Pensions
Baroness Randerson	Wales Office
Baroness Hanham	Department for Communities and Local Government
David Ford MLA	Northern Ireland Executive
Liam Vernon	UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC)
Scottish Government Official	for Kenny MacAskill MSP
Stephen Chapman	for Lesley Griffiths AM
Andrew Wallis	Chair, Joint Strategic Group
Apologies:	
Anna Soubry MP	Department of Health
Jennie Granger	Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs
Kenny MacAskill MSP	Scottish Government
Lesley Griffiths AM	Welsh Assembly Government

<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>1.1. The Chair opened by welcoming Andrew Wallis, attending in his capacity as chair of the Joint Strategic Group, and expressed his ambition that this would offer greater opportunity for exchange of ideas and understanding between the IDMG and civil society groups.</p>	
<p>2. Actions from previous meeting</p> <p>2.1 The Solicitor General noted continuing work between the Crown Prosecution Service and Ministry of Justice to establish a clearer picture of data across prosecution and conviction activity linked to human trafficking.</p>	

<p>3. Analysis of trends in human trafficking</p> <p>3.1 The increase in Albanian nationals referred to the NRM continues to be noticeable. There remains a question about the possibility of abuse amongst some referrals in this group and work is continuing to understand the background to this.</p> <p>3.2 England remains the location in which the majority (90%) of victims are identified. The smaller proportions across the rest of the UK make it particularly challenging to identify trends in those countries – the impact of a single operation that identified a number of Philippine nationals, on statistics in Scotland and Northern Ireland, was highlighted as an example of this.</p> <p>3.3 It remains the case that EEA nationals are marginally more successful at conclusive grounds stage than non-EEA nationals largely because the latter group are referred outside the immediate circumstances of their exploitation and it can be more difficult to gather all the evidence for a final conclusive grounds decision.</p>	
<p>4. IDMG Report</p> <p>4.1 The Group welcomed the draft report noting that it was a work in progress and a more focused update on activity than the comprehensive statement of the first report.</p> <p>4.2 Noted that whilst Northern Ireland and Scottish data is presented separately on prosecutions Welsh data is combined with English, could this be separated.</p> <p>4.3 The rise in child sexual exploitation was discussed and the possible linkages with wider work on sexual violence and child exploitation noted. This information was being fed into the working group led by Damien Green and would be reflected in the report.</p> <p>4.4 The need to ensure that the language of the report was clear and accessible for its audience was noted and the use of good case studies encouraged.</p> <p>4.5 It was suggested that a short summary to summarise work against previous actions and set out new actions would be beneficial.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>AGO, MOJ and Home Office to investigate possibility of separating England and Wales statistics on prosecutions.</p> <p>Home Office to circulate further versions to officials for further comments and clearance.</p>
<p>5. Modern Slavery Bill</p> <p>5.1 The Chair set out the intention to take further action in this area through legislation.</p> <p>5.2 Next parliamentary session would be short so it was important that a Bill be focused and realistic. Should not become bogged down in a wider range of issues that extended its scope and would be challenging to deliver in terms of parliamentary time. Need to recognise that if a small focused Bill could not be developed then the risk</p>	<p>Action:</p> <p>Officials to continue policy development discussions including need to work closely on issues touching the devolved</p>

<p>would be that no Bill would be progressed.</p> <p>5.3 Members welcomed initial proposals noting that further assessment of their wider impact would need to take place.</p> <p>5.4 Engagement with business on this issue was particularly welcome and it would be vitally important that any proposals in this area were reasoned and balanced, not placing undue burdens on the sector.</p> <p>5.5 Members noted the desirability of developing measures that might accommodate the whole of the UK and that close working should continue to ensure issues of devolution were taken into account.</p> <p>5.6 The Chair of the JSG noted that he was seeking views from NGO members of that group with a view to supporting development of the Bill.</p>	<p>administrations.</p>
<p>6. China</p> <p>6.1 China is a top source country for both Northern Ireland and Scotland. In Northern Ireland there is particular involvement in the cannabis farming industry.</p> <p>6.2 Drivers for trafficking included the opening up of the Chinese economy, the attraction of established communities in both Scotland and Ireland, and challenges around the Common Travel Area.</p> <p>6.3 The UKHTC reported a renewed appetite from the Chinese Government to engage with Serious Organised Crime Agency (NCA) and Risk and Liaison Overseas Network representatives, in Beijing, on human trafficking. This could complement plans amongst European operational partners to develop a project focused on China.</p> <p>6.4 The possibility of closer working with the Republic or Ireland was discussed in the context of visa management and border crossing.</p> <p>6.5 The FCO noted that they were in the process of developing a cross government China strategy on trafficking human beings.</p>	
<p>7. Activity Update</p> <p>7.1 The chair of the JSG updated on the work of the recently established sub-groups noting their current work plans and activity being taken forward.</p> <p>7.2 The upcoming FCO conference on business and human rights, taking place on 10 October was noted as part of the wider range of cross government activities taking place to mark anti slavery day on 18 October.</p> <p>7.3 A further meeting of the group, on 17 October was noted.</p>	