



Department of  
**Justice**

An Roinn Dí agus Cirt  
Máinnystrie O tha Laa



**ORGANISED  
CRIME**  
TASK FORCE

# **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy 2021-2022**

## **Progress Report**

**Date: October 22**

## Background

In May 2021, the Justice Minister, Naomi Long, published the 2021/2022 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy for Northern Ireland.

The strategy builds on the significant progress made through previous strategies and action plans to address this despicable and harmful form of criminality.

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 (the 2015 Act) requires the strategy to cover a number of specific areas in particular-

- Arrangements for co-operation between relevant organisations in dealing with relevant offences or the victims of such offences.
- Provision as to the training and equipment of those involved in investigating or prosecuting relevant offences or dealing with the victims of such offences.
- Provisions aimed at raising awareness of the rights and entitlements of victims of such offences.

Drawing together activity under three complementary themes of pursuing offenders, protecting victims and preventing modern slavery and human trafficking in all its forms, it represents a comprehensive, flexible and victim centred response to:

- Enhance the operational response to **pursue** and disrupt offenders ensuring they are brought to justice;
- Ensure that all victims of modern slavery and human trafficking are provided with an adequate level of **protection** and support; and
- Support through engagement, training and awareness raising across key services, public and private sector organisations and the wider public the **prevention** of modern slavery and human trafficking.

This report considers each of the commitments in the strategy and provides an update on progress. It sets out what has been achieved, which commitments are on track to be delivered or those that will be carried forward into a new longer term Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy. This has been set out in the tables below.

## Pursue: Detecting, investigating, disrupting, and prosecuting modern slavery offenders.

Objectives	Commitments	Progress Update	RAG Status
<p><b>Objective 2.1.1</b> – To ensure that modern slavery legislation is used effectively and remains relevant and fit for purpose.</p>	<p>Ongoing use of multi-agency tools, sanctions and the regulatory regime to disrupt offenders on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>PSNI has carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 128 screening assessments (a process to safeguard victims through early recognition and subsequent intervention).</li> <li>- 12 Warrant Searches and</li> <li>- 75 safeguarding visits/non-warrant operations. (34 of these safeguarding visits were conducted with partner agencies such as the GLAA (Gangmaster Labour Abuse Authority), HOIE (Home Office Immigration Enforcement), HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) and UKBF (UK Border Force) and the Maritime and Coast Guard Agency.</li> </ul> <p>PSNI arrested 6 individuals for modern slavery/human trafficking offences and 1 for related offences. In addition to the above a total of 11 males have been interviewed for the offences of paying for sexual services.</p> <p>PSNI charged 2 people with modern slavery and human trafficking offences and 3 people have been reported to the PPS for modern slavery and human trafficking offences. Two convictions were made during the reporting period. One involved a local man convicted of the sexual trafficking and exploitation of a number of local women, the other was the first ever conviction for domestic servitude in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>The PSNI applied to the court for Slavery and Trafficking Prevention orders for 3 individuals following conviction.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Development of legislative options, if required.</p>	<p>Following the ruling of the ECHR with regards to VCL and AN v UK, the Home Office developed a working plan on measures to be incorporated into training and guidance to ensure that MSHT legislation is effectively updated. DoJ worked collaboratively with PSNI and PPS to ensure that guidance and training considered the outcome of this ruling in preparation for future investigations.</p> <p>DoJ launched a public consultation to consider the introduction of Slavery Trafficking Risk Orders (STROs), the commencement of Duty to Notify and additional powers regarding</p>	<p>This commitment is on track and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>

		<p>warrants and the ability to search a person during a search of premises linked to breaches of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking legislation.</p> <p>In the previous year, DoJ consulted on proposed measures to strengthen Transparency in Supply Chains (TISC) led by the Home Office but which will apply to Northern Ireland. A summarised response to the public consultation was published and views shared with the Home Office to help shape proposed changes to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act.</p> <p>The Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act 2022 (the 2022 Act) amends the requirement in the 2015 Act to publish a Modern Slavery Strategy from a one year to 3-year strategy whilst also putting on a statutory footing the provision of support to victims of forced labour. Provision of support post NRM may also be provided for a period of up to 12 months or longer as the Department deems necessary.</p> <p>With the passing of the 2022 Act, Class A drugs were also added to Section 22 defence to mirror that of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, this will be kept under review.</p>	
	<p>Following the outcome of consultation, and subject to the legislative process, progress amendments to section 12 (requirement for annual report) and section 18 [support for victims of forced labour] of the Modern Slavery legislation.</p>	<p>Section 23 of the 2022 Act amended the requirement to publish a strategy on a yearly basis under section 12 of the 2015 Act to the provision of a strategy every three years.</p> <p>Under section 21 of the 2022 Act support for victims of slavery, servitude or forced/compulsory labour has now been placed under a statutory footing - section 17(1) of the 2015 Act where a conclusive determination has been made that the person is a victim of modern slavery or human trafficking.</p> <p>Section 21 of the 2022 Act also extends the provision of support for a victim of slavery or trafficking under section 18 of the 2015 Act up to a period of 12 months or longer than 12 months, as the Department deems necessary.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met following the introduction of the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act 2022.</p>

	<p>Engage with key stakeholders to consider the potential benefits and implications of introducing Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders in Northern Ireland based on evidence and experience from other jurisdictions.</p>	<p>On the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the Justice Minister launched a 12-week public consultation to consider the potential benefits and implications of Slavery and Trafficking Risk Orders. DOJ officials have also engaged with members of the OCTF MSHT sub group and NGO Engagement group to consider views on STROs. Evidence and experience from other jurisdictions has been considered.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Scope the need for legislation to require jury directions to be given in modern slavery and human trafficking cases.</p>	<p>A new policy for prosecuting cases on MSHT was published by PPS in October 2021 and full training has been provided to PPS prosecutor, and prosecuting counsel, a scoping exercise to consider the need for legislation to require jury directions to be given in modern slavery and human trafficking cases is an ongoing commitment.</p>	<p>The commitment for jury directions will be taken forward in the forthcoming Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy.</p>
	<p>As part of the development of a longer term Modern Slavery Strategy, review the effectiveness of the Section 22 defence to protect vulnerable victims, taking account the related reviews and experiences of this</p>	<p>Some preparatory work has been undertaken to review the section 22 defence but this commitment will be carried over into the new longer-term strategy. Section 22 of the 2022 Act extends the defence in section 22 of the 2015 Act to a person over the age of 21 found in possession of Class A drugs who has been compelled to carry out the offence and the compulsion is attributable to slavery or exploitation.</p>	<p>This commitment will be taken forward; this will also be informed by a review that is ongoing regarding the equivalent section 45 in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 in E&amp;W.</p>

	issue elsewhere in the UK.		
<p><b>Objective 2.1.2</b> – To ensure an effective operational response.</p>	<p>Maintain and further enhance collaboration and partnership working to ensure an effective and proactive multi-agency response.</p>	<p>Members of the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking subgroup of the OCTF meet on a quarterly basis to influence and help shape policy, programmes and strategies, facilitate engagement, share knowledge/expertise, and support collaborative work through the development and evolution of partnerships to combat the ever-changing landscape of modern slavery and human trafficking. The MSHT Group has a key role in helping to deliver the strategic commitments and raising public awareness of MSHT.</p> <p>Members of the NGO MSHT Engagement Group also meet on a quarterly basis. The main purpose of this group is to formalise the engagement between DoJ, PSNI, Health and Social Services, relevant statutory bodies and non-government organisations and to help maximise our collective efforts to address modern slavery and human trafficking, including the trafficking of children.</p> <p>In the last financial year, the PSNI has carried out 34 safeguarding visits with partner agencies such as the GLAA, HOIE, HMRC and UKBF.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Facilitate early engagement between PPS and law enforcement on cases.</p>	<p>PSNI and PPS have established and maintain appropriate measures to engage at an early stage and share information in relation to MSHT. PPS and PSNI are members of the OCTF MSHT sub group where updates are shared on current progress in relation to prosecution and conviction rates.</p> <p>PPS published a new policy for prosecuting cases of MSHT in October 2021. Full training on the policy has been provided to PPS prosecutors and prosecuting counsel. PPS also arranged and delivered cultural awareness/competence training to specialist prosecutors and PSNI colleagues in March 2022.</p>	<p>This commitment is on track and will continue as an ongoing commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Ensure that partners use the full range of confiscation and forfeiture powers under the 2015 Act, POCA 2002</p>	<p>Enforcement partners continue to use the full range of confiscation and forfeiture powers to disrupt organised crime gangs who take advantage of and exploit the most vulnerable in the society for their own personal gain.</p> <p>Following work by DOJ and Home Office to prepare commencement legislation and to publish statutory Codes of Practice providing guidance on the operational application of the new powers, the relevant provisions of the 2017 Act were brought into operation on 28 June 2021.</p>	<p>The commitment for new CFA powers has been met for 21/22. Fully utilising confiscation and asset recovery powers will</p>

	<p>and the Criminal Finances Act 2017.</p>	<p>The PSNI MSHTU have trained two Financial Intelligence Officers. If an individual is arrested/charged with MSHT offences then consideration will be given to investigating them for money laundering offences. A money laundering investigation is commenced alongside MSHT investigations where appropriate.</p>	<p>continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Continue to draw on available resources for effective international collaboration, including Joint Investigation Teams and alternative mechanisms for international co-operation including Europol information exchange.</p>	<p>PSNI MSHTU are currently involved in the I-leap Pilot. This is an app designed by the Home Office being rolled out nationally, which can be accessed from PSNI mobile devices that enables direct/live access to an Interpol Data base. In the last financial year, the PSNI carried out 34 safeguarding visits with partner agencies such as the GLAA, HOIE, HMRC and UKBF.</p> <p>The PSNI and the Romanian authorities have an ongoing JIT (Joint investigation Team). This is a proactive investigation into Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation involving a Romanian OCG operating in Northern Ireland, which has been ongoing since 2019. A JIT was signed on December 10th 2020 with Romanian law enforcement resulting in a Day of Action on 17th June 2021 in both Romania and NI. 2 arrests were made in NI and 9 in in Romania. 8 of the 11 were charged with a variety of HT offences. In November 2021 a further male was also arrested in NI for Human Trafficking, Controlling Prostitution and Money Laundering offences. The JIT was extended in October 2021 for a further 6 months to facilitate the navigation of evidence sharing between jurisdictions.</p> <p>The PSNI MSHTU continue to regularly use the Europol platform Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) to exchange operational and strategic crime related information with Europol Liaison Officers, analysts and experts and other Member States.</p> <p>DoJ has ongoing engagement with colleagues in the Department of Justice in Ireland to discuss any emerging issues or developments regarding the movement of people who may be at risk of modern slavery and human trafficking from the south to the north and vice versa.</p> <p>Officers from An Garda Síochána regularly attend the OCTF sub group meetings to discuss emerging threats and cases in Ireland to ensure there is effective co-operation and collaboration in response to ongoing and emerging threats. Human trafficking is one</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>

		<p>of the six priority areas of the Joint Agency Taskforce (JATF), this close co-operation is essential in tackling organised cross border criminality in all its forms.</p>	
	<p>Continue to develop cyber capabilities to address modern slavery online.</p>	<p>In April 2022, the PSNI MSHTU trained officers in the use of a cloud-based, purpose-built information discovery tool utilizing advanced AI technology to detect and identify patterns in online data that assist law enforcement in disrupting systemic trafficking and safeguarding victims. The tool contains a near real-time archive of public, open web records from Adult Service Websites, including advertisements and customer reviews. Among other things, these sites are hubs for the marketing of individuals who are being trafficked and sexually exploited.</p> <p>PSNI has also launched a series of apps for front line officers utilising new technology to improve and enhance the process for preparing and submitting screening reports in real time.</p> <p>The evolution of cyber capabilities will assist in the response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in today's digital world. This commitment in 2021/22 strategy has been met but will continue to be included in the forthcoming strategy to ensure that all digitally enabled criminality linked to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking can be identified and action taken at the earliest stage to pursue offenders and protect &amp; support victims.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Continue development of links with GLAA.</p>	<p>Officers from the GLAA regularly attend the OCTF sub group where they share knowledge/expertise whilst supporting collaborative work to combat the ever-changing landscape of modern slavery and human trafficking and improve public awareness of MSHT.</p> <p>The GLAA has an important role in protecting vulnerable and exploited workers, investigating reports of worker exploitation and illegal activity such as tax evasion and health and safety non-compliance and negligence. In Northern Ireland, forced and bonded labour and human trafficking offences are investigated by the PSNI at present and the GLAA assist where an offence has been committed in the regulated industry sectors.</p> <p>While strong links have been developed with GLAA, it is important to ensure that these links are supported and maintained.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>



	<p>Consider the need for further information sharing agreements with other government departments or agencies.</p>	<p>The OCTF Sub Group and the NGO MSHT Group provide important forums to share information between departments, agencies, and non-statutory partners on the threat and harms of MSHT including the trafficking of children.</p> <p>Officials from the MSHT branch also work closely with other departments and agencies in developing and evaluating policies, guidance and in considering changes to existing legislation.</p> <p>There is ongoing engagement with the Home Office in relation to the NRM process and in relation to legislative developments such as measures to strengthen transparency in supply chains under section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.</p>	<p>This commitment is on track and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Develop a longer-term approach to tackling modern slavery and human trafficking in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>In April 2022, the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act received Royal Assent. Section 23 of the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act 2022 amended the requirement to publish a strategy on a yearly basis to the provision of a strategy every three years. Moving to a longer-term strategy will enable a comprehensive framework for both short term and long-term policy priorities, actions and measurable outcomes to be developed. Engagement and partnership working with stakeholders will continue to underpin the development and delivery of the longer-term approach to MSHT.</p>	<p>Commitment met following the introduction of the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act NI 2022.</p> <p>Longer-term strategy will be subject to public consultation.</p>
	<p>Agree and implement the internal pathway guidance for roll out across the five HSS Trusts.</p>	<p>Delivery of a regional dedicated pathway service is an ongoing commitment; interim arrangements are being developed to ensure a regionally co-ordinated approach. This commitment will be carried forward into the longer-term three-year strategy.</p>	<p>This commitment will be taken forward in the forthcoming Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Strategy.</p>

	Commence a review of the role of the District Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Single Points.	PSNI has undertaken a review and established single points of contact within each of the districts in Northern Ireland.	This commitment has been met.
	Review and update guidance on the use of interpreting and translating services to include potential issues related to ethnic culture and religious sensitivity issues.	Training on modern slavery and human trafficking for PSNI officers is available through the e-learning NCALT Modern Slavery Module. This training is provided to all new recruits and new to role detectives on Modern Slavery. The module was updated last year to include the use of interpreting and translating services including and taking into consideration ethnic, culture and religious sensitivity issues.	This commitment has been met.
<b>Objective 2.1.3</b> – To ensure effective development, learning and identification of best practice across the criminal justice system.	Ensure ongoing learning and development opportunities.	<p>PSNI provide MSHT training for all PSNI officers through the eLearning National Centre for Applied Learning Technologies (NCALT) Modern Slavery module. The MSHT Unit deliver training to all new PSNI recruits and new to role detectives on Modern Slavery. PSNI have also attended a ‘train the trainer’ course on MSHT hosted by the College of Policing, which will be rolled out throughout the PSNI.</p> <p>Following the outcome of the ECHR review of the VCL and AN v UK case PSNI and PPS has updated its guidance to include reference to this case in the training provided.</p> <p>Following publication of the revised policy on prosecuting cases of MSHT in October 2021 full training was provided to PPS prosecutors and prosecuting counsel. The PPS are members of the UK Prosecuting Authorities Group. As part of this group, the PPS share updates on ongoing cases or where a decision to prosecute has been taken.</p> <p>Following the judgement of VCL and AN, PPS engaged with other prosecuting authorities to establish an action plan to implement the findings, raise awareness of the case and</p>	This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.

		<p>what is expected from investigators and prosecutors as a result of the judgement. Prosecutors have been made aware of this via the provision of training.</p> <p>NIPS provides training on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking to all officers during induction. Awareness sessions covering the National Referral Mechanism have been delivered by the Home Office at all 3 establishments.</p>	
	<p>Ensure ongoing learning from case reviews including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serious Crime Unit case outcome reviews.</li> <li>- Regional Practice Network on Separated Children</li> <li>- Regional Adult Safeguarding Practice Learning Network.</li> </ul>	<p>All MSHT cases are managed through the Serious Crime Unit with senior management oversight at every stage within the PPS. Informal reviews take place throughout the lifetime of the case and at the conclusion. Learning from these cases is shared amongst the small, highly experienced team.</p> <p>Following the judgement of VCL and AN, PPS engaged with other prosecuting authorities to establish an action plan to implement the findings, raise awareness of the case and what is expected from investigators and prosecutors as a result of the judgement. Prosecutors have been made aware of this via the provision of training.</p> <p>Health colleagues meet with the NGO Engagement group on a quarterly basis to inform the assessment of need and support services to separated/unaccompanied children and adults ensuring the development and delivery of safe services.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Ongoing PPS liaison with other organisations regarding best practice including through consideration of cases, best practice and lessons learning at meetings of UK</p>	<p>The PPS are members of the UK Prosecuting Authorities Group. As part of this group, the PPS share updates as appropriate.</p> <p>Following the judgement of VCL and AN, PPS engaged with other prosecuting authorities to establish an action plan to implement the findings, raise awareness of the case and what is expected from investigators and prosecutors as a result of the judgement. Prosecutors have been made aware of this via the provision of training.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>

	Prosecuting Authorities Group.		
	PPS stakeholder events to update stakeholders on work completed and cases ongoing/concluded, and to consult with stakeholders and support services on ideas for consolidating best practice.	PPS are members of the OCTF MSHT sub group where updates on any current prosecution cases are shared. PPS are also members of the North South Support for Victims Project Advisory Group where updates are shared on cases and MSHT policy and practice.	This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.
	Review of counsel utilisation in cases involving modern slavery/human trafficking in order to identify, and take appropriate action to address, the training requirements for counsel, including identification of specialised and general training requirements.	<p>PPS published a new policy for prosecuting cases of MSHT in October 2021 following review.</p> <p>Following the publication of the new policy full training has been provided to PPS prosecutors and prosecuting counsel.</p> <p>PPS has in place specialist prosecutors for cases of MSHT within its Serious Crime Unit.</p> <p>Cultural awareness/competence training was also delivered to specialist prosecutors and PSNI colleagues in March 2022.</p>	This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.
	Work with Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner to identify learning opportunities for	DoJ hosted an IASC visit to NI in November 2021 where Dame Sara Thornton visited a number of projects and met with some of the key MSHT stakeholders. The IASC annual report has been widely circulated and recommendations will be considered in the development of the new 3-year MSHT strategy.	This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming

	stakeholders across the justice system.		strategy when new IASC when appointed.
	Organise an Annual PPS and MSHTU Serious Crime Unit prosecutor workshop to review cases and discuss legislative interpretation and learning.	As a result of COVID, there have been no formal workshops but with the expertise in the area of MSHT concentrated in small, highly experienced teams within both PPS and PSNI there is regular detailed contact between the organisations where cases are discussed and the developments in legislation considered. This in addition to the OCTF sub group and other stakeholder groups where PPS and PSNI are represented.	This commitment was not met in full due to the pandemic. It will not be taken forward in the longer-term strategy in this format; however, continuous professional development is an ongoing commitment.
	Ensure Home Office Immigration Officers based within NIPS deliver training for NIPS staff, as part of initial induction, as well as to specific groups of staff such as Prisoner Development Units, Visits etc.	NIPS provides training on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking to all officers during induction. Awareness sessions covering the National Referral Mechanism have been delivered by the Home Office at all 3 establishments.	This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.

## PROTECT: Reducing the harm caused by modern slavery by improved adult and child victim identification and support.

Objectives	Commitments	Progress Update	RAG Status
<p><b>Objective 2.2.1 –</b> To proactively identify and report adult and child victims of modern slavery.</p>	<p>Ensure effective NRM referrals are made.</p>	<p>A record number of referrals through the NRM process have been made over the past 12-month period. Between 2020 and 2021, referrals have risen by 184% from 128 to 363. This appears to be a continuing trend based on data available to date in 2022. This also means that a record number of potential victims have been receiving support from the contract support organisations.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Ensure that relevant sectors and frontline professionals are equipped with the skills and knowledge to recognise and report suspected cases of modern slavery including through development of a Training Needs Analysis (which will take into consideration feedback provided through the consultation) and delivery of workshops and ‘train the trainer’ material.</p>	<p>Training continues to be delivered to frontline professionals including police, health trust staff, medical students, prison officers. Outreach to other high-risk sectors is ongoing to ensure there is broader awareness in identifying and reporting cases of MSHT.</p> <p>This is very much a partnership approach involving both statutory and non-statutory training partners.</p> <p>DoJ currently exploring options to develop tailored e-learning modules that can be rolled out more widely across a range of sectors.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>

	<p>Ensure clear internal agency pathways for reporting.</p>	<p>Each individual agency is responsible for developing its own pathways and ensure it is fit for purpose. It is essential that this is in place across all First Responder organisations.</p> <p>NIPS provides training on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking to all officers during induction. Awareness sessions covering the National Referral Mechanism have been delivered by the Home Office at all 3 establishments.</p> <p>NIPS has established contacts within the Home Office and PSNI who will advise the NIPS Security teams in the case of foreign nationals arriving in the prison where the person may have been trafficked.</p> <p>NIPS has Home Office Immigration Officers embedded within the establishments who carry out additional induction interviews with foreign nationals for the purpose of establishing how that person entered the UK and if on completion of any prison sentence they would be permitted to remain in the UK. Any relevant disclosures are notified to appropriate personnel and fed back to the Home Office for investigation.</p>	<p>This commitment is on track and will continue as a commitment in the longer-term strategy.</p>
	<p>Promote the Modern Slavery Helpline.</p>	<p>The Modern Slavery Helpline is widely promoted, specifically during Anti-Slavery week in October. On Anti-Slavery Day, a social media campaign was launched sharing information about the signs of modern slavery and human trafficking and where to go for support or to report any suspicions. A number of civic buildings were illuminated to highlight the issue of MSHT by lighting the building up red to mark the day. Staff from the Modern Slavery Branch attended the Balmoral Show where information was available to promote the modern slavery helpline in 2021 and 2022.</p> <p>New DOJ MSHT leaflets were developed and disseminated in 2022 to promote the helpline and provide signposting for help and support and are available in a number of languages. Information on MSHT was also updated on the NI Direct Webpage on MSHT to include accessible links to the leaflets. Information was also made available to Ukrainian Nationals fleeing the conflict in their home country.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Ensure up to date and effective operational guidance in place.</p>	<p>DoJ webpages have been reviewed and updated to ensure latest information and signposting is available. Following a review of the nationalities of victims over the past few years, information leaflets have been developed in a range of languages. The NI Direct page on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking has also been reviewed and updated.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a</p>

		<p>DoJ is represented on a NRM reform group to discuss any potential changes to NRM guidance with Home Office colleagues prior to changes being made.</p> <p>Following the outcome of the ECHR review of the VCL and AN v UK case PSNI and PPS have updated their guidance to include reference to this case and within training provided.</p> <p>Any changes to MSHT legislation will require guidance to be updated so whilst this commitment has been met in the current strategy it will be carried forward as a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>	<p>commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Scope the potential for adding District Council Staff to list of First Responders.</p>	<p>The DoJ carried out a public consultation on the Duty to Notify provisions and whether consideration should take place in adding to the current list of first responders.</p> <p>DoJ officials have engaged with each member of the Safeguarding Network in the 11 district councils to consider how to raise awareness of MSHT.</p> <p>Following any scoping exercise further training and awareness raising will be required for district councils to be enabled to become first responders.</p>	<p>This commitment will be revisited and included in the forthcoming longer-term strategy.</p>
	<p>As part of the development of a longer term Modern Slavery Strategy, scope the potential for Duty to Notify provisions to be provided for in NI, taking into account UK-wide NRM reforms.</p>	<p>DoJ carried out a consultation to consider the commencement of the Duty to Notify provision which has been developed following engagement with officials from England, Wales and Scotland and engagement events with members of the OCTF Modern Slavery sub group and the NGO engagement group.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
<p><b>Objective 2.2.2 – Provide victims of Modern Slavery with appropriate</b></p>	<p>Ensure effective NRM arrangements are in place including through ongoing work led by Home</p>	<p>DoJ officials are members of the Modern Slavery Reference Group who meet on a 3-month basis to discuss updates to the current guidance on the NRM and any proposed changes; PSNI attend as required.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to</p>



and effective support.	Office on an NRM transformation programme.		be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.
	Ensure the provision of support and assistance to victims.	Support and assistance is provided to potential victims of MSHT who consent to enter the National Referral Mechanism. Support and assistance is provided through contracts currently awarded by DoJ to Migrant Help and Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid. Support is provided until the individual receives a decision as to whether or not it has been determined they are a victim of slavery or trafficking. Where a positive conclusive ground decision has been determined, the victim may continue to receive discretionary support, as the Department deems necessary.	This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.
	Ensure the delivery of the support service is in line with agreed KPIs through regular engagement and contract review meetings.	Support contracts are currently delivered by Belfast & Lisburn Women's Aid and Migrant Help, which have seen significant increases in referrals. Annual Reports are submitted and contract review meetings undertaken.	This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.
	Ensure sign posting of non- NRM potential victims to NGOs for appropriate follow-up and support.	DoJ designed and published new MSHT leaflets that contain supporting information for victims, those who have received a negative CG decision as well as those who have not consented to enter the NRM.  DoJ reviewed the NI Direct webpage on MSHT and provided updated information and leaflets in a range of languages to provide advice and signposting to those nationalities identified as prevalent in the past few years going through the NRM process.	This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.

		Whilst DoJ consider this commitment to be met, signposting and awareness raising is considered an important aspect of ensuring victims or potential victims are aware of services available to them. This will be considered as a rolling commitment in any future strategies.	
	As part of the development of a longer term Modern Slavery Strategy, scope the potential for support, available to adult potential victims of modern slavery under the DoJ support contract, to be provided for an extended recovery and reflection period, subject to available resources.	Section 21 of the 2022 Act extends the provision of support for a victim of slavery or trafficking under section 18 of the 2015 Act for up to a period of 12 months or longer than 12 months, as the Department deems necessary following a Conclusive Grounds decision.	This commitment has been met.
	Consider any changes emanating from the Home Office led review of NRM arrangements, and scope potential benefits and impacts in Northern Ireland.	DoJ attends a Home Office led Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance Reference Group, where amendments to the NRM supporting guidance are discussed and considered. Any changes to the NRM process are disseminated regionally to First Responder organisations and other key stakeholders through the OCTF MSHT sub group and the NGO engagement group.  A formal review of the NRM has not taken place.	This commitment is on track and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.
	Facilitate joint training and awareness raising for NGOs/Compensation Services staff to ensure mutual understanding of	There is ongoing engagement between officials from DoJ and compensations services staff and plans are being made to deliver awareness training to staff and initiate discussion on addressing barriers to applying / accessing compensation for victims of MSHT.	This commitment is on track and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.

	issues and to enable Compensation Services to review its guidance for applicants to the Northern Ireland Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2009.		
	Explore the specific issues around victim access to the criminal injuries compensation scheme, and incorporate any agreed further work-streams into future Modern Slavery Strategies.	Whilst there is ongoing engagement between officials from DoJ and compensation services further work is needed to examine what the specific issues are around access to the criminal injuries scheme and how the system of applying for compensation as a victim of Section 1 or Section 2 MSHT offences can be made more accessible. A barrier for many potential victims presenting in Northern Ireland is that the offence attributable to their claim that they are a victim of slavery or trafficking may not have taken place in NI.	This commitment will be revisited within the forthcoming longer-term strategy.
<b>Objective 2.2.3 – Provide specialist support to child victims of modern slavery that recognises their unique vulnerabilities.</b>	Complete an independent evaluation of the Independent Guardian service by March 2021.	Independent evaluation of the Independent Guardian Service was completed in May 21 with a number of recommendations accepted and currently being progressed.	This commitment has been met.
	Ensure appropriate accommodation options are available to meet the needs of child victims, taking	HSCNI have progressed a series of measures to ensure appropriate and safe placements for all S/UASC including those who are victims / potential victims of trafficking.  HSCNI launched a regional appeal for Homes for S/UASC on 10 March 22.	This commitment is on track and will continue to be a commitment in

	into consideration best practice principles.	HSCNI have advised that further work is being taken forward with Housing Associations and Trusts to develop and provide bespoke / alternative placement provision. Work being progressed with DoH and RQIA on the development of a Standards framework for bespoke / alternative placements for older adolescents.	the forthcoming strategy.
	Develop guidance on working arrangements for Trust staff and PSNI officers when encountering possible child victims of human trafficking or modern slavery.	The regional working arrangements guidance document developed between PSNI, HSC, DoJ and DoH is currently being reviewed and a final draft should be completed by October 2022.	This commitment is on track and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.
	Conduct a training needs analysis to ensure that appropriate guidance is in place for HSC Trust staff on actions to take when they encounter a child who they suspect may be a victim of human trafficking or modern slavery.	Following revision of the Regional Working Arrangements document further training and awareness raising will be delivered to ensure HSC Trust practitioners are fully aware of actions and practice in relation to all S/UASC including those who are victims / potential victims of human trafficking or modern slavery.	This commitment is on track will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.
	Re-establish and maintain the regional practitioners' forum to assist frontline staff within social services to develop skills, knowledge and	The regional practitioner's forum has been re-established and meets quarterly with an ongoing focus on developing knowledge, skills and practice in relation to separated / trafficked children. Current work is focused on multi agency assessment, CSE and Signs of Safety practice.	This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in

practice in meeting  
the needs of  
separated/trafficked  
children.

the forthcoming  
strategy.

**PREVENT: Reducing the threat of modern slavery by reducing vulnerability and demand and by raising awareness.**

Objectives	Commitments	Progress Update	RAG Status
<p><b>Objective 2.3.1 – Reduce vulnerability to exploitation and re-exploitation.</b></p>	<p>Ongoing engagement on issues facing “at-risk” communities (such as migrant workers and refugees), including through the Modern Slavery &amp; Human Trafficking NGO Engagement Group; Sex Worker Liaison Group; and through strengthened links with PCSPs and local government.</p>	<p>There has been regular engagement through the MSHT NGO Engagement Group. Discussions have commenced to establish how to create better linkages and support measures for sex workers.</p> <p>There is also ongoing engagement with members of the local Government Safeguarding Network to identify training needs and put plans in place to meet this need. Further work is required in this area to identify 'at-risk' communities and ensure their voice is heard and reflected in future plans.</p> <p>DoJ consider this commitment on track but further work is needed in the longer term to consider all “at risk” communities and how best to help and support those at risk of being a victim of modern slavery and human trafficking.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Ongoing support and promotion of initiatives to educate and provide rights-based information through NGO Engagement Group Initiatives; Freedom Acts #Five Campaign; engagement/information through intercultural programmes; and use of on-line social media to mitigate against vulnerability to trafficking and modern slavery.</p>	<p>DoJ has been liaising with members of the NI Human Rights Commission, the Strategic Investment Board, Business in the Community and others to raise awareness of MSHT and the risks across the private sector and in public procurement and how to mitigate against the risk of labour exploitation as well as other forms of exploitation. DoJ has delivered presentations on additional measures to strengthen transparency in supply chains to a range of stakeholders including at the Northern Ireland Procurement conference.</p> <p>During Anti-Slavery Day in October, awareness around the signs of MSHT and the Strategy was promoted using the Department’s social media.</p> <p>The commitment is on track to be met within this current strategy, education and awareness raising around modern slavery and the use of social platforms to engage with members of the community remains a key priority for the forthcoming strategy.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>

	<p>Disseminate updated analysis of modern slavery and human trafficking across the OCTF subgroup on modern slavery and human trafficking, and incorporate as required into OCTF Annual Threat Assessment to help inform development of a longer-term response.</p>	<p>Data collected on MSHT is shared with members of the OCTF Strategy leads to gain an understanding of the current threat assessment of modern slavery and human trafficking in Northern Ireland and summarised in the OCTF Annual Report and Threat Assessment.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Undertake a longer-term data development exercise to ensure that accessible information in MSHT prevalence/trends is available to support policy and proactive evaluation.</p>	<p>Officials from DoJ currently liaise with the MSHTU in the PSNI, NGOs and staff from the Home Office (Single Competent Authority) to collate data and identify any information gaps. A more comprehensive use and understanding of available data is required to inform the planning and response to MSHT. This will be strengthened by the commencement of section 13 Duty to Notify provisions subject to the legislative process.</p>	<p>This commitment will be revisited within the forthcoming longer-term strategy.</p>
<p><b>Objective 2.3.2 – Strengthen cross-sector resilience against modern slavery.</b></p>	<p>Ongoing engagement to raise awareness of risk, and promote good practice including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- across social care and health sectors including via the HSCB-led Regional Practice Network on Separated Children;</li> <li>- with agri-food sector;</li> </ul>	<p>DoJ has been working with members of the local Government Safeguarding Network across council areas to raise awareness of spotting the signs of MSHT and how to report concerns – potentially using e-learning platforms and programmes.</p> <p>DoJ engaged with NILGA and the agri-food sector regarding Home Office proposed measures to strengthen TISC. Officials from DoJ spoke at the NI Procurement Conference on TISC to advise on the measures that the HO plan to legislate for and how these will extend to public sector organisations.</p> <p>Joint multi agency operations with the PSNI Modern Slavery Team and Border Force targeting flights, airports and ports to raise awareness of the signs of MHST and helplines.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- with IASC and NILGA on NILGA guidance for councils; and</li> <li>- with relevant trade press.</li> </ul>	<p>DoJ engages with members of the regional practice network on issues related to the needs of separated and unaccompanied children i.e. to raise awareness of MSHT, establish good practice in identifying potential victims of MSHT, and ensure those identified are adequately supported when entered into the NRM.</p>	
	<p>Ongoing training for public sector procurement leads in respect of transparency in supply chains.</p>	<p>DoJ has engaged with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 District Councils to advise of E-learning resources on MSHT and TISC.</li> <li>• SIB to develop MSHT training to meet social value requirements in public procurement under Public Procurement Note 01/21.</li> <li>• presented at the NI Procurement Conference on TISC regarding the measures that the HO plan to legislate for and how these will extend to public sector organisations.</li> </ul> <p>The DoJ consider this commitment to be met but will engage further with public sector procurement leads once the additional measures to strengthen TISC are progressed in legislation and will become mandatory for all businesses with an annual turnover of over £36million. The commitment to development of training and awareness raising of modern slavery statements and what they should entail will carry through to the longer-term strategy.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Work in partnership with other relevant Government departments to engage appropriately with public and private sector organisations impacted by Home Office proposed changes to Transparency in Supply Chains.</p>	<p>DoJ officials presented on measures to strengthen TISC, proposed by the HO to members with the agri-food sector and DAERA.</p> <p>In May 2022 an official from the DoJ spoke at NI Procurement Conference on TISC and the measures that the HO plan to legislate for and how these will extend to public sector organisations.</p> <p>DoJ is represented at the Executive Office forum on supply chains where the changes to TISC have been disseminated to officials across departments.</p> <p>Officials from DoJ consider this commitment to be met but will engage further with public sector procurement leads when the additional measures to strengthen TISC in</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>



		<p>legislation and will become mandatory for all businesses with an annual turnover of over £36million. The development of training and awareness raising of modern slavery statements and what they should entail will continue as a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>	
<p><b>Objective 2.3.3 –</b> Raise public awareness to reduce demand and increase reporting.</p>	<p>Ongoing delivery of training/awareness sessions.</p>	<p>Ongoing training has continued to be delivered to frontline professionals including police, health trust staff, medical students and prison officers to raise awareness of the signs of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. Outreach to other high-risk sectors is ongoing to ensure there is broader awareness in identifying and reporting cases of MSHT.</p> <p>DoJ has been working with members of the Police and Community Safety Partnerships to raise awareness of MSHT to promote changes to TISC and to advise of the availability of E Learning for Council staff.</p> <p>DoJ engages with members of NILGA and the agri-food sector regarding HO proposed measures to strengthen TISC.</p> <p>DoJ arranged a training/awareness session with first responders through a learning and networking event in March 2022 to improve awareness and enhance collaborative work around modern slavery and human trafficking.</p> <p>Joint multi agency operations between the PSNI Modern Slavery Team and Border Force have been undertaken and partnership working continues.</p> <p>During Anti-Slavery Day in October, awareness around MSHT was promoted using the Departments social media platforms and through stakeholders’ social media platforms, the Justice Minister highlighted the strategic response to MSHT at local events organised by NGOs.</p> <p>Some public buildings were illuminated to mark and raise awareness of Anti-Slavery week.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>

		<p>Following the development of its new policy on prosecuting cases for MSHT, PPS provided full training to PPS prosecutor and prosecuting counsel.</p> <p>PSNI provide MSHT training for all PSNI officers through the eLearning National Centre for Applied Learning Technologies (NCALT) Modern Slavery module. The MSHT Unit deliver training to all new PSNI recruits and new to role detectives on Modern Slavery. PSNI have also attended a ‘train the trainer’ course on MSHT hosted by the College of Policing, which will be rolled out throughout the PSNI.</p> <p>NIPS provides training on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking to all officers during induction. Awareness sessions covering the National Referral Mechanism have been delivered by the Home Office at all 3 establishments.</p>	
	<p>Disseminate information about Modern Slavery at high profile public events.</p>	<p>DoJ and PSNI carried out a four-day awareness outreach, which included information and advice on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking at the Balmoral Show.</p> <p>Due to the Covid-19 pandemic many public awareness events were cancelled or moved to a virtual platform, DoJ consider this commitment to be met as far as possible, and remain committed to ongoing awareness raising at relevant events.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Ongoing support for the MSHT NGO Engagement Group.</p>	<p>DoJ chairs the NGO Engagement Group, which meets on quarterly basis. The Group provides a forum for discussion and information sharing on emerging and best practice to improve the service provision and response for all potential/victims of MSHT.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>

	<p>Ongoing support for the Sex Worker Liaison Group.</p>	<p>While progress against this commitment has been limited, DoJ would welcome renewed engagement with the Sex Worker Liaison Group and will explore ways to ensure representation from the Sex Worker Liaison Group at future NGO Engagement Group meetings.</p> <p>The commitment to work with at risk groups will be taken forward under the Prevent strand of the new longer-term strategy.</p>	<p>This commitment was not met in 21/22; engagement with all relevant stakeholders and identifying at risk groups will be an ongoing commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>
	<p>Contribute to the development of an OCTF Communications plan to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proactive multi-agency engagement with media and social media</li> <li>- Development and strategic dissemination of public awareness materials</li> <li>- Refresh of on-line public information on modern slavery/human trafficking developments.</li> </ul>	<p>DoJ continue to use social media platforms to publicise information on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, including during Anti-Slavery Day and to launch and promote the publication of public consultations linked to proposals to strengthen our response to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.</p> <p>Enforcement Agencies continue to use social media platforms to publicise information on the outcome of modern slavery and human trafficking cases.</p> <p>DoJ has developed a new set out public awareness resources on MSHT including the development of advisory leaflets in different languages to provide advice to potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. Work is ongoing to ensure appropriate targeting of materials.</p> <p>DoJ has reviewed and updated the information page on the NI Direct website to reflect current information available to support potential victims of MSHT including access to the condensed A5 leaflet PDFs in different languages.</p>	<p>This commitment has been met for 21/22 and will continue to be a commitment in the forthcoming strategy.</p>

## **Conclusion**

This progress report demonstrates the collective contribution of a wide range of stakeholders and partners working collaboratively to deliver the strategic aims.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, it is clear that significant progress has been made to help deliver improved outcomes for victims and to disrupt the criminal networks that prey on them.

The achievements highlighted in this report demonstrate the significant body of work that has been undertaken and in many cases will continue to ensure we are doing everything possible to suppress the threat caused by criminals who exploit the vulnerable while also ensuring there are sufficient measures in place to support adult and child victims.

The number of potential victims entering the NRM continues to rise on a yearly basis and tackling this criminality is a key priority.

The longer-term strategy will be developed through engagement with all stakeholders and members of the public to ensure we are equipped to identify and eradicate this heinous crime.