

Susan Willcox
Super-complaints Lead
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)
6th Floor, Globe House,
89 Eccleston Square,
London, SW1V 1PN

By Email.

Date: 25th January 2022

Dear Susan,

We write to update you with the work of the NPCC in response to the HMICFRS, IOPC and College of Policing 'Safe to share?' Report, hereafter referred to as the report.

Since the publication of the report the NPCC has worked closely with the Home Office and specialist sector organisations, including Liberty and Southall Black Sisters, in a series of workshops to examine Police and Home Office data sharing arrangements for migrant victims and witnesses of crime. Evidence was reviewed from Liberty, Southall Black Sisters, Latin American Women's Rights Service and other third sector organisations. Further evidence was reviewed from policing, from within Home Office Agencies and from academic research to produce a comprehensive assessment of the options available to improve victims and witnesses' confidence to report crime when they have irregular immigration status. This culminated in a review being presented to Parliament on 15th December 2021 which identified further work in its conclusions that relate to the recommendations within your report.

Following its review, the Home Office will introduce an Immigration Enforcement (IE) Migrant Victims Protocol for migrant victims of crime that have been referred to IE from the police. The NPCC will work closely with the Home Office to design and communicate the protocol to police officers and staff. We will also jointly develop and implement a comprehensive stakeholder and outreach programme to promote reporting of crime amongst migrants with irregular immigration status and mitigate the deterrence effect of information sharing.



The Home Office review recognised the benefit from having a routine referral pathway for victims but highlighted the significant funding this would require and concluded:

‘The Home Office will consider creating (or enhancing where extant) a routine referral pathway between the police and specialist domestic abuse services for all victims of domestic abuse, including those with insecure immigration status, when reporting to the police.’

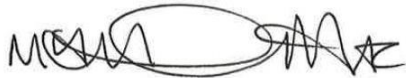
The NPCC will support the Home Office to create or enhance referral pathways as we work towards a routine referral pathway available nationally for all victims of domestic abuse.

Overall, the Home Office review has identified several areas where work is required to further improve our joint safeguarding response and to improve the confidence of victims and witnesses to report crime.

The NPCC is committed to addressing these, both by working with the Home Office but also the third sector organisations that have contributed to the review.

The current NPCC guidance clearly states that the police priority is to protect victims and investigate crime. When someone reports a crime, we will always, first and foremost, treat them as a victim. The NPCC previously communicated that we understand the feelings and concerns raised within the super complaint and we now look forward to implementing the work outlined above to ensure all victims are confident to report, regardless of their immigration status, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Hewitt QPM
Chair, National Police Chiefs' Council



Shaun Sawyer QPM
NPPC Lead, Modern Slavery and
Organised Immigration Crime