Victims of Human Trafficking and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme

Free Support and Advice
You do not need paid representatives such as a solicitor or claims management company to apply for compensation. Free, independent advice is available from:

Victim Support
Website: www.victimsupport.org.uk
Phone: 0845 30 30 900 (England & Wales)
0845 60 39 213 (Scotland)

Citizens Advice
Website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Need more information?
For further guidance on any of the information contained in this leaflet please visit www.gov.uk where you can access our full Guide to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2012. Alternatively, please call our Customer Service Centre on 0300 003 3601.

CICA
Alexander Bain House
Atlantic Quay
15 York Street
Glasgow
G2 8LQ
www.gov.uk
0300 003 3601

“CICA is a government organisation and we provide a free service...”
A guide to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme and how this applies to Victims of Human Trafficking.

What is the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme?
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (the Scheme) is designed to compensate blameless victims of violent crime in Great Britain. We (the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, or CICA), administer the Scheme and decide all claims.

Who can get compensation?
We can compensate blameless victims of violent crime, or people whose loved ones have died as a result of violent crime.

Being a victim of human trafficking does not necessarily mean that an applicant would be eligible for compensation under the Scheme.

In order to qualify, an applicant must have suffered a personal injury which was sustained in the Great Britain.

Nationality and Residency
In order to qualify for a payment you must meet one of the following criteria:

- You were ordinarily resident in the UK on the date of the incident;
- You were linked to the UK by virtue of one of the provisions listed in paragraph 11 of the Scheme;
- You were Referred to a competent authority as a potential victim of Human trafficking;
- You made an application for asylum under Immigration Rules

Who can get compensation?
If you have been identified as a victim of human trafficking, you may be eligible to claim if you:

- Suffer a suffer a physical and/or psychological injury sustained in Great Britain
- apply for compensation within two years of the crime occurring;
- report the crime to the Police; and
- fully co-operate with the Police and the Criminal Justice System;

People who have suffered very serious injuries that have left them with no, or very limited capacity to work may also get compensation for loss of earnings. Additional awards can also be made for specific practical, medical and care costs.

A claim may be affected if:

- the injured person’s conduct contributed towards the incident;
- the injured person’s character makes it inappropriate for an award to be made; or
- the applicant does not co-operate with the CICA fully during the claim.

We cannot pay compensation if:

- the injury occurred outside England, Scotland or Wales (Northern Ireland has its own Scheme);
- an applicant has already applied for compensation for the same injury;
- the assailant could benefit from an award.

How to Apply
You can apply online at www.gov.uk. The application process should take no longer than 20 minutes. If you have no access to online services or need help to complete an application by telephone our Customer Service Centre advisors can help. Call us on 0300 003 3601.

You will need to give us the following information when you apply:

- evidence from a competent authority confirming that you have been identified as a potential victim of human trafficking;
- the relevant Crime Reference Number (which the Police will have provided);
- details of the incident including the date; and
- details of injuries and any medical treatment sought.

If your status has not been confirmed when you submit your claim, you may ask us to wait before we make our decision. We call this deferring.

Are there any time restrictions?
You must apply within two years of the date of the incident. We can only extend this time limit where:

- due to exceptional circumstances an application could not have been made earlier
- there is evidence that a crime of violence occurred and we can make a decision without further extensive enquiries

Our decision will be based on balance of probabilities. We will not wait for the outcome of a trial if there is already enough information to decide your case, so do not delay your application.