

**Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking
11 March 2013
Minutes**

Attendees:

Home Office	Mark Harper MP	<i>CHAIR</i>
Home Office	Official	
AGO	Oliver Heald MP	
BIS	Jo Swinson MP	
DCLG	Official (for Baroness Hanham MP)	
DfE	Official (for Edward Timpson MP)	
FCO	Official (for Hugo Swire MP)	
MOJ	Helen Grant MP	
DFID	Official (for Lynne Featherstone MP)	
DH	Official (for Anna Soubry MP)	
DWP	Official (for Mark Hoban MP)	
Northern Ireland Executive	David Ford MLA – via video link	
Scottish Government	Official (for Kenny MacAskill MSP)	
Scotland Office	Official (for David Mundell MP)	
Wales Office	Baroness Randerson	
Welsh Government	Carl Sargeant AM	
Welsh Government	Official	
UKHTC	Official	

Apologies:

Home Office	Jeremy Browne MP
DCLG	Baroness Hanham MP
DfE	Edward Timpson MP
FCO	Hugo Swire MP
DFID	Lynne Featherstone MP
DH	Anna Soubry MP
DWP	Mark Hoban MP
HMRC	Jennie Granger
Scottish Government	Kenny MacAskill MSP
Scotland Office	David Mundell MP

1. Welcome	
1.1 Mark Harper MP welcomed the IDMG Ministers.	Actions:

	None
<p>2. Presentation on human trafficking prosecutions and convictions in the UK</p> <p>2.2 Oliver Heald MP, Solicitor General, with Helen Grant MP, provided an overview of prosecution and conviction data for England and Wales. Ministers agreed that the proposed programme of work on this issue will be invaluable in helping to get a better understanding on the nature of prosecutions and convictions for human trafficking offenders.</p> <p>2.3 Ministers agreed that it was also important to better capture what happened to victims who either did not report to the police, or where the police did not refer the file to CPS. This would include information on the support provided to victims.</p> <p>2.4 Comments made on the scope of the work: the Welsh Government requested that Welsh data is separated out as the Northern Ireland and Scotland figures have been; Ministers agreed that data should be published, following consideration by the IDMG; it is important to reflect that in some cases there are multiple victims for a single offender and to incorporate that into the figures; finally that data collection by local authority area rather than police force area is helpful, but map police data to it.</p> <p>2.5 Research into other jurisdictions was also endorsed by the group.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>MOJ and AGO/CPS to undertake further work to explore prosecutions in Human Trafficking and for outputs to be considered at a future meeting of the Group for inclusion in the second Annual Report.</p> <p>Home Office and UKHTC to consider how to capture what happens to victims – how they are supported and how crime is investigated - before referral to the CPS.</p>
<p>3. Analysis and Trends in human trafficking</p> <p>3.1 The IDMG considered the human trafficking data collected by the UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC).</p> <p>3.2 BIS wanted to know more about the different types of labour exploitation. UKHTC confirmed that the</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Update members on the data issue identified in the IDMG report published in October 2012, at the</p>

<p>majority of victims were involved in illegal labour.</p> <p>3.3 Some members felt that it would be useful to capture information about what happens to victims after referral to the National Referral Mechanism. It was noted that such an exercise may be possible in Wales, due to the relatively small number of referrals.</p> <p>3.4 Mark Harper MP noted that the Home Office is looking to record data at local authority level.</p>	<p>next IDMG meeting</p>
<p>4. The role of the Private Sector</p> <p>4.1 Mark Harper explained that the Government is engaging with the private sector to explore how to increase anti-trafficking activity in the sector without placing undue burdens on businesses.</p> <p>4.2 BIS noted that businesses already have significant reporting requirements but that there are Government initiatives that encourage corporate responsibility including ‘Trading for Good’ and guidance produced with Acas.</p> <p>4.3 The Scottish Government noted that utility companies can come into contact with trafficking victims. The Scottish Government is doing some work with companies and the Chamber of Commerce and would be happy to report back to the Group on this work.</p> <p>4.4 The Group agreed that work should be done to identify organisations whose frontline workers may come into contact with victims of trafficking. The Royal Mail was identified as an example of such an organisation.</p> <p>4.5 It was noted that high risk sectors such as agriculture are already regulated by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, however the Group agreed that it would be useful to know to what extent such regulation has prevented trafficking in this sector.</p> <p>4.6 FCO reported that they are about to launch a</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Home Office to lead work to identify organisations whose frontline workers may come into contact with victims of trafficking.</p> <p>Scotland to report back to the Group on the work they are doing with companies and the Chamber of Commerce.</p>

<p>business and human rights strategy.</p>	
<p>5. IDMG Report</p> <p>5.1 Mark Harper asked the Group for suggestions about the content, format and timing of the next report.</p> <p>5.2 Suggestions by the Group included: an open meeting to launch the publication of the report; case studies to demonstrate what has worked well; and regional case studies showcasing work in different parts of the UK.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Home Office to implement Group's suggestions in drafting the next IDMG report</p>
<p>6. Country specific report – Nigeria</p> <p>6.1 The FCO reported that work in Nigeria to combat human trafficking includes awareness-raising, lobbying of the government and capacity-building.</p> <p>6.2 The FCO works closely with SOCA but more work could be done with DfID. At home, more could be done to coordinate better on the Nigerian diaspora. FCO also noted that additional resource at post would facilitate anti-trafficking work.</p> <p>6.3 It was noted that Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales have different top source countries from the UK as a whole, therefore future country specific reports should cover the priority countries for each part of the UK.</p> <p>6.4 There is scope for using UK firms in Nigeria to help with structured employment for victims of trafficking.</p> <p>6.5 The Group agreed that more work could be done to identify UK connections with source countries, for example UK companies.</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Home Office and FCO to scope connections with source countries</p> <p>Home Office to focus next country specific report on a priority country for Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales.</p>
<p>7. Activity update</p> <p>7.1 The Group were updated on the following cross-Government activities: work is being carried out by</p>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Introduce standing agenda item on</p>

<p>Refugee Action and the Children’s Society on missing children; all UK countries should be compliant with the EU Directive on or shortly after 1 April; and the Department of Health is launching awareness-raising for healthcare professionals at the end of April.</p> <p>7.2 The Department of Health noted that they would be happy to facilitate a meeting for Wales on the awareness-raising work they are doing.</p> <p>7.3 The Group agreed that it would be useful to share details of best practice and of initiatives that have not worked.</p> <p>7.4 The Group agreed that it would be useful to hold thematic meetings on specific issues outside of the main IDMG to be attended by relevant Departments.</p> <p>7.5 The Group agreed to increase the frequency of IDMG meetings to three meetings a year.</p>	<p>best practice (Home Office)</p> <p>Home Office to set up a series of thematic groups to tackle specific issues</p>
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