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Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Home Affairs Committee
Committee Office, House of Commons
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Dear Yvette,

17 December 2018

**INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT – INTERIM REPORT ON
THE INDEPENDENT ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER**

As you are aware Frank Field MP, Maria Miller MP and Baroness Butler-Sloss are undertaking an independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. They have, today, published an interim report on the role of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC).

I am also attaching a copy for your interest given its relevance to your inquiry on modern slavery.

We are considering the findings and will provide a formal public response in due course. However, you should be aware that I do not agree with the first recommendation on pausing recruitment for a new Commissioner. It is vital that this pivotal role is filled without delay. Victoria Atkins has written to the Reviewers on this point. I also do not accept recommendation four which suggests that the role of the IASC should not be sponsored by the Home Secretary. The Review does not make a compelling case, and such a suggestion would be out of step with HO sponsorship of several other public appointees who provide an independent scrutiny function.

I am copying this letter to Frank Field MP, Maria Miller MP and Baroness-Butler Sloss.

I will arrange for a copy of this letter and the interim report to be placed in the House Library.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP