



Home Office

Victoria Atkins MP
Minister for Safeguarding

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

I am writing to you as Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee to inform you of my intention to publish statutory guidance under section 49(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

I am aware that the development of this guidance has been of interest to the Committee given the inquiry into Modern Slavery. As set out in former Home Secretary Sajid Javid's, correspondence on 27 June 2019 I am sharing the completed guidance with you at the time of publication. I intend to publish this guidance immediately. I will arrange for a copy of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 Statutory Guidance, along with a copy of this letter, to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses and for the guidance to be made available on GOV.UK.

As you are aware, the Modern Slavery Act was the first legislation of its kind in the world and it has helped to transform the UK's response to this abhorrent crime. We are seeing more perpetrators prosecuted and convicted under the Act, and law enforcement and courts are making use of the tools provided by the Act, such as Slavery and Trafficking Prevention and Risk Orders.

The publication of Statutory Guidance is necessary to support public authorities in identifying and protecting victims of modern slavery. This guidance will also, for the first time, set out the support available to victims of modern slavery and how it is accessed. This will provide a clear framework of how to best protect and help modern slavery victims to begin rebuilding their lives.

We have engaged with stakeholders in the development of this guidance concluding with an intensive period of review over the summer. This has allowed us to incorporate the views of NGOs, other government departments, the wider public sector, local government and independent bodies in the production of this guidance.

This guidance sets out how the system works at present, incorporating the changes implemented as part of NRM reform. However, I recognise that modern slavery is a rapidly evolving area as new forms of exploitation are identified and support for victims is improved. As such, the Statutory Guidance will need updating periodically to reflect future changes.

To this end, I have asked my officials to introduce a multi-agency oversight group to inform how we develop this guidance in line with evolving policy and feedback from staff using the guidance. Having the right expertise from the relevant stakeholders will allow us to respond effectively to future developments in victim support and emerging forms of slavery. This partnership approach will ensure we continue to have guidance befitting the world leading Modern Slavery Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victoria Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victoria Atkins MP
Minister for Safeguarding