

Partner organisations (Appendix B)

This page is from APP, the official source of professional practice for policing.

First published 11 February 2026

This list is not exhaustive. Local and regional support services are available across the UK.

Government Agency Intelligence Network (GAIN)

GAIN operates across regions to facilitate the sharing of information and intelligence between government, law enforcement and – in some instances – the private sector to help tackle the threat from serious and organised crime.

Useful law enforcement partners

National Crime Agency (NCA)

Modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) remains a priority for the NCA, who have a dedicated MSHT threat leadership team.

Immigration Enforcement National Command and Control Unit (NCCU)

NCCU is the primary point of contact for all UK police forces who require immigration enforcement (IE) assistance. The unit is staffed by immigration officers, who provide advice on the immigration status of individuals. When appropriate, the team initiate immigration enforcement action, help to safeguard vulnerable individuals, refer cases and signpost police partners to other Home Office teams. NCCU are also the central point of contact for IE critical incident coordination.

NCCU should be contacted immediately when police are dealing with any foreign national person.

If a future MSHT operation is in the planning stage, requests for intelligence can be sent to NCCU.

NCCU has access to a substantial amount of information, including fingerprints, regarding individuals from outside the UK, including European Union (EU) countries. They hold records of people:

- who are legitimately in the UK authorised by a visa
- whose visas have expired
- whose visas have been withdrawn
- who have been encountered here as an illegal entrant and are waiting to be removed
- from the EU who are of interest
- who are in the UK legitimately

In the event of officers and staff encountering victims and offenders from countries other than the UK, enquiries should be made with the NCCU. This is a 24/7 facility.

Home Office – Immigration Enforcement (IE)

Many victims and offenders have travelled from overseas. The following agencies can help to gather intelligence and assist with investigations.

Immigration Enforcement Criminal and Financial Investigation (IE CFI)

IE CFI is a non-uniform investigatory unit that deals with high harm and serious and complex investigations that are in some way connected to immigration offences. This includes MSHT investigations involving foreign nationals, document fraud and sham marriages. Access to IE CFI for assistance and advice is gained via the NCCU in the first instance.

Immigration and Compliance Enforcement (ICE)

ICE is the overt, operational arm of IE that works in regional teams. ICE tracks, locates and detains those with no legitimate status to be in the UK and those facilitating illegal entry or breaching immigration rules. ICE works in close partnership with other Home Office departments and law enforcement partners. ICE has a mandate to identify and safeguard potential modern slavery victims. It does not deal with criminal prosecutions of immigration offences.

Border Force

Border Force is the national lead on safeguarding MSHT victims at all UK borders. Border Force can:

- help directly target criminals exploiting border controls using the National Border Targeting Centre
- gather information requested by the police in relation to interception of targets at the border, manifest checks, intelligence, travel monitoring and seizures

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)

UKVI work closely with other Home Office teams in the UK and overseas. UKVI is responsible for the management of:

- the asylum system, where people seek humanitarian protection with a view to achieving refugee status
- the visa system, which controls entry clearance permissions for countries that require them

Fraudulent applications and sponsorship of UK visas are an important factor in modern slavery and organised immigration crime methodologies.

National Document Fraud Unit

The National Document Fraud Unit provides information on genuine, forged, counterfeit and fantasy documents to law enforcement agencies nationally and overseas. The contact details should not be divulged to members of the public. Foreign nationals enquiring about lost passports should be advised to contact their UK embassy, high commission or consulate.

Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)

The role of the GLAA is to protect vulnerable and exploited workers. It is a key partner in any labour exploitation enquiry. It has a strategic objective to disrupt criminal activity in the labour market.

Through the intelligence it receives from inspections, the public, industry and other government departments, the GLAA investigates reports of worker exploitation and illegal activity, such as:

- human trafficking
- forced labour
- illegal labour provision
- offences under the [National Minimum Wage Act 1998](#)
- offences under the [Employment Agencies Act 1973](#)

The GLAA also works with partner organisations, such as the police, NCA and other government law enforcement agencies, to target, dismantle and disrupt serious and organised crime across the UK.

Engagement or advice from the GLAA should be considered for any labour exploitation enquiry.

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Many MSHT investigations involve abuse of the benefits system as a secondary exploitation, in addition to labour or sexual exploitation. Checks should be made to the DWP, preferably through an FI. A multi-agency approach is encouraged.

The DWP will often lead in benefit fraud investigations. The DWP can provide data to confirm addresses and correspondence addresses, date of birth, any known national insurance numbers and details of benefits received or method of payment details. This intelligence can assist an FI in ascertaining legitimate income.

His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)

HMRC can help with intelligence and evidence development, including details of legitimate income, benefit details, employer details, associated business, bank accounts and investments. It can provide evidence to show the disparity between taxes paid and overall income or lifestyle choices.

HMRC is appointed as the compliance officer to [enforce the national minimum wage](#).

National Trading Standards

One of the primary responsibilities for National Trading Standards is the investigation of doorstep crime. There is clear potential for offenders involved in doorstep crime to be victims of MSHT.

Trading Standards can also help with identifying individuals who carry out substandard house improvements and may have been targeted by OCGs.

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is responsible for regulating the waste industry and fisheries. Both of these sectors are vulnerable to exploitation.

Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

The primary responsibility of the HSE is to help prevent work-related death and injury. It focuses on industries with poor risk management records. These include construction, manufacturing, waste and recycling, all of which are vulnerable to MSHT. For example, health and safety breaches have

been identified at car washes and nail bars.

Any breach of health and safety regulations can be investigated and enforced by issuing fines or improvement and/or prohibition notices.

Fire and rescue services

Fire and rescue services have designated powers to access sites and can evidence breaches of fire regulations. They can also make safety checks and close premises if there is a serious risk to life through non-compliance of regulations.

Car washes, restaurants, houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) and nail bars are vulnerable to MSHT.

Environmental Health

Environmental Health can evidence living or working standards where concerns are expressed or as a potential disruption around noise complaints.

All of the above agencies can be used to disrupt MSHT.

Other useful partners

Europol

Europol supports all EU member states to combat and prevent all forms of serious crime. Europol also supports a further 44 non-EU countries, including the UK, via strategic, operational, working or cooperation agreements.

Europol has specific functions for:

- the trafficking of human beings, which supports regular intensifications in multiple countries, including the UK, via its European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) arrangements
- organised immigration crime, via its European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC)

Europol additionally has extensive liaison and analytical functions, including specific [analysis projects](#).

All international enquiries, including those mentioned above, should additionally be made in consultation with the Joint International Crime Centre (JICC).

Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA)

SIENA is a computer-based communication function within regional organised crime units (ROCU) and some police force teams. Where the country of origin or countries visited are members of Europol or one of the additional states with operational agreements, enquiries should be made with Europol via SIENA. Access to SIENA can be made through individual forces' international liaison officers (ILOs), force intelligence bureaus, ROCU or the NCA international desk.

Joint International Crime Centre (JICC)

For countries not covered by Europol, officers should check with the JICC. It has a national police-only 24/7 contact point and force-based advisors. For further information, go to the [Joint International Crime Centre](#).

UK Central Authority for the Exchange of Criminal Records (UKCA-ECR)

The ACRO Criminal Records Office (ACRO) manages the UKCA-ECR, which exchanges conviction information with EU member states. Outside the EU, it exchanges information records with all non-EU Interpol countries via Interpol channels. ACRO checks should be conducted through the systems available in individual forces.

Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (JMLIT)

JMLIT is a partnership between law enforcement and the financial sector to exchange and analyse information relating to money laundering and wider economic threats. It is administered by the NCA and provides a fast-track response to requests for financial intelligence.

The taskforce consists of over 40 financial institutions, such as:

- Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)

- Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance Service (Cifas)
- NCA
- HMRC
- Serious Fraud Office (SFO)
- City of London Police
- Metropolitan Police Service

JMLIT removes the requirement for FIs to conduct pre-order enquiries with all financial institutions individually. The JMLIT can also provide intelligence on insurances held and on investments, including property.

Useful non-law enforcement partners

National Health Service, social care and local authorities

Many victims require health support due to physical or psychological injuries arising from exploitation. Health services are likely to possess information useful to an MSHT investigation.

All children who are victims are supported by social care and therefore may have intelligence on victims or offenders.

Housing departments in local authorities may have information on HMOs, where victims often live.

Non-government agencies

Human Trafficking Foundation

The [Human Trafficking Foundation](#) has a directory and an interactive map of charity and local authority services available nationally. This can assist in identifying local services in your area.

Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline

The helpline provides [specialist help](#), advice and support about MSHT to safeguard potential victims. It is operated by the charity Unseen and supported by the Unseen app. The helpline number is 08000 121 700.

The Red Cross

The Red Cross can also assist with a reception centre. It provides emergency provisions such as food, clothes, blankets and emotional support. For support and advice, contact antitrafficking@redcross.org.uk

The Salvation Army

The [Salvation Army](#) provides and manages the delivery of specialist support, through the MSVCC, for all adult victims of MSHT in England and Wales through a government contract. It delivers a specialist support programme to protect and care for all adult victims.

For support and advice, contact the confidential referral helpline on 0300 303 8151.

NSPCC

The [NSPCC](#) child trafficking and advice centre (CTAC) provides guidance to professionals concerned that a child has been trafficked. For support and advice, call 0808 800 5000.

Barnardo's

[Independent child trafficking guardians \(ICTGs\)](#), where available, advocate on behalf of the child. They ensure that the child's best interests are reflected in the decision-making processes undertaken by the public authorities who are involved in the child's care and support.

Every Child Protected Against Trafficking (ECPAT)

If a person aged 15 to 23 years is trafficked to the UK, [ECPAT](#) can provide advice and assistance in conjunction with local authority services. ECPAT provides a safe space where young people who have been through emotional trauma can socialise and get involved in projects, such as drama and the arts, to recover from their experiences. The youth group provides support in the following ways:

- weekly peer support groups
- life skills programme
- creative projects
- educational mentoring with the [Refugee Education UK](#)
- English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) support classes
- support in accessing compensation

- social activities
- residential courses
- individual support plan and signposting for further support

To refer a young person, contact youth@ecpat.org.uk or call 020 7607 2136.

The Medaille Trust

[The Medaille Trust](#) is a designated first responder organisation with specially trained staff who can identify and support potential victims of modern slavery.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

The IOM provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, including internally displaced persons, refugees and migrant workers. For further information, call 0207 811 6000 or email iomuk@iom.int

Refugee Council

The [Refugee Council](#) is a charity working with refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK.

Tags

APP