



Meg Hillier MP,
Chair
Committee of Public Accounts
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

2 March 2018

Dear Members of the Public Accounts Committee

We write to you as the two Police and Crime Commissioners who have national roles in relation to modern slavery regarding your current inquiry (announced 1st February 2018) into the government's response to tackling modern slavery following the December 2017 National Audit Office (NAO) report. We appreciate that your call for evidence closed on 16th February but we were only made aware of the inquiry last week and are keen to contribute.

While your inquiry is focused on the recent NAO report we would welcome contact with you as Committee members and the opportunity to input, in particular to provide a perspective from elected police and crime commissioners on the work that policing is doing locally and regionally alongside the work of the National Crime Agency. We wish to highlight what we consider to be good progress in two key areas: the national Modern Slavery Policing Transformation Programme, the Strategic Oversight Board for which is chaired by PCC Alison Hernandez, and the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network which is chaired by PCC Mark Burns-Williamson.

We would like to invite members of the Committee to come and visit the national modern slavery police transformation unit in Exmouth to see how it is working on behalf all police forces across England and Wales. We would also like to invite you to attend any of the quarterly network meetings we hold in London or some of the other senior events we are holding over the coming months. These opportunities would, we feel, help you to understand the work that is being carried out within the police service and could inform your inquiry. The quarterly National Anti Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network will meet on 20th March, 15th May, 17th July and 17th October this year in central London in the late afternoon and members of the Committee are very welcome to join us. In addition we are currently rescheduling a Chief Officer and PCC Engagement Day in the North of England for the National Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme which was scheduled for 2nd March but has been postponed due to the weather conditions.

Modern Slavery Policing Transformation Programme

In late 2016, Devon and Cornwall Police was granted £8.5 million from the Home Office's Police Transformation Fund to deliver a response to modern slavery on behalf of all police forces in England and Wales. The funding provided covers the 3 years from 2016/17 to 2018/19. Through this funding a new Modern Slavery Police Transformation Unit (MSPTU) has been set up, with recruitment and units going live in April 2017. The Units co-ordinating base is Exmouth in Devon but officers and analysts are located in the NCA, Regional Organised Crime Units up and down the country and in Europol.

The Programme is focused on 11 key deliverables which were specifically designed in response to recommendations within the Home Office commissioned review of the Modern Slavery Act one year on (Caroline Haughey QC) 2016:

1. JSTAC strategic analytical products tasked by the Threat Group and delivered within agreed time parameters; provision of timely intelligence briefs on new and emerging issues as identified by the Threat Group, both drawing upon the spectrum of JSTAC agency intelligence.
2. Structured national and regional intelligence collection activity, developed with input from across the JSTAC agencies for each NSIR / thematic activity tasked through National Tasking
3. Increase in transit of intelligence to and from Europol, particularly the increase in operational leads provided to UK Policing
4. Increased identification of vulnerable people, places, offenders, and trends through improved data matching across Forces and delivery of regional assessments
5. A national measure of the disruptive impact of proactive law enforcement work on MS
6. The development of evidenced based policy, guidance and shared information to improve the quality of police investigations
7. A nationally embedded structured debriefing and lessons learnt process
8. Nationally accredited and tracked delivery of core training for the police family to improve investigations
9. Improvements to UKIE and Policing joint intelligence packages to accompany complex or international NRM referrals; tracking of outcomes linked to these.
10. Increase PCC activity, engagement and support for activity to tackle Modern Slavery
11. Reduced challenges in the court process through early resolution of evidential or process obstacles

The Programme is governed by a Strategic Oversight Board chaired by PCC Alison Hernandez. Members of the Board include PCC Mark Burns-Williamson, Home Office officials, the NCA, Regional Organised Crime Unit leads, the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority and Caroline Haughey QC.

The Programme Unit provides over 70 new and dedicated roles to provide the police with improved intelligence, better training and specialist tactical advice to strengthen the police's operational response to modern slavery. The Unit was built during 2017 and is now fully operational (see attached organogram). Key delivery to date includes:

- Setting up the bespoke modern slavery intelligence hub – the Joint Slavery and Trafficking Analysis Centre (located in the National Crime Agency) to build and develop the strategic intelligence picture;
- Delivery of the new network of regional analysts located in the Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) to develop the intelligence base at the local and regional levels;
- Establishment of a “what works” team to provide expert tactical advice across complex and multifaceted modern slavery crimes;
- Implement a new and improved national programme of training for front line officers and staff;
- Recruitment of a seconded national expert to Europol to coordinate activity between UK law enforcement and European counterparts during cross-border investigations.

There is still much that we need to do in this area, in particular to work with victims to ensure that we understand their needs and that we work with them to get the help and support they need, including building an evidence base to inform the NRM Reform programme. This is an area of focus for the programme going forward – for the newly established Victim Advocate in the unit who will work with Caroline Haughey QC and others.

National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network

The National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network brings together Police and Crime Commissioners from across England and Wales, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Kevin Hyland, the National Police Chief Council lead Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer and the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit to discuss and improve how we work together to combat human trafficking and modern slavery in all its forms. The network was created and launched at the Home Office in January 2016 by Mark Burns-Williamson, West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, who continues to chair the network.

The primary aims and objectives of the network are:

- To encourage a victim focused approach and good practice in victim care.
- To facilitate the sharing of experiences and expertise between national organisations.
- To influence and connect with wider stakeholders at national and cross border level.
- To encourage the development and identification of best practice, trends and patterns.
- To remain abreast of current developments and initiatives relating to human trafficking and modern slavery issues.
- To support the development of proactive strategies for the prevention of human trafficking and modern slavery.
- To identify any gaps in current provision of services and anticipate future demand.

- To monitor training requirements in addition to that already being delivered nationally.
- To develop intelligence/information sharing protocols between agencies.
- To identify areas where trafficking is prevalent to understand the key factors and share information so it can be disrupted and establishment prevented in other areas.
- Support the United Kingdom National plan in relation to Modern Slavery.

We would welcome the opportunity to engage with the Committee and to share our perspectives with you on work within policing to tackle modern slavery. For the benefit of the Committee Clerks the contact details for both of our offices are included.

Yours sincerely



Alison Hernandez

Chair of the Strategic Oversight Board, National Police Modern Slavery Transformation Programme
PCC for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly



Mark Burns-Williamson OBE

Chair of the National Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network
PCC for West Yorkshire

CC: Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer, National Police Chiefs Council Lead for Modern Slavery

Enc MSPTU Structure Chart

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Lisa Vango, Strategy and Planning Manager: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire

Stuart Piper, Safeguarding Adviser: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]