

THE NATIONAL REFERRAL MECHANISM: WEBINAR FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Q&A

Questions that weren't answered during the event Q&A:

Q: Does each organisation need to have a designated first responder?

A: Only someone from a First Responder Organisation can make a referral to the NRM. If you work for one of the following organisations, you are automatically a First Responder. It is best practice to ensure the people within the organisation most likely to come into contact with victims, or who are safeguarding professionals, are trained and aware of their duties as First Responders.

First Responder Organisations:

- Police forces
- Certain parts of the Home Office:
 - UK Visas and Immigration
 - Border Force
 - Immigration Enforcement
 - National Crime Agency
- Local authorities
- Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)
- Salvation Army
- Migrant Help
- Medaille Trust
- Kalayaan
- Barnardo's
- Unseen
- NSPCC (CTAC)
- BAWSO
- New Pathways
- Refugee Council

Q: If someone does not consent to a referral to the NRM, how do you proceed?

A: If an adult does not consent to enter the NRM, the First Responder will have to submit a Duty to Notify form (completing the same form via the link above but anonymously). This will notify the Home Office that you suspect this person to be a potential victim of modern slavery, but it will keep the identity of the person you are referring anonymous. If support needs cannot be met through the NRM, signposting to organisations that can meet support needs should be considered to ensure other statutory duties, such as under the Care Act

and Homeless Code of Guidance are followed. A child cannot consent to enter the NRM – a form must be completed regardless.

Q: What support is available through the NRM process?

A: Under the European Action Against Trafficking (ECAT), the following support is entitled to an adult after receiving a positive reasonable grounds decision in the NRM:

- Financial subsistence
- Safe and secure housing
- Access to mental health support
- Access to emergency physical health support
- Access to legal advice
- Access to education for dependants
- Access to interpreters and information in suitable languages

Q: Could the referral form be amended if you need to come back to it?

A: The NRM referral form can be saved and can be revisited as many times as need be before submission. If further information comes to light, this can be emailed to the Competent Authority (decision-making body) along with the case reference number received upon referral.

Q: At what point in the NRM referral process is the responsible police force notified?

A: The relevant police force will be notified by the relevant competent authority (the decision making body within the NRM) on receipt of the NRM referral. The individual who has been referred to the NRM is under no obligation to speak with the police and there is a question on the NRM form as to whether or not they would like the police to contact them.

Q: How is it decided which competent authority the NRM referral will go to?

A: The NRM has two competent authorities that are the decision makers.

The Immigration Enforcement Competent Authority (IECA) is responsible for a specific cohort of adult cases. These are individuals who fall within the following cohorts at the point of referral to the NRM:

- All adult Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) detained in an Immigration Removal Centre.
- All adult FNOs in prison where a decision to deport has been made.
- All adult FNOs in prison where a decision has yet to be made on deportation.

- Non-detained adult FNOs where action to pursue cases towards deportation is taken in the community.
- All individuals detained in an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) managed by the National Returns Command (NRC), including those in the Detained Asylum Casework (DAC) process.
- All individuals in the Third Country Unit (TCU)/inadmissible process irrespective of whether detained or non-detained.

The Single Competent Authority (SCA) is the competent authority for all other cases referred to the NRM, which includes all child cases.