

Scottish Government

Guidance for supporting adult victims of trafficking

Part 2 of 2



Easy Read



Financial support



Adults can get financial support if they:

- are referred to the National Referral Mechanism and get a positive Reasonable Grounds decision
- agree to have support

Financial support is made up of:

- Essential Living Rate or **ELR** for short



It covers the cost of things people must have like food, clothing and things people use to wash and take care of their body like soap, shampoo and toothpaste

- Recovery Rate or **RR** for short

This covers the cost of social, psychological, and physical recovery needs.



ELR

The ELR is £49.18 per week for those in accommodation where they make their own meals.



The Scottish Government is still thinking about the rate for people in accommodation where meals are provided.



ELR continues until:

- a needs assessment confirms it is no longer needed
- or the victim leaves trafficking support

ELR is not normally paid if:

- living needs are covered by asylum support
- the person cannot get Universal Credit because of the amount of money they have





Potential victims may get ELR before a Reasonable Grounds decision if they have no income and are at risk of destitution.

If this happens then a victim can get ELR from the date they entered support.

Recovery Rate or RR for short

RR is paid to all victims after a positive Reasonable Grounds decision.



It is paid for 90 days or until a needs assessment shows that the victim does not need the money.

The money can be paid for longer than 90 days if an assessment shows it is needed.

RR stops after a negative Conclusive Grounds decision.

Child Dependent Payments



These payments are for victims living with children they care for in Scotland if the adult gets ELR.

Payments per child are:

- £49.18 per week per child living with adult victim
- £9.50 per week more for each child until their first birthday
- £5.25 more per week for children aged 1–4



Pregnancy and Maternity Payments

Support for victims who are pregnant or have very young child dependents include:

- £5.25 per week for pregnant women
- a £300 maternity grant for a child within 8 weeks of due date, or a baby under 6 weeks old when a person enters trafficking support



Victims getting asylum support or support under Schedule 10 of the Immigration Act 2016



Potential victims getting asylum support do not get the Essential Living Rate because asylum or Schedule 10 support already covers basic living needs.

They can get the Recovery Rate if they meet the rules.

Victims getting Universal Credit

Victims who get Universal Credit cannot get the Essential Living Rate.



They can get the Recovery Rate if they meet the rules.



Child dependent payments may be reduced or stopped if a victim gets the Universal Credit Child Element.

Universal Credit payments for disabled children or childcare do not affect trafficking-related financial support.

Financial support in emergency accommodation



Victims get the ELR payment from the day the person enters support.

The Recovery Rate is only paid from the date of a positive Reasonable Grounds decision.



Extra financial support may be provided to fund recovery-related services not covered by the Recovery Rate.

Information on rights and services



A recovery plan must give victims information on the rights and services that are available to them including:



- medical treatment, counselling and how to register to get a GP
- legal advice and representation including legal aid
- support in criminal justice proceedings including the Victims Code for Scotland
- how to get jobs, training and education and how to apply for a National Insurance number
- immigration advice
- benefits and financial support
- support with money including bank accounts and budgeting
- support groups for parents before and after the birth of a baby



Support providers should also help victims get other services they may need like:



- mental health, substance dependency and sexual health services
- specialist counselling and birthing partners
- English classes for speakers of other languages
- employment preparation
- support with applications for benefits, asylum or legal claims



Information must be in a language the victim understands.

Health and wellbeing



Medical treatment, assistance and counselling

Support providers should use the National Trauma Transformation Programme guidance when supporting victims.



Staff must support victims to get other NHS services they need including:

- registering with a GP and services provided by GPs like counselling, Community Mental Health Teams and dental services
- guidance on when to call 999
- access to specialist trauma therapy
- information on exemption from hospital charges for victims and their family



Emergency Medical Treatment

Adult victims can get emergency NHS care including the NHS Scotland sexual assault response co-ordination service called SARCS.



Psychological health and counselling

GPs support some mental health needs with Community Mental Health Teams giving specialist support when needed.

GPs and support providers can refer adults to specialist trauma therapy.



People in distress should contact either:

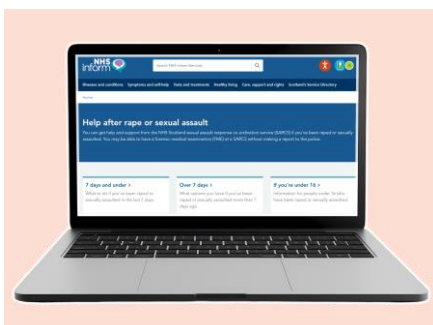
- their GP
- their mental health team
- NHS 24 by calling 111

If it is an emergency call 999.



SARCS

SARCS provides healthcare and forensic services for people aged 16 and over after rape or sexual assault.



More information is on the NHS Inform website at: www.nhsinform.scot/turn-to-sarcs

NHS charges for overseas visitors



There are no charges for NHS treatment or NHS services for victims of trafficking or their spouse, civil partner or children.

There may be some charges for teeth and eye treatment.



Guidance about healthcare costs is on the NHS Inform website at:

www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-overseas-visitors

Translation and interpretation



Support services must make sure that approved translation and interpretation services are available when needed.



Interpretation should be provided for:

- risk and needs assessments
- arrival at support providers or accommodation
- meetings with other services

Interpretation may also be provided by other agencies in:



- criminal justice or court processes
- NHS appointments
- Home Office interviews

Legal assistance



Victims can appoint their own legal representative if they can afford it.

If victims cannot pay, support organisations should check if someone can get legal aid or free advice.

Support services must only refer victims to solicitors who have a practising certificate from the Law Society of Scotland.



Free legal support is given if the situation is covered by Scottish law and the rules for who can get help are met.

Guidance is available at: [Scottish Legal Aid Board](#).

In criminal proceedings victims:



- must get support to get information and rights under the [Victims' Code for Scotland](#)
- should be supported to understand their [rights when engaged in a criminal justice process](#)
- must have support from an interpreter if needed



More help is available through the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service's [Victim Information and Advice service](#).

Compensation



Making a civil claim for compensation

A **civil claim** is when a person wants compensation for something from a person or organisation.

Compensation is money awarded to someone because of loss, suffering, or injury.



Victims should get legal advice about getting compensation from the person who has caused the suffering or injury, including civil claims for damages.

Information on civil legal aid is available at mygov.scot



Making a claim for publicly funded compensation

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) runs the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (CICS) for victims of violent crime.



Support providers must make sure that victims know about criminal injury compensation and how to get legal advice.

Information is on the website mygov.scot about [criminal injury compensation](#) and [how to claim](#).

Transition support –moving from one service to another



When specialist support is no longer needed victims should be supported to move on to other support services.

- after a positive Reasonable Grounds decision support lasts up to 90 days or until a Conclusive Grounds decision is made
- support can be provided after 90 days or after a Conclusive Grounds decision if this is supported by a needs assessment





- after a negative Reasonable Grounds decision, a person should leave specialist services before 14 days have passed.



- after a positive Conclusive Grounds decision at least 45 days of move-on support can be provided



- after a negative Conclusive Grounds decision up to 21 days of move-on support can be provided



Services should help victims get immigration legal advice if they need it.

Outreach support



Outreach support gives assistance to victims who do not need accommodation from specialist trafficking support providers.



Victims should get casework support, advice and advocacy

Providers may link victims into local services.



Photosymbols®
Publisher Licence 5154761670711



© Crown copyright 2026



Copyright images © Canva: images pages Cover (Easy Read image), 2 (image 1), 3 (image 1), 4 (image 2), 5 (image 1), 6 (image 1), 7, 8 (image 3) 9 (images 1 & 3), 10, 13 (images 2 & 4), 14, 15 (image 3), 16 (images 1 & 2), 17 and page 18 (image 1).

All other images Photosymbols.

This document is in 2 parts - ISBN: 978-1-80775-096-1

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.scot

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-80775-096-1 (web only) part 2 of 2

Published by The Scottish Government, April 2026

PPDAS1727506 (04/25)